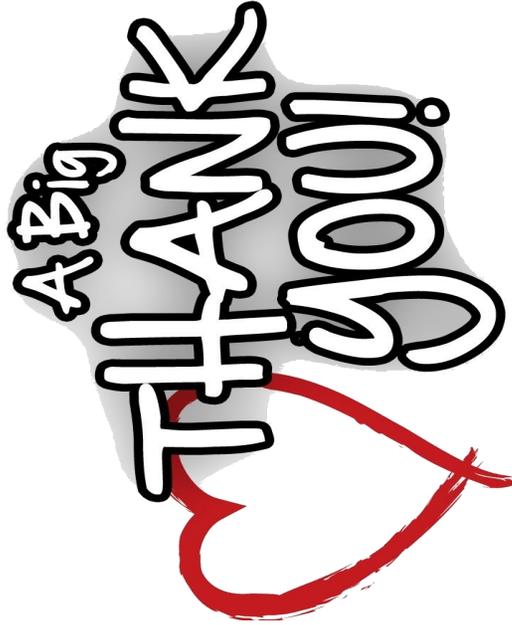


**IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
5955 South Elm Avenue  
Fresno, California 93706



Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Fresno, CA  
Permit #718



*Return Service Requested*

Immanuel would like to thank our outgoing council members for their service, Fred Cogan, Noah Cisneros, John Jensen, Allyson Kahn, Laura Nielsen, and Cindy Tews. Thank you for sharing your time and talents serving on the Church Council.

# THE IMMANUEL CHIMES

## FEBRUARY 2022



**IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

*A Mission of the North American Lutheran Church*

**5955 SOUTH ELM AVENUE**

**FRESNO (EASTON), CALIFORNIA 93706**

**CHURCH TELEPHONE (559) 237-7909**

EMAIL: [OFFICE@IMMANUELEASTON.COM](mailto:OFFICE@IMMANUELEASTON.COM)

EMAIL/PASTOR: [PTMARIE96@GMAIL.COM](mailto:PTMARIE96@GMAIL.COM)

**WORSHIP SCHEDULE SUNDAYS**

**10:30AM WORSHIP & COMMUNION**

## UPCOMING GATHERINGS

**IMMANUEL'S CONGREGATIONAL**

**MEETING JANUARY 30TH**

**FOLLOWING WORSHIP**

**IN THE SANCTUARY**

**NALC CENTRAL PACIFIC MISSION DISTRICT**

**ANNUAL MEETING**

**FEBRUARY 5TH 11:00AM**

**PEA SOUP ANDERSEN'S IN SANTA NELLA**

## *From Our Pastor*

The Eighth Commandment  
“Don’t bear false witness against your neighbor”

Did you ever play the game of Telephone when you were a kid? It was one of my favorites. When we played in class, all of the students would sit in a circle. The first child would whisper a sentence in the first child’s ear. Something like, “My dog’s name is Peanut Butter,” and the next child would whisper what they heard in their neighbor’s ear, until the message had been passed around the whole circle. Normally, by the end, the sentence had been warped because someone misheard, and the last kid would say, “The hogs eat peanuts under? Under what? This doesn’t make any sense!” and we would all laugh when we heard what the sentence was meant to be versus what it had become. The more people you played this game with, the better the results. When my brother, my cousins, and I tried to play it, there was only four of us and the sentence rarely changed unless mischief was involved, but when you have twenty or thirty kids? That’s real, organic chaos. Each time the sentence is whispered, each time a little ear strained to listen, there was a chance for a mistake or misunderstanding. This childhood game of Telephone is hilarious to kids, but the real life version isn’t usually so fun. Most of us know someone who’s been harmed by the gossip tree of “Well, I heard” before. Some of us may have been harmed by it ourselves.

We often think of the eighth commandment as the “Don’t Lie!” commandment, and that’s true. This commandment directs us towards honesty so we don’t fall into the trap of a small white lie here and there and end up trapping ourselves in a web of dishonesty. But this commandment says more than that. In the small catechism, Luther writes, “We should fear and love God so that we do not tell lies about our neighbor, betray him, slander him, or hurt his reputation, but defend him, speak well of him, and explain everything in the kindest way.” In the church, I’ve found that we are less likely to be harmed by outright lies, and more likely to be harmed by the gossip train that wants to present our behavior in the most unkind way possible. This commandment is a reminder that our neighbor is human, just like us! And just like us, they make mistakes! So rather than offering condemnation and spreading news of their mistakes everywhere and rather than clinging to a grudge, we can offer forgiveness and comfort.

This commandment also reminds us that what we think we know isn’t always true or charitable. Think for a moment: Has someone in the

## *Prayer Focus For The Week*

Week of 2-6-2022. Focus on answering God’s call to you. Isaiah 6:8 NIV. “Then I heard the voice of the LORD saying, “Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I. Send me!”



Week of 2-13-2022. Focus on the origin of love. 1 John 4:8 NIV. “Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.”

Week of 2-20-2022 Focus on leadership. 1 Peter 5:2,3 NIV. “Be shepherds of God’s flock that is under your care, watching over them - not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve, not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock.”

Week of 2-27-2022. Focus on service. Galatians 5:13 NIV. “You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love.”

## *Prayers for Our Church*

**For Christ’s Church:** Eternal God, we thank You for Your Church through which the gospel of Jesus Christ has been manifest in every age.

**Members and their families serving in the military:** Erica Botello, Joey Brewer, Henry Clark, Ryan Freitas, Michael Hansen, Caleb Hathaway, Leah Linger, & Matthew Tigchelaar.

**Those unable to travel about:** Gail Hansen, Art & Marian Olesen, Paul Pedersen (Ellen Vike’s nephew), Bonnie Terkelsen, & Lois Rasmussen.

**Those in need of pain relief & healing:** Sandy Britter, Ed Bordin, Darin Bratton, Gaye Cissel, Dale Ewing, Joyce Futrell, the Chris & Ellen Harding family, Caleb Hathaway, Doug Hollenbeck, Al Hooper, Mari Millar, Jacob Miranda Jr., Donna Kennedy, Christie Pettitt, Tony Pings, Pastor Taylor Stempniak, Timm Trickett, & Caitlin Tyler.

**For those mourning the loss of loved ones:** The families of Jeffrey Moser, David Dunbar, and Virginia Pilegard.

## *Central Pacific Mission District Meeting*

The annual meeting for the district that we are in will be on Saturday, February 5th at 11:00AM in Santa Nella at Pea Soup Andersen's restaurant. Each congregation in the district is allowed two delegates. Lay members are welcome. The no-host luncheon will be the only expense. Attendees will order off the menu. At this meeting, we will hear from Mary Bates who is the head of the NALC Disaster Preparedness. Our Dean, Pastor John Saethre, will present the NALC initiative: For Today, Tomorrow and Forever. We will vote on a proposed constitution and a new Dean. Everyone is invited to attend. Immanuel will need two voting delegates, If you would like to attend the meeting, please call the church office by February 3rd for your reservation.

## *Invitation from the family of Florence Johnston*

Florence Johnston's family would like to invite you to a yard sale, but not just a yard sale, more of an open house distribution on **Tuesday, February 8th from 11:00AM—3:00PM** at 1747 E. Lincoln Ave. (Florence's home). The family is in the process of clearing out Florence's home for the new buyer. They would like to invite her church family to come and take any items that you would like as remembrances of Florence. There are many items and treasures that they do not want to see go to waste. If you can use it and would like to take it, please come to the open house. The family asks that you please wear a mask for safety.

## *Women's Ministry*

Immanuel Women: We need you! We are looking for new recruits for the leadership team at our church. We welcome thoughts, ideas, wishes or wants for our church women's ministry. We must hear from you. Call Victoria at 559-285-5181 and let's talk about what we can put forth new 2022! Talk with Carol Bennetts, Marcia or Kristi Hollenbeck, Kay Jensen or Gina Cogan. What are you looking for to help build our kingdom stronger and further than we can imagine. How can we reach those who haven't heard of our loving Lord and Savior? What can we do to strengthen our spiritual walk with God? If you aren't working on your spiritual walk, let's start together with baby steps together.

Is the Holy Spirit speaking to you about areas within the church that you can serve? Is there something in your life that needs to change? It's been nearly two years since the abrupt stop to our in-person Bible studies. What shall we do now? How is the Holy Spirit talking to you?

church made you angry? Maybe that lady that sits across the church from you now? Maybe a member of the council? Maybe even me? How have you reacted to that anger? If you've reacted by reaching out and having a conversation—good for you! When we are willing to talk with one another, we gain a better understanding of why our neighbor, our council, and our pastor think and behave the way they do. We may even learn new things about ourselves in those conversations if we're willing to have them. But most of us don't respond that way, do we? We respond by calling our friends, and saying, "Can you believe what she did?" or "He's so selfish!" or maybe even "She's just too young to know anything!" What purpose does this gossip serve? It might make us feel better. It may even help us get our way. But is the cost worth it?

Gossip, lies, and grudges may offer temporary relief, but they ultimately fracture our communities. They're sins that keep us from forgiving our neighbor and keep us from repenting ourselves. They make it easy for us to refuse to listen to those who think differently than us. They make it easy for us to pass judgment, often judgement that is wrong. That's not a healthy way for a community, especially a church to live. Once the words reach the neighbor we're gossiping about, it's hard to repair the damage they do. So let's stop. Let's stop handling our problems with our neighbor by complaining about it to our friend or whispering things we believe to be true to our family. Instead, let's agree to talk to the people we're struggling with. I know that seems scary because confrontation seems mean, but I will teach you how with three prompts.

"Hey, I don't understand why you did that, can you help me understand?"

"Hey, that really hurt me. Can we talk about it?"

"Hey, I don't agree with you. Can we have a conversation about it?"

And when someone comes to you to complain about their friend or their neighbor or their council member or their pastor, stop and ask them a question. "Have you talked to them about that?" If they haven't, stop the conversation. I know this seems bold. I know this seems radical. I know this seems uncomfortable. Really though, it's just common sense. We can't fix our problems with our neighbor if we won't talk to them about it. We definitely can't fix our problems with our neighbor by talking to everyone else about it. We want Telephone to just be a game we play because when it becomes our real life routine, the message of "Jesus loves you and so do I!" can really easily get warped and twisted into, "Jesus loathes you and so do I."

February Blessings,  
Pastor Taylor

A Sweet Little Hunny  
is on the way...



SAVE THE DATE!

Hollenbeck Baby Shower  
Sunday, March 27, 2022  
12PM

We will begin planning a church-wide  
baby shower for Kaylee & Robert Hollenbeck!  
If you are interested in helping, please attend the  
planning meeting on Sunday, February 6th  
in the library after church.

Please contact Karen Jensen if you have any questions.  
(559) 579-4893  
[karen.renee.reed@gmail.com](mailto:karen.renee.reed@gmail.com)



**The Danish-American  
Historical Society  
of California**

22<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL  
**Frikadelle  
Dinner**



**SATURDAY EVENING,  
MARCH 5, 2022**

**Immanuel Lutheran Church — Easton**

SOUTH OF FRESNO AT 5955 SOUTH ELM AVENUE, CORNER OF LINCOLN AVENUE,  
Just west of Highway 41

**Tickets — adults \$28.00 ■ Children (Under 10) \$10.00**

**Reservations Deadline : TUESDAY, MARCH 1, 2022**

Make your reservation now by e-mailing Laurel Jacobsen  
at [lolli707@comcast.net](mailto:lolli707@comcast.net). Or you can call  
Laurel at (559) 240-8818 or Lucille Dennis at (559) 477-2035

*PLEASE PAY AT THE DOOR WHEN YOU ARRIVE ON MARCH 5!*

Come and enjoy an informative  
**Danish Cultural Program**

**The Settlement of Danes  
In Fresno County**

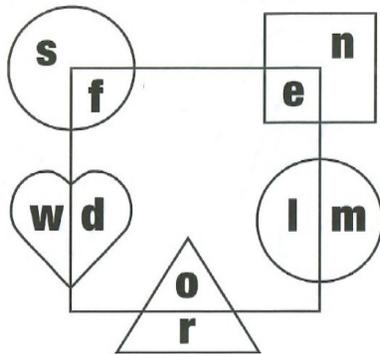


# GOD CARES FOR YOU!

Jesus tells his followers not to worry about their daily needs.  
 What example does he give of God's care for his creation?

**Directions:**

To complete Luke 12:27 (NIV), match the shapes under each blank with the letter shapes shown to the right.



“Consider how the wild \_\_\_\_\_  
 grow. They do not labor or spin.

Yet I tell you, not even \_\_\_\_\_  
 in all his splendor was \_\_\_\_\_  
 like one of these.” Luke 12:27, NIV

## Sympathy Love and Prayers

Prayers for peace and comfort for the family of Virginia Pilegard who passed away on January 13, 2022. She was born on December 21, 1942, in Fresno, California, to Ralph and Helen Walton and was raised in the foothills of Hildreth, California. While working in Jones' Store at Beasore Meadows, she met the love of her life, Richard Pilegard. They were married for 58 years, raised three sons in Easton and attended Immanuel until their children were grown. They moved to Wishon in the mid 1990's. The most important part of Virginia's life was her passion for Christ. Over the years, she was a strong leader at Immanuel Lutheran Church, and Sierra Pines Church in Oakhurst. She was involved in a variety of ministries such as leading Bible studies, participating in prison education and ministry, mentoring Celebrate Recovery groups, and speaking at women's faith conferences. Virginia also had a passion for quilting and loved being a part of Sierra Pines Church's prayer quilt ministry group. She lived out her faith inspiring those around her, even while in Hospice.

Jeffrey Lee Moser passed on January 8, 2022. Thank You for all the prayers over the years for Jeffrey and his family! He battled Muscular Dystrophy for 24 of his 28 years on earth. Jeffrey graduated from Hoover High School and took a couple years of classes at Clovis Junior College. Jeffrey was "never" interested in serious TV shows; comedy was his favorite, and he watched many hours of Carol Burnet reruns with his Dad. He had a love for all animals. He had 3 beautiful collies over the years and a couple cats. One of his favorite moments was when the neighborhood peacocks walked by the living room windows. Jeffrey and his Dad would let out their peacock calls, and often practice to each other. He also enjoyed several trips over the years to Family Camp with his Dad and brothers. And he went to Hawaii with his mother. He attended many Sundays of Country Gospel with his Dad and brothers. Jeffrey will be deeply missed. He was never a complainer over his health concerns, and he was a fighter to the end! The picture above was sent to his father, Mike Moser, from a friend. Jeffrey is "Free At Last". He leaves behind his father, Mike; his mother, Janis; and his two brothers, Jason and Jared.



Answer: "Consider how the wild flowers grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these." Luke 12:27, NIV

## *Journey*

Have you noticed that the meeting room for the club, (those who are grieving), has gotten a lot fuller the last few months. It's growing way to fast! I've been on this journey a little more than five years now. I'll be perfectly honest with you. I started writing this for my benefit, never envisioning I'd still be doing it today. The fact that so many of you have reached out to tell me that you appreciate my thoughts has been very, very humbling. I am so grateful for each and every one of you who has joined in this journey with me. When you think that I've written something particularly insightful, I assure you that that thought is from God and I give him all the credit and glory. Likewise, when you read something I've written and think, "that was dumb," well, that's from me. I don't claim any expertise here. I remind myself hundreds of times to just try and convey my thoughts.

So having said all that, I thought with all the new grieverers, that it might be a good time to go back and restate some of the things that stand out in my mind.

We are all grieverers. We've all lost that someone is who is near and dear to us. A spouse, parent, sibling, a child, miscarriage, best friend or pet. Those are the ones we typically think of. We can also grieve the loss of a relationship with a child or friend, a job, house, health or the independence of caring for ourselves. Those are all things that cause us to grieve. Here's the thing you need to hear. NO ONE is free from grieving. We all do. When we grieve, we feel so all alone. I do and you do too. That's the time when you have to do the hardest thing - reach out to others. Share your grief. It's why we are in this community. Let us shoulder some of the load with you. Immanuel was started because we needed a pastor to oversee the committal of a loved one.

There are many things you can do to ease the pain and move along. The ones I've found that are helpful to me are to stay close to the church, read scripture and pray. There is absolutely no shame in voicing your anguish. It's why we have each other. How you process your grief is as individual as you. To my way of thinking the only thing you can do wrong is to medicate yourself. Now is not the time to take alcohol or recreational drugs. Don't do that! There are some definite phases to grief. My favorite book, booklet actually, is called "Good Grief," written by Granger E. Westberg. I've read that book many a time. You'll find yourself in the different phases that Mr. Westberg describes. Whether it's anger or denial or guilt. Read it. It's worth it. Even if you just go out for a walk, you need to keep going. I had a good friend whose husband had passed. She asked me to come to her house and fix a plumbing problem in her master bathroom. Her husband's pants and the book he was reading were right where they were when he passed ten years earlier.

## Birthdays

3-Isaac Orozco Sr.  
6-Tommy William Tarlton, Jr  
7-Kurt Wolfe  
12-Kobe Bell  
13-Melissa Tarlton  
14-Tomas Perez  
17-Nicolas Orozco  
18-Laura Wolfe  
20-Elijah Terrones  
27-Rich Kahn  
28- Madison Gifford  
-- John Reynolds  
29- Pastor Taylor

## Baptismal Birthdays

4-Mike Nielsen  
9-Robert Hollenbeck  
10-Dan Lindsey

## *In Celebration of Our Members*



## Wedding Anniversaries

07 Jared & Kailie Allerd (8)  
13-Betty Moore & Bruce McElhoe (12)  
22-Brad & Ericka Gardner (25)

11-Noah Cisneros  
14-Marie Salwasser  
18- Peter Gutierrez  
19- Ellen Nielsen  
26-Jon Marthedal

## *News Notes*

Happy Birthday to this month, Kurt Wolfe and John Reynolds turn 78 this year and Ellen Vike turns 83. The new decade begins for Rich Kahn, he's turning 60! Our very special Pastor has a very special Birthdate! She was born on February 29th! Leap year babies get to pick their celebration date for three years so let's celebrate on the 27th with her! Everybody come to church and we will celebrate with cake and ice cream after church!

Who wants to see Al & Judy Hooper? Who wants to go to Roger Rockas? All & Judy love their new home in Sonora but miss going out on the town in Fresno so they plan to use their season tickets for Roger Rockas. If you would like to get tickets on the same night they will be there this year get your table near their table # 42 for Friday nights: Feb. 11, Apr. 15, Jun 17, Jul 28, Oct. 21, & Dec. 16. There will be plenty of time to chat between the show and dinner. Their phone #559-451-5893; new address: 12811 Cabezut # 202W, Sonora, CA 95370

The Washington Union FFA is having their Annual Dinner Fundraiser on Saturday, February 19th at the C.P.D.E.S. Hall in Easton. The delicious New York Steak Dinner will be served at 7:00PM. The Social Hour starts at 5:30PM, get there early to visit and check out the Silent & Live Auction Items on display. Take-outs will be available from 6:00-6:30PM. Tickets are \$40.00 and available by calling Victoria Salwasser at 559-285-5181.

# *North American Lutheran Church*

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

Now I want you to know, dear brothers and sisters, what God in His kindness has done through the churches (of the NALC). They are being tested by many troubles (from the ongoing pandemic and have endured financial hardships). But they are also filled with abundant joy, which has overflowed in great generosity. For I can testify that they gave not only what they could afford, but far more. And they did it of their own free will. They excelled in the grace of giving (2 Corinthians 8:1-3, 7 NLT).

Miracles do happen! The faithful support of congregations and individuals like you in 2021 allowed us to exceed budgeted congregation revenues by 5% - a \$92,000 increase. This is truly remarkable given the pandemic and its effect on our local economies. On behalf of Bishop Selbo and the entire NALC, we want to say, "Thank You!" Your partnership and trust have allowed us to continue moving the mission and vision of the NALC forward and growing the Church of Jesus Christ.

New congregations were added in 2021. Mission starts and house churches across North America were formed, and the number continues to grow. We continue to support missionaries serving Jesus in Belarus, Congo, Haiti, Tanzania and elsewhere. We have more than 40 future pastors studying in the North American Lutheran Seminary Network. Your support provides needed scholarships which eliminates or greatly reduces the cost of tuition. The NALC Disaster Response teams mounted extensive and sustained aid efforts to those impacted by natural disasters. You share in their great work.

Again, your great generosity and faithfulness to our Lord Jesus Christ and His Church has exceeded our expectations for the year. Our prayer is that God will continue to bless you in every way in 2022, and that you, through the power of the Holy Spirit, will be strengthened and renewed in the service to which He has called you as well. We also pray that all our donors and congregations will remain safe and healthy, and that we all grow closer to our Lord Jesus Christ in 2022.

In the love of Jesus Christ,

C. Michael Johnson, NALC Treasurer

Embrace where you are in your grief. If you're angry, be angry. If you feel like crying, cry. If you just feel like sitting, sit, but not for too long. It's okay to feel like you feel as long as it's not destructive.

People, well-meaning people for sure, will tell you that you'll get through it. I personally don't buy that. I've never gotten "through" it. What I have done and I encourage you to do the same is to do your best to adjust. Cindy and I enjoyed eating out often. I don't like sitting in a restaurant by myself in the evening. I feel conspicuous. So I adjusted. If I do eat out, I go at noon. That's not as conspicuous. I feel it's important to keep going and adjust as best you can. Find things to do that make you happy. Don't feel guilty that you are happy and at ease. Some feel like they are betraying the lost one by being happy. It's okay.

Most importantly, don't lock yourself away and isolate. That's never healthy. And lastly, know that you can call, text and talk to me anytime. We're in this together.

I love you all!  
John.

Written in 1912 by Charles Austin Miles, based on the scripture John 20:1-18 when Jesus and Mary Magdalene meet near the tomb. For you, mom, imagine Karen singing:

"I come to the garden alone,  
While the dew is still on the roses,  
And the voice I hear, falling on my ear,  
The Son of God discloses."

"And he walks with me, and he talks with me,  
And he tells me I am his own...."

## *Thank You Immanuel*

On behalf of Don Pettitt's family, I'd like to thank everyone for your prayers and cards during this trying time! Also, a big thank you to the volunteers that helped at the luncheon. We so appreciate everything everyone has done for us!

Christie Pettitt

Over the course of many years, Immanuel prayed weekly during the church service for Joe Wozniczka who confronted a series of health issues. His family - Linda Wozniczka, Bonnie Terkelsen, and Lee Terkelsen - offer thanks to Immanuel for those prayers and for your cards and support following his passing.



Sun



Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat



<p><i>New Church Directories will be printed for Immanuel this month. If your contact information has changed please call or email the church office as soon as possible. Thanks.</i></p>		<p><b>1</b></p>	<p><b>2</b></p>	<p><b>3</b> 6:00AM Men's Bible Study in Social Hall</p>	<p><b>4</b></p>	<p><b>5</b> 11:00AM CPMD Annual Meeting in Santa Nella</p>
<p><b>6</b> 10:30AM Worship &amp; Communion</p>	<p><b>7</b> 12:00PM <b>Easton Food Distribution</b> 7:00PM NA in Grace Hall</p>	<p><b>8</b> 11:00am-3:00pm Open House for memories at the home of Florence Johnston</p>	<p><b>9</b> FCA Lunch</p>	<p><b>10</b> 6:00AM Men's Bible Study in Social Hall</p>	<p><b>11</b></p>	<p><b>12</b></p>
<p><b>13</b> 10:30AM Worship &amp; Communion</p>	<p><b>14</b> Valentine's Day 7:00PM NA in Grace Hall</p>	<p><b>15</b> 7:00PM Council Meeting</p>	<p><b>16</b> March Chimes Articles Due FCA Lunch</p>	<p><b>17</b> 6:00AM Men's Bible Study in Social Hall</p>	<p><b>18</b></p>	<p><b>19</b></p>
<p><b>20</b> 10:30AM Worship &amp; Communion</p>	<p><b>21</b> President's Day 7:00PM NA in Grace Hall</p>	<p><b>22</b></p>	<p><b>23</b> FCA Lunch</p>	<p><b>24</b> 6:00AM Men's Bible Study in Social Hall</p>	<p><b>25</b></p>	<p><b>26</b></p>
<p><b>27</b> 10:30AM Worship &amp; Communion</p>	<p><b>28</b> 7:00PM NA in Grace Hall</p>	<p><b>March 1</b></p>	<p><b>2</b> Ash Wednesday FCA Lunch</p>	<p><b>3</b> 6:00AM Men's Bible Study in Social Hall</p>	<p><b>4</b></p>	<p><b>5</b></p>