

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

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Fresno, CA  
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**Organist:** Laurel Jacobsen

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**Treasurer:** Pat Griffin  
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**Women's Ministry President:** Marcia Hollenbeck

*Martin Luther quote:* God does not need your good works, but your neighbor does. We need to hear the Gospel every day, because we forget it every day.

*Return Service Requested*



**SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE**  
9:30 AM Sunday School for all ages in Grace Hall  
10:30 AM Worship & Communion  
See News Notes for details on 2023 May Day  
Celebration on May 6th at John Ventura Stadium!

Easton Community  
Gathers for the  
Annual May Day  
Celebration on May 6th  
from 5-7pm  
Immanuel will host a  
Mobile Country Store &  
Boutique at the stadium  
Craft Items & Baked  
Goods for sale to raise  
funds for Social Hall  
Restoration!



**The Immanuel**  
**Chimes**  
**May 2023**

**IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**A Mission of the North American Lutheran Church**  
**5955 South Elm Avenue**  
**Fresno, (Easton) California 93706**  
**Church (559) 237-7909**

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# Pastor's Page

## The Promised Land of Forgiveness

“This is my blood, given for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in the remembrance of me.”

These are the words of Christ to his friends as they gathered for the last supper, and they are the same words we hear every Sunday in preparation for communion. The forgiveness of sins, the promise that God has and will wipe our slates clean is one of the most intrinsic beliefs of Christianity. We believe that forgiveness is the difference between eternal life and the death of our bodies and souls. We hear the promise of forgiveness everywhere in our service, from the confession and absolution to the creeds to the Lord's prayer to communion, but here's the thing, I don't think we talk about the practicality of forgiveness very often. We hear that we're forgiven. We hear that we're supposed to forgive others, but what does that actually look like? How do we interpret the parts of scripture where God speaks of forgiveness with one breath and claims vengeance in the next? How do we forgive others who have wounded us so deeply that it seems to make us ache physically? How do we hold justice and forgiveness in tension with each other? What does it even mean to reconcile?

The season of Easter, and especially the weeks of Easter following Jesus' resurrection, are a season where Jesus just keeps appearing and reminding us, “You're forgiven. You've been reconciled with God. Go and do likewise.” He shares his peace with the apostles hiding in the upper room. He invites Thomas to place his hand in the wounds on Christ's side. He gives Peter three chances to say how much he loves Jesus to wipe away the memory of Peter's three denials. Jesus is going on a forgiveness world tour, showing us in word and deed what God's love and mercy looks like. It's awesome. I'm sure the apostles felt like they were on the top of the world as they walked alongside Jesus and I wonder when it sunk in for them that even though sin had been forgiven, it still existed in the post-resurrection world. Do you think they realized it when the crowd accused them of being drunk during the Pentecost? Maybe they realized it after Peter and John were arrested for preaching the good news. I imagine by the time a crowd had stoned Stephen to death for declaring Christ Lord, the grim reality had set in. Sin had been forgiven, but it was still waging war in the lives of all people. The consequences of sin were no longer eternal, but they were real, and they were frightening. Which brings us to our first conversation about God's forgiveness—forgiveness does not mean there won't be consequences for our actions.



**BUILDING A  
CULTURE THAT HONORS  
LIFE**

### ABOUT US

The Pregnancy Care Center is a faith-based, life-affirming, non-profit medical clinic that provides free and confidential services and resources to women and families facing unplanned pregnancies. PCC provides a safe environment where clients can learn truth, gain hope, and feel confident about their pregnancy.

### SERVICES

#### MEDICAL

Pregnancy Testing  
Verification  
Limited Ultrasound  
Prenatal Education  
Prenatal Vitamins  
Abortion Pill Reversal

#### ADVOCACY

Pregnancy Options Education  
Moral & Peer Support  
Adoption Information  
Abstinence Education  
Reproductive Loss Support

#### RESOURCES

Layette  
Car Seat  
Other Baby Items  
Referrals



#### EDUCATION

Healthy Relationships  
Childbirth Classes  
Pregnancy Classes  
Just 4 Guys Classes



### 2022 IMPACT

- Pregnancy Care Center experienced 3279 client visits.
- Provided 1082 tests, 79% of which were positive.
- Provided 421 Ultrasound Examinations to Confirm Pregnancy
- 107 men received advocacy services
- 18 clients said “yes” to accepting Jesus as Lord and Savior!
- Two APR (Abortion Pill Reversal) babies were born this year and welcomed into their families and in our community. Six more moms reached out for APR treatment and more babies are due in 2023.
- Our HOPE Team shared God's Truth about Sexual Integrity and Healthy Relationships to more than 524 young people.
- 8 women received abortion recovery services through our small group Bible Study.

**CHANGE FOR BABIES**  
YOUR CHANGE CHANGES LIVES!

## WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

- Pick up a bottle and return it filled with change, bills or checks.
- Donate baby clothes, baby items, and diapers.
- Get involved by volunteering! Training is provided!
- Pray Ephesians 3:16 (NLT) over our clients.

*"I pray that from his glorious, unlimited resources he will empower you with inner strength through his Spirit." Ephesians 3:16*



**THANK YOU FOR PARTNERING WITH US TO BUILD A CULTURE THAT HONORS LIFE IN OUR COMMUNITY!**

I hemmed and hawed over which example I was going to use of God's forgiveness and God's consequences coinciding, but over the past week I've received three questions about our old friend Moses, and more specifically, why Moses didn't get to reach the Promised Land. As I talked with folks about Moses' life and God's role within it, I realized that I had the perfect example in front of me. Moses is often looked upon as the image of God's faithful servant. We have an image of him as a baby in a basket and a brave servant of the Lord, standing up to Pharaoh and leading his people out of Egypt. Often times, we think of Moses' time in the desert as unpleasant (it was pretty hot and there was no garlic, as the Israelites frequently lamented), but even there, we see him leading with faithfulness. He's melting down idols and enduring criticism. He's doing his best to lead.

Except when he's not.

Moses strives for faithfulness, but like you and me, he sins and falls short of the glory of God. This all comes to a head in Numbers 20. The Israelites are grumbling, as usual, and they need water. Moses and his brother Aaron pray that the Lord would provide them water, and the Lord instructs them to strike a rock. Moses gathers everyone together and says he will provide them with water. He strikes the rock once, and nothing happens so he whacks it again and water streams out. Everyone drinks the good water and the Israelites are happy, but the Lord isn't so thrilled. Maybe it was because Moses said "he" would provide water. Maybe it was because Moses had to strike the rock twice rather than trusting in God. Either way, the Lord says Moses has lacked faith and led his people astray. He's a prophet. He's supposed to be God's leader and he's supposed to lead with God's power and God's truth, but here is Moses taking things into his own hands. God tells him the result of his sin: Moses will never enter the Promised Land.

This might seem like an overreaction from God on first glance, but in reality, God is assigning a punishment that fits the crime. The Promised Land is a chance for Israel to start over, living in faithfulness. An unfaithful leader or a leader who is claiming power that belongs to God shouldn't be the one to lead Israel into a new age of faithful living. It's kind of like asking the arsonist who burnt down your house to be the one to rebuild it. It just wouldn't make a lot of sense, and so God explains the consequences of this sin to Moses and then helps him pick the next prophet. Later, when Moses is preparing to die, the Lord gives him a beautiful speech to proclaim before Israel. He reminds all of Israel, even Moses, that God has set them free from Egypt and sin and death and God always keeps his promises. After the speech has ended, the Lord has another conversation with

Moses and says, “You’ve been forgiven. Gaze upon the Promised Land. Remember I can’t let you in here because of your behavior with the water.”

Harsh.

At least, it seems to be at first, but Moses sits there for a while. He stares at the Promised Land. Sitting next to the Lord, Moses sees this land of milk and honey. Even though he won’t get to experience it, God takes the time to show Moses that the promise will be fulfilled. Moses’ family and friends will be cared for. God is generous and merciful and there is joy in that. Moses’ sin has a consequence. Moses is no longer qualified for leadership. God’s love has a consequence, too. Moses is still qualified for mercy. There are years stretching between God warning Moses he won’t see the Promised Land and this final mountain top moment, and those years were filled with God’s provision for his beloved child, Moses. He continued to provide Moses with the word of the Lord and to care for his physical needs and to walk alongside him. There are small mercies that remind us that God doesn’t write us off and forget about us in our sin, even as our sin causes us to suffer. Then there’s this big moment, which theologians don’t interpret God as saying “Look at what you won’t have” but rather as God saying, “Look at what your children will inherit.” Imagine dying getting to see the ways that your loved ones will be cared for. This is a gift many of us would revel in, but even this gift is not the end of God’s mercy.

We know that Moses didn’t reach the Promised Land, but he did reach paradise. Moses appears again in scripture at the Transfiguration of Christ. He appears in a cloud alongside other prophets. Once a sinful prophet, he is now shining once more with God’s glory. This is what it means to hold God’s mercy and consequences in tension with each other. When we sin, we experience the natural consequence of sin. Moses lost God’s trust in the same way we may lose the trust of a loved one we’ve lied to or betrayed, but if we are caught in a lie or steal or cheat and we experience the consequences of that sin there is mercy even in that. Consequences are reminders not to repeat behavior. They protect us and they protect others. We learn not to sin by seeing the ways our sin impacts ourselves and those around us, but the glory of the story of Moses and the story of Jesus is that even these natural consequences, even these punishments that fit the crime, do not have the final word in our lives. The final word is God’s love for us. The final word is the promise that like Moses, like Peter, like all the prophets and saints who have gone before us, God will usher us into paradise and make us new.

Blessings,  
Pastor Taylor

## Immanuel News Notes

Happy Birthday to: Velia Miranda who turns 88 on May 14th and to Christie Pettitt who starts the last year of her 70’s decade on May 17 when she turns 79.

The Social Hall restoration is getting closer! The contractor has been out looking at the project with sub-contractors to get estimates on the costs. Continue to pray for this project as it progresses and we wait for permits and costs to come in.

May Day Celebration in Easton continues! We are going to try something new this year. We have never done it this way before! Immanuel is hosting a Country Store and Boutique at the May Day Celebration on May 6th at the John Ventura Stadium on Lincoln just west of Immanuel. The event runs from 5:00-7:30PM. There will be other food booths and game booths to enjoy. Please come out and help support our booth and our community. All proceeds from our Country Store and Boutique will go towards the Social Hall Restoration Project. Volunteers and donations are needed for our little store. If you like to craft or bake or work at the booth please call the church office and let us know what you would like to help with! This is our chance to share Jesus with our community. Don’t miss out.

Pastor Taylor was selected to work with other leaders and pastors from the North American Lutheran Church at a stewardship conference in Phoenix the last week in April.

The music committee met in April and planned some exciting theme style events. Some of the fun includes a Country Gospel Sunday, a Praise Band Sunday, and a Youth Led Sunday. Check your Sunday bulletins for dates.

Immanuel continues to gather for inter-generational prayer on the second Sunday of each month after fellowship time. When you hear the bell ring during fellowship start moving your conversation into the sanctuary. When all that are gathering are seated the deacons will start the prayer. Each person who would like to pray takes a turn and as they finish their prayer they say “Lord in your mercy” everyone else follows with “Lord hear our prayer” then it is another person’s turn. Some come and pray silently, others share their prayers out loud in the style listed above so that we know when it’s another’s turn. Bring your kids, it’s time for our whole congregation to join in prayer. It’s good and holy and wonderful that we have a beautiful safe place to pray together with our church family. Thanks be to God.

# Prayer Focus Each Week

**Week of 5-1-2023. Focus on finding peace.** Philippines 4:7 NIV. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

**Week of 5-8-2023. Focus on forgiveness.** Ephesians 4:32 NIV. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

**Week of 5-15-2023. Focus on mothers.** Proverbs 31:26 NIV. She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue.

**Week of 5-22-2023. Focus on finding joy.** Psalm 119:35 NIV. Direct me in the path of your commands, for there I find delight.

**Week of 5-29-2023. Focus on service.** 1 Peter 4:10 NIV. Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.

## Immanuel Lifting Prayers UP:

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

**Those unable to travel about:** Gail Hansen, Paul Pedersen, & Bonnie Terkelsen.

**Those in need of pain relief & healing:** Sandy Britter, Ed Bordin, Donnie Cathey, Gaye Cissel, Valarie Cooper, Jody Daly, Kristen Gibson, Ed Gomez, Paul Jones, Donna Kennedy, Doris Knorr, Diane & Darel Mehrten, Marcus Miranda, Gloria Payne, Lance Petersen, Christie Pettitt, Debbie Pilegard, Patti Price, Bob Reynolds, Kenneth Selzer, Richard Smith, Rebecca Stempniak, & Keitt Wilson.

**Those mourning the loss of loved ones:** The Demant family for the loss of Pastor Paul's mother, Elna.

**For people dealing with loneliness and depression. For those battling the illness and the health care providers tending to those in need.**

# Memorial Day Decoration

REMEMBER AND HONOR  
OUR HOMETOWN HEROS

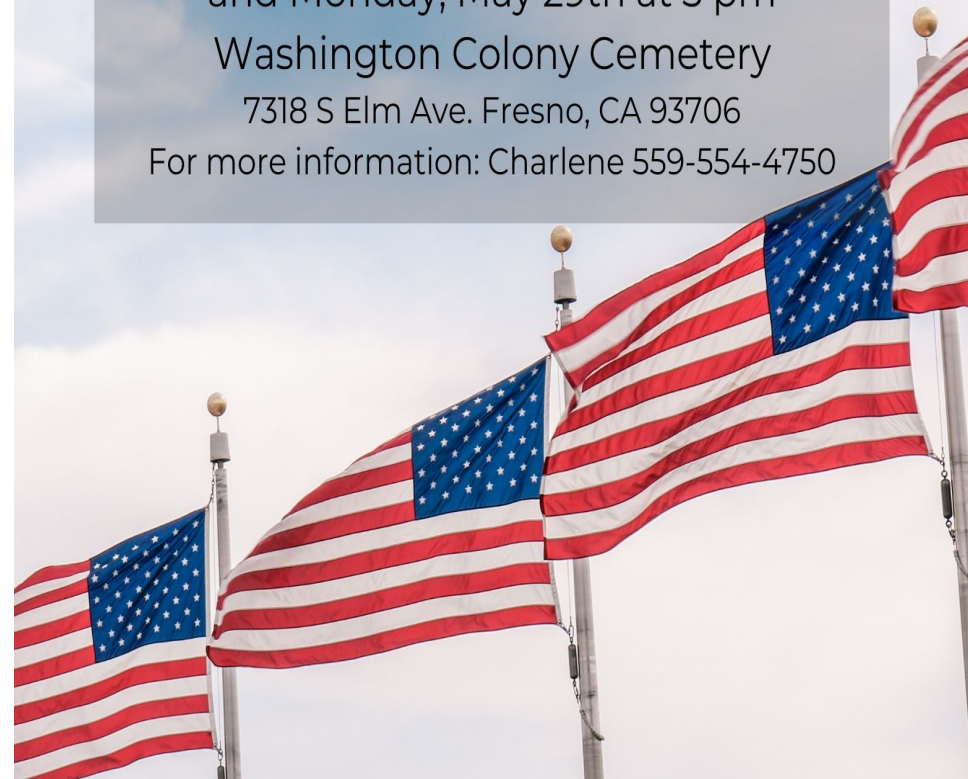
*Volunteers needed!*



Saturday, May 27th at 7:30 am  
and Monday, May 29th at 3 pm  
Washington Colony Cemetery

7318 S Elm Ave. Fresno, CA 93706

For more information: Charlene 559-554-4750



# Journey

Grief!  
Yeah! Huh!  
Who is it good for?  
Absolutely everyone.  
(Apologies to Edwin Starr)

You see, I believe grief is part of the healing process. No grief - no healing, know grief - know healing. Grief was given to us by God himself. He knew that we would need to face those feelings in order to adjust to the loss of someone or something. How many times don't we read in the scriptures that God grieved the Israelites turning away from him. By the way, he grieves when we turn from the path either to the left or to the right. Grieving was institutionalized in the Old Testament. when someone died everything came to a stand still up to 30 days in some cases. Jesus grieved when John the Baptizer was beheaded. He didn't grieve because he didn't know that John's soul would find rest. He grieved because John was out of his life. I think that is the case for most of us. Grief is how we heal. As you know by now, I don't believe we get through the loss of a loved one. We don't get over them. We adjust to life without them. We can be relieved that those who have passed are out of their pain and suffering, if that was the case. Once the relief has turned into reality then the grieving is the process of that adjustment.

To be sure, I don't grieve Cindy's passing because I'm not sure where she will be eternally. I grieve her passing, with all due respect to my children and grandchildren, because now I am alone. Being alone is lonely. Grieving isn't something we do for the departed its something we do for ourselves.

A part of grief, I believe, is forgiving those things that they may have done to us. It's part of finding peace with ourselves. If you carry hat around with you then there is a link that is missing between you and God. Grief gives us a chance to mend that brokenness. It's a period of time that allows us to step back and take stock of feelings. A time to let the bad ones go.

# Memorial Day Weekend Service Project at Washington Colony Cemetery

This year, the Veterans at Washington Colony Cemetery will be recognized and volunteers are needed to help adorn their graves for Memorial Day. Charlene Jaehne will coordinate the volunteers to place over 200 crosses, flags and flowers on the graves of Veterans who are buried in our local cemetery. If you would like to help, the work begins at **7:30 am on Saturday, May 27th**. We need all the volunteers we can get. Donuts and coffee and water served for volunteers. The same holds true on **Memorial Day at 3:00pm** when we will take down all the flags and fold them back to place in the trunks where they can be stored for next year. Please join us at Washington Colony Cemetery located at 7318 S. Elm for service and fellowship! It's too much fun to be called work.

**This year we resume our service**, the first one since the pandemic shut down. Captain Michael G. Stokes from Lemoore Naval Air Station will speak, the Junior ROTC from Fresno High will present the colors, a local singer will sing the National Anthem and God Bless America. Come to enjoy a medley of the military march past songs and so much more. The service starts on Memorial Day at 10:00AM , please bring your own chair. The cemetery will be adorned with our beautiful flags. Come for those who served and serve our country.



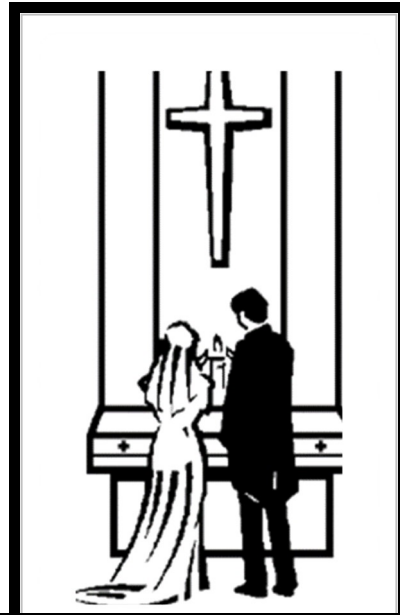
# In Celebration of our members

## Birthdays

- 5 Eva Orum
- 11 Kathi Mehrten  
Elijah Cisneros
- 14 Velia Miranda
- 17 Christie Pettitt
- 23 Nick Bennetts
- 26 Fran Hansen
- 28 Joan Lindsey
- 29 Bethany Gardner



# May



## Wedding Anniversaries

- 1 Wayne & Eva Orum (41)
- 4 Richard & Allyson Kahn (38)
- 4 Dennis & Joan Wynn (21)
- 21 Aaron & Meghan Anderson (12)
- 25 Jim & Fran Hansen (38)
- 31 Joseph & Jennifer Perez (20)

## Baptismal Birthdays

- 1 Leona Rosendahl
- 5 Jennifer Hartwig
- 6 Christian Jensen
- 9 Alexandra Gardner
- 15 Debbie Goff  
Joseph Orozco  
Vincent Orozco
- 16 Wayne Orum
- 20 Audra Salwasser  
Victoria Salwasser
- 22 Marilyn Nielsen
- 24 Stacy Avedisian  
Kay Jensen
- 27-Glenn Rasmussen
- 31 Cody Caglia



Grieving is a process and it may take time, a long time. I think we need to be intentional about grieving. Just know that it is yours. No one can tell you how to do it. I do believe that in time you can find peace. The adjustment may not be a hundred percent what you wanted it to be, but keep pushing forward. Im convinced that at some point you'll find that peace.

Again, I think grief is a God given emotion. He gave it to us for a reason. The reason is to make some sense of these passings in our lives. We need to avail ourselves of the blessings God gives us. As in all things prayer is the cornerstone of any healing in Jesus. If you can find someone to talk about your grieving , great. If not talk to God. We have a huge advantage over most in the world in that we have a living and loving God, who is ALWAYS ready to hear us. There are a number of us here at Immanuel who are always ready to listen. Lean on us. Lean on God.

I've said everything I need to say so I'll leave it at that. I love you all and as always am glad to hear from you about anything that lands here in the

Journey.  
John.

*Written by Joseph Scrivner in 1885.*

What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear!  
What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer!

## Immanuel Serves FCA

Immanuel serves Fellowship of Christian Athletes lunch for the Spring turn in March and April. They fixed over a thousand lunches. Each week they served between 140-160 students. They love Pizza! They never ran out of cookies for treats and the everyone enjoyed serving. Our crew along with Nancy Marthedal and friends made each week an inspiration for all who attended. The students who attend are not all athletes or Christians. This is an ecumenical outreach to share God's glory. Speakers come from all over and share the good word. St. Jude will finish off the school year. FCA was started in 1988 through the efforts of many led by Neil Marthedal. His wife Nancy continues leading this ministerial legacy. Thank you to all who help with FCA.

REMEMBER THOSE WHO SERVED



ALL GAVE SOME, SOME GAVE ALL

# May 2023



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>April 30</b> Russ Dunbar Memorial Blood Drive from 8:30-11:30 In front of the church.  Start Crafting and Baking for the Country Store & Boutique!	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 10:00AM Women's Bible Study in library	<b>3</b>	<b>4 National Day of Prayer</b> 6:00AM Men's Bible Study in Social Hall	<b>5 12:00PM</b> Easton Food Dist.	<b>6</b> May Day Country Store & Boutique
<b>7</b> 9:30 Sunday School in Grace Hall 10:30 Worship & Communion 11:45 Fellowship	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 10:00AM Women's Bible Study in library	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 6:00AM Men's Bible Study in Social Hall	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14 Mothers' Day</b> 9:30 Sunday School in Grace Hall 10:30 Worship & Communion 11:45 Fellowship	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 10:00AM Women's Bible Study in library 6:30PM Council Mtg. In Grace Hall	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 6:00AM Men's Bible Study in Social Hall	<b>19 June Chimes Deadline</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> 9:30 Sunday School in Grace Hall 10:30 Worship & Communion 11:45 Fellowship	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 10:00AM Women's Bible Study in library	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 6:00AM Men's Bible Study in Social Hall	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 7:30AM Service Project at Washington Colony Cemetery. Place Flags & Crosses on Veterans' graves
<b>28</b> 9:30 Sunday School in Grace Hall 10:30 Worship & Communion 11:45 Fellowship	<b>29 Memorial Day</b> 10:00AM Service 3:00PM Service Project at Washington Colony Cemetery. Remove crosses & Fold Flags on Veterans' graves	<b>30</b> 10:00AM Women's Bible Study in library	<b>31</b>			