

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
A living Faith Community since 1876



*“Where All are Welcomed and  
Fed at the Table.”*

# Christ Church Chronicle

MARCH 2024

Haven't I commanded you? Strength! Courage! Don't be timid; don't get discouraged.

GOD, your God, is with you every step you take. – Joshua 1:9

## It's Greek To Me – *“called according to his purpose”*

*And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. – Romans 8:28*

This is easily one of the most misquoted and mis-interpreted passages in the New Testament! I can't tell you how many times I have heard this is interpreted to mean that everything that happens in your life is deliberately sent by God and no matter how horrible that thing is, we are to believe it was sent by our loving God for our good.

Another way this passage is mis-interpreted is to say that nothing bad can happen to us if we are living God's will. Neither of these interpretations is correct!

If this passage is read in the larger context of the chapter (Romans 8), it becomes clear that lots of bad things happen to good people but that those bad things can be *transformed* into 'good' by God, by meeting those problems with faith.

The meaning of the passage is better revealed by looking closely at the phrase “called according to His purpose”. The Greek word translated “called” is “klaytos” and means to be invited or summoned. It clearly has the meaning of a freely given invitation that we may accept or decline. The word ‘purpose’ is the Greek word “prothesin” and means putting forward a proposal. In other words, God calls us to a life of faith and love that we may freely choose or decline at all times. But if we continue in choosing that

path, any and all hardships and sufferings that may come our way can be converted into blessing by holding firm to that path.

Everyone experiences suffering on this plane of existence. Christians are neither uniquely shielded from suffering,

nor are they uniquely singled-out for it. But one who has freely chosen the path of Christ creates a way for God to turn their suffering into spiritual growth (“into good”), if we hold to our faith in a loving God.



God is not sitting in heaven thinking up the next trial he wants to put you through, nor is he an insurance policy that nothing bad will ever happen in this life. What God is providing is a way to transform all human experience into spiritual life, if we freely

choose to follow his path and hold to our faith and hope. And his grace is there at all times, waiting to be called upon, to give the courage and hope we need to persevere.

- *Rev. George Favell*



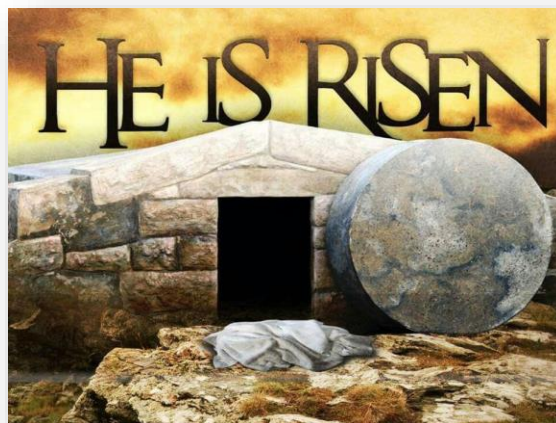
Thanks to generous donations of more than \$93,000 to the UTO Jerusalem Challenge/Matching Grant, UTO will be sending a grant of \$187,000 to the Diocese of Jerusalem for them to distribute to previous UTO grant recipients who are working to spread the message of love and ease human suffering throughout the war-ravaged holy land. This money will provide food, medical care, and other support for many people whose lives have been devastated by the Palestine-Israeli conflict.

Another UTO grant story is a great story from a 2022 grant to the Episcopal Diocese of Kansas. What a joy to find out where our "blue box money goes!!

This project had far-reaching impacts. Directly, we were able to educate over 400 elementary students, 38 teachers, and administrative staff about the importance of caring for creation through an intensive look at the life of the monarch butterfly. Those involved learned about the importance of pollinators and the many ways that we can help boost the populations of those pollinators, monarchs in particular.

Our spring UTO Ingathering will be coming soon! If you missed the 40 days of Thankfulness calendar in last month's Chronicle, another one is included at the end of this newsletter. We can all use gratitude to help us be more present in our daily lives by giving thanks for the many things we take for granted.

- *Gail Thurnau*



## Worship Schedule for March 2024

Sunday, March 3, 2024 - 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent  
Holy Eucharist - 10:30am

Wednesday, March 6, 2024 - Lenten Mid-Week Worship  
11:00am - Salem Lutheran  
7:00pm - Ascension Lutheran

Sunday, March 10, 2024 - 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent  
Holy Eucharist - 10:30am

Wednesday, March 13, 2024 - Lenten Mid-Week Worship  
11:00am - Ascension Lutheran  
6:00pm - Soup Supper @ Christ Episcopal  
7:00pm - Christ Episcopal

Sunday, March 17, 2024 - 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent  
Morning Prayer - 10:30am

Wednesday, March 20, 2024 - Lenten Mid-Week Worship  
11:00am - Salem Lutheran  
7:00pm - Ascension Lutheran

Sunday, March 24, 2024 - The Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday  
Holy Eucharist - 10:30am

Thursday, March 28, 2024 - Maundy Thursday  
Service at 5:30pm

Friday, March 29, 2024 - Good Friday  
Service at 5:30pm

Sunday, March 31, 2024 - The Sunday of the Resurrection: EASTER SUNDAY  
Holy Eucharist - 10:30am



**WE, THE EASTER PEOPLE, WILL CELEBRATE JESUS' RESURRECTION AT  
10:30 ON SUNDAY MORNING, MARCH 31<sup>ST</sup>, AT CHRIST CHURCH.  
BRING YOUR LOVED ONES,  
FRIENDS, NEIGHBORS, ET AL. COME AND WORSHIP!**

PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND OUR SOUP SUPPER ON MARCH 13 AT 6PM!  
 WE ARE THE HOSTS! OUR WEDNESDAY SOUP SUPPERS WILL INCLUDE  
 3 KINDS OF SOUP, ONE OF WHICH WILL BE GLUTEN FREE!  
 WE NEED VOLUNTEERS FOR SET-UP AT 5:30 AND CLEAN-UP  
 AFTERWARDS!

*We must accept finite disappointment, but we must never lose infinite hope.*

*Martin Luther King, Jr.*

*Only those who dare to fail greatly can ever achieve greatly.*

*Robert F. Kennedy*

*The difference between stumbling blocks and stepping-stones is how you use them.*

*Unknown*

The American Legion Post 56 in Albert Lea is  
 hosting a Fund-raiser Breakfast every 4<sup>th</sup>  
 Sunday of the month, from 8am to 12:30 pm!



## New Revised Common Lectionary Sunday Readings

3-Mar	Exodus 20:1-17	Psalm 19	1 Corinthians 1:18-25	John 2:13-22
10-Mar	Numbers 21:4-9	Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22	Ephesians 2:1-10	John 3:14-21
17-Mar	Jeremiah 31:31-34	Psalm 51:1-13	Hebrews 5:5-10	John 12:20-33
24-Mar	Isaiah 50:4-9a	Psalm 31:9-16	Philippians 2:5-11	Mark 14:1-15:47
31-Mar	Acts 10:34-43	Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24	1 Corinthians 15:1-11	John 20:1-18

## Community Communication

### Father Doyle

Home - 507-334-3742

Cell - 507-491-2695

Office - 507-333-1651

Email: [henry.doyle@s-sm.org](mailto:henry.doyle@s-sm.org)

Mailing Address: 500 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue NW, #301, Faribault, MN 55021

### Parish Office

The Parish Office is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Office Phone: 507-373-3188

Office email: [cecalmn@gmail.com](mailto:cecalmn@gmail.com)

Website: [christchurchal.org](http://christchurchal.org)

**Priest-in-Charge: The Rev. Henry Doyle**

**Vestry Members:**

**Tom Jones**

**Joyce Lohman**

**Kenneth Lord**

**Savile Lord**

**Jeff Shaft**

**Music Director: Gail Thurnau**

**Treasurer: Joy Shaft**

**Parish Administrator/Secretary:**

**The Rev. George M. Favell**

## Fr. Henry - Please keep me in the loop

Far too often, you might hesitate to inform me of your desire/need for pastoral care, because you do not want to bother me. On the contrary, you are not bothering me when you inform me of a major illness, yours or a loved one's illness. Because of privacy issues and regulations, staff at hospitals, nursing homes, and other health care facilities will not contact me. You, a family member, or a close friend must contact me, if you have a pastoral need.

## Prayer Scripture – Romans 8:31-39

What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him,



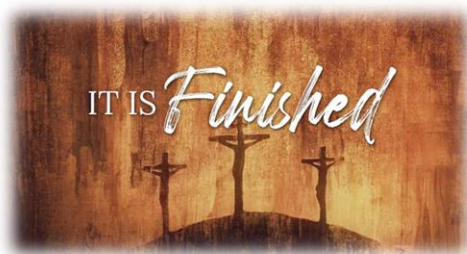
Saint Joseph - March 19

graciously give us all things? Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? As it is written: “For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.” No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

## Meditation Prayer

*Book of Common Prayer, page 832*

O God of peace, who has taught us that in returning and rest we shall be saved, in quietness and confidence shall be our strength: By the might of your Spirit lift us, we pray you, to your presence, where we may be still and know that you are God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*





## Christ Episcopal Church March Birthdays

16 – Samantha Jean Erickson

20 – Bev Blakeslee

20 – John Selvig

22 – Heather Anderson

## Vestry Minutes - January 21, 2024



**Father Henry Update** – We know the 23<sup>rd</sup> will be the date for the Annual

meeting reports being due and then the Chronicle deadline is the 25<sup>th</sup>. Father Henry has an article in draft form. Recently he made a few calls to parishioners to check in on them.

**Senior Warden Update** – Touched base with Father John at CEC Austin on their request to borrow Toys. We will touch base and arrange to deliver.

**Junior** – no report

**Financials** – Started with end the year books as we closed out 2023. Last year we were mindful of our expenses as it. We brought in \$121,777 with a budget of \$112,650. We dispersed \$120,711 off a budget of 151,719. Jeff moved to approve the 2023 Financials, Kenneth Seconded. The 2024 Budget was then discussed. In 2024 the Diocesan assessment went down. Mileage will be new addition to the budget and has been included for Father Henry since we do not pay him for Mileage at the current time. That will be \$3,087.36. This is an addition as we no longer pay into his pension. A change will also been seen in the cleaning of the church

as we will utilize a new service will see an increase on costs. Savle proposed to accept the 2024 Budget. Jeff seconded. All approved. We received a \$98,000 check for the roof to be worked.

**Old Business** –

**Snow removal** the company is not shoveling the walk way and there were parts that were not done with the attention to detail. Can George send Father Henry the contact info for the company.

**New Business**

**Flag Pole** – We would like to move this piece until spring. We would like to know if George had any success with companies that could install them.

**Computer** – George has submitted his computer request. We want to make sure we also have a docking station. Jeff moved to purchase the computer, Kenneth seconded, and all approved. Joy will help in the purchase.

**2024 Budget for approval** – This was already done earlier in the meeting.

**Safe church training** – Father Henry has been in touch with Angela and we will do it during our annual meeting.

**Phone quotes** – We received 2 quotes from the Innovation IT, to fix the broken phone line, both were for over \$1,000. Savile motioned that we switch to a cell phone as it is already bundled in our phone costs. Kenneth seconded. All

approved. Savile will pick one up in Austin from Spectrum.

**Roof sample** – We looked over the options of shingles and liked the Glacier, Summit gray, Onyx black in that order. What was the shingle recommended in the appraisal and what grade was it? We would like to see costs on those 3 colors in Grade 3 and 4?

**Lent** – Christ Episcopal Church will be hosting February 2/28 coffee and dessert, and 3/13 we will host soup supper. Hosting duties will be shared amongst the congregation.

**Security Camera Out** – We purchased the system from Scott Minehart. Will see if we can find number to call him.

**Squirrel issue** – We still have squirrels in the building, we think. We want Hagen Associates and Construction to come and take cardboard down and clean out that area, and patch up the holes. Reinsulate and put up a barrier behind the Slats so it is enclosed. Jeff motioned to have Hagen come and do the aforementioned work and Kenneth seconded. All were in favor. Father Henry called and they will come on Tuesday 1/23

**Is there an insurance deductible on the roof** – Yes, it is \$1,000

**Cindi Brickson came to church** - She is the Southern Regional Dean. She came to Vestry and stayed for service and then for coffee and was able to meet the congregants that were in attendance.

## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING – FEBRUARY 4, 2024

In attendance: Bev Blakeslee, Jason Blakeslee, Kenneth Johnson, Savile Lord Johnson, Joyce

Lowman, Richard Lowman, Tom Jones, Jeff Shaft, Joy Shaft, Taylor Shaft, Gail Thurnau, Father Henry Doyle

After the celebration of the Holy Eucharist, we gathered in the parish hall for the 146<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting. At 11:30, Savile Lord Johnson, our senior warden, called the meeting to order. Father Henry said a brief prayer. Savile appointed Father Henry as the clerk of the meeting.

The first order of business was the approval of the minutes from the 2023 meeting. Jeff Shaft moved to approve the minutes, and Kenneth Johnson seconded. All approved.

The next order of business was the financial report, which Joy Shaft, our treasurer, presented. The 2023 budget did

not end in the projected \$26,115.00 deficit which had been forecast. On the income side of the budget, \$108,250.00 was the total projected amount; \$121,777.00 was the actual amount. Pledge payments were \$5,325.00 higher than the projected amount of \$10,000.00; building use for women's retreats was \$6,200.00 higher than the projected amount of \$2,000.00. On the disbursement side of the 2023 budget, \$134,365.00 had been the total projected amount; \$120,711.27 had been the actual amount. Noticeable on the disbursement side was the expense for clergy pension; \$7,500.00 was the projected amount, but \$5,400.00 was the actual amount because the parish no longer had to contribute to the fund because Father Henry had reached the age of 72 last September. When clergy turn 72, parishes no longer contribute to the said clergy's fund. Christ Episcopal Church

Foundation's monthly contribution in the amount of \$8,000.00 and income from the women's retreats have greatly helped the parish remain solvent. Also, Tom and Nancy Jones have kept our lawn care and flowers from costing us an enormous amount of money; Joy, Taylor, and Tanner Shaft have kept our custodial costs from being a huge amount.

Joy presented the 2024 budget. The projected income is \$112,650.00, and the projected expenses amount to \$151,719.21. This will result in a projected deficit in the amount of \$39,069.21. Noticeably, our diocesan assessment has decreased from \$12,372.00 in 2023 to \$11,592.00 in 2024. Father Henry has requested the mileage allowance for the Sundays he celebrates the Holy Eucharist. In the past, he had declined the allowance because he deducted the mileage on his tax returns. Starting in tax year 2019, the IRS would not allow him to make the deduction. At his request, he will not receive the allowance when he travels to Albert Lea for weekday services. Since Joy, Tanner, and Taylor Shaft relinquished responsibility for cleaning the church, we have contracted with a professional cleaning service. [Heartfelt thanks for their service] Janitorial expenses will increase significantly because of our contract with Cedar Valley Services in Albert Lea.

For plausible reasons, the church will no longer have a landline in the office. We will have a cell phone with the same telephone number.

Tom Jones urged the church to hire a company to remove the stockpile of leaves on the lakeshore. He also requested to use the church and its grounds for Alexis and Spencer's high school graduation party in May. He and Nancy will complete the building and grounds.

Jeff Shaft motioned to approve the 2024 budget, and Tom Jones seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Father Henry reported on the Memorial Fund. He emphasized this statement from the submitted report: **It is imperative two parishioners become the signers [on the account].**

Savile presented the report on the Foundation. Gail Thurnau pointed out the expiration of the Foundation's board. We re-elected the three board members: Savile Lord, Phiz Olson, and Joy Shaft.

Savile Lord Johnson, the outgoing Senior Warden of the Vestry, emphasized change would be inevitable over the next few months. Conversations will take place on how the vestry and the entire congregation will share responsibilities.

Tom Jones and Joyce Lowman agreed to join the vestry. Kenneth Johnson motioned for their nominations, and Joy Shaft seconded the nominations. We elected Tom Jones and Joyce Lowman to the vestry.

There was no junior warden's report because we have not had anyone officially in the position. Savile pointed out that George Favell and Gail Thurnau had done much of what a junior warden would do. Thanks, George and Gail!

To his written report, Father Henry repeated the announcement of the Bishop's visitation on Wednesday, April 3, 2024. Sophie Paulson will receive the sacrament of confirmation during the visitation.

To her report, Gail Thurnau had no additions.

At 11:57, Tom Jones motioned to adjourn the meeting, and Taylor Shaft seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. We adjourned for the tater tot hotdish lunch the Shaft family provided for us. Thanks be to God for our hosts' generosity!



## March 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 Healing – 9:30am**
3 3 <sup>RD</sup> Sunday in Lent – Holy Eucharist – 10:30am	4 Yoga – 10am and 6pm**	5 Office 8-12	6 11am – Salem Lutheran 7pm – Ascension Lutheran Chair Yoga – 9am**	7 Office 8-12	8	9 Healing – 9:30am**
10 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent – Holy Eucharist – 10:30am	11 Yoga – 10am and 6pm**	12 Office 8-12	13 11am – Ascension Lutheran 6pm – Soup Supper @ Christ Episcopal 7pm – Christ Episcopal Chair Yoga – 9am**	14 Office 8-12	15	16 Healing – 9:30am**
17 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent – Morning Prayer – 10:30am	18 Yoga – 10am and 6pm**	19 <b>SAINT JOSEPH</b> Office 8-12	20 11am – Salem Lutheran 7pm – Ascension Lutheran Chair Yoga – 9am**	21 Office 8-12	22	23 Healing – 9:30am**
24 Sunday of the Passion: <b>Palm Sunday – Holy Eucharist – 10:30am</b>	25 <b>MONDAY IN HOLY WEEK</b> Yoga – 10am and 6pm**	26 <b>TUESDAY IN HOLY WEEK</b> Office 8-12	27 <b>WEDNESDAY IN HOLY WEEK</b> Chair Yoga – 9am**	28 <b>MAUNDY THURSDAY – 5:30pm</b> <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	29 <b>GOOD FRIDAY – 5:30pm</b>	30 <b>HOLY SATURDAY</b> Healing – 9:30am**
31 Sunday of the Resurrection: <b>EASTER SUNDAY – Holy Eucharist – 10:30am</b>						

**\*\*** Please check with Clemencia to confirm location and if class is full.

[bebegu@live.com](mailto:bebegu@live.com) or 507-377-2718.

**THE UNITED THANK OFFERING PRESENTS:**  
**40 Days of Grateful Presence**  
 LENT 2024

TO MAKE A THANK OFFERING TO SUPPORT THE WORK OF UTO VISIT:  


SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
THIS LENT, UTO INVITES YOU TO NOTICE THE LITTLE THINGS THAT MANY OF US TAKE FOR GRANTED BUT DEPEND UPON IN OUR DAILY LIVES. EACH DAY WE INVITE YOU TO NOTICE AND GIVE THANKS FOR ONE ITEM. CONSIDER THE PEOPLE INVOLVED, PERHAPS THOSE THAT CREATED IT, DESIGNED ARTWORK FOR IT, OR CONTRIBUTED TO IT.			FEB 14 <b>ASH WEDNESDAY</b> GIVE THANKS FOR ASHES & FIRE.	15 CONSIDER & GIVE THANKS FOR ELECTRICITY.	16 CONSIDER & GIVE THANKS FOR MEDIA -TV, PODCASTS, ETC.	17 CONSIDER & GIVE THANKS FOR LAUNDRY - SOAP, MACHINES, ETC.
18 <b>1ST SUNDAY OF LENT</b> CONSIDER & GIVE THANKS FOR PRAYERFUL SPACES.	19 CONSIDER & GIVE THANKS FOR BATHS & SHOWERS.	20 CONSIDER & GIVE THANKS FOR CLEAN TEETH - TOOTHPASTE, DENTIST, ETC.	21 CONSIDER & GIVE THANKS FOR THE ABILITY TO CHECK THE WEATHER.	22 CONSIDER & GIVE THANKS FOR CARING FOR A PET OR ANIMALS IN YOUR YARD.	23 CONSIDER & GIVE THANKS FOR THINGS THAT HELP YOU SEE.	24 CONSIDER & GIVE THANKS FOR CRAFTS & HOBBIES YOU ENJOY.
25 <b>2ND SUNDAY OF LENT</b> CONSIDER & GIVE THANKS FOR PASSING THE PEACE.	26 CONSIDER & GIVE THANKS FOR YOUR TO DO LIST.	27 CONSIDER & GIVE THANKS FOR DISHES & THE ABILITY TO CLEAN THEM.	28 CONSIDER & GIVE THANKS FOR THOSE WHO TAKE CARE OF YOUR TRASH.	29 CONSIDER & GIVE THANKS FOR YOUR BREAKFAST & ALL THAT WENT INTO IT.	MAR 1 CONSIDER & GIVE THANKS FOR PHONE CALLS & TEXT MESSAGES.	2 CONSIDER & GIVE THANKS FOR COFFEE, TEA, OR YOUR FAVORITE DRINK.
3 <b>3RD SUNDAY OF LENT</b> CONSIDER & GIVE THANKS FOR PARTICIPATING IN COMMUNION.	4 CONSIDER & GIVE THANKS FOR WAKING UP ON TIME.	5 CONSIDER & GIVE THANKS FOR COOKING &/OR BAKING.	6 CONSIDER & GIVE THANKS FOR PAYING BILLS.	7 CONSIDER & GIVE THANKS FOR YOUR CLOTHES AND SHOES.	8 CONSIDER & GIVE THANKS FOR YOUR LUNCH AND ALL THAT WENT INTO IT.	9 CONSIDER & GIVE THANKS FOR INTENTIONAL DOWNTIME ACTIVITIES.
10 <b>4TH SUNDAY OF LENT</b> CONSIDER & GIVE THANKS FOR ONLINE CHURCH.	11 CONSIDER & GIVE THANKS FOR MUSIC & MUSICIANS.	12 CONSIDER & GIVE THANKS FOR THE ABILITY TO RECYCLE THINGS.	13 CONSIDER & GIVE THANKS FOR YOUR FRIENDS.	14 CONSIDER & GIVE THANKS FOR MODES OF TRANSPORTATION.	15 CONSIDER & GIVE THANKS FOR BOOKS YOU LOVE & WRITERS.	16 CONSIDER & GIVE THANKS FOR A SPECIAL ITEM THAT BRINGS YOU JOY.
17 <b>5TH SUNDAY OF LENT</b> CONSIDER & GIVE THANKS FOR HYMNS AND PSALMS.	18 CONSIDER & GIVE THANKS FOR SOMEONE WHO HELPS YOU TODAY.	19 CONSIDER & GIVE THANKS FOR YOUR DINNER AND ALL THAT WENT INTO IT.	20 CONSIDER & GIVE THANKS FOR MAIL- THOSE WHO SEND IT & DELIVER IT.	21 CONSIDER & GIVE THANKS FOR YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD.	22 CONSIDER & GIVE THANKS FOR GROCERY SHOPPING.	23 CONSIDER & GIVE THANKS FOR TIME OFF (SLEEPING IN, STAYING UP, ETC.)
24 <b>PALM SUNDAY</b> CONSIDER & GIVE THANKS FOR SPECIAL SERVICES.	25 CONSIDER & GIVE THANKS FOR COWORKERS OR TEAMMATES.	26 CONSIDER & GIVE THANKS FOR TRADITIONS YOU LOVE.	27 CONSIDER & GIVE THANKS FOR ANY MEDICINE YOU TAKE.	28 <b>MAUNDY THURSDAY</b> CONSIDER & GIVE THANKS FOR MEALS WITH FRIENDS.	29 <b>GOOD FRIDAY</b> CONSIDER & GIVE THANKS FOR THINGS THAT HAVE ENDED.	30 <b>HOLY SATURDAY</b> CONSIDER & GIVE THANKS FOR GARDENS.