

# Messenger

## Sundays in May

### Graduation Sunday

On Sunday, May 22, at the 10:15am Journey Worship service, graduates from high school, post-secondary school, and graduate schools will be honored. Graduates are encouraged to wear their robes, if possible. A reception will be held between worship services in the Fellowship Hall.

### Sunday School Celebration

On Sunday, May 22, the last day of Sunday School for children, youth, and adults will be celebrated at 9:15am. You are encouraged to pray for our faith formation ministry, giving thanks for how each participant has grown in faith in the past year. Take a moment to thank the staff, teachers, and volunteers of all grade levels for their dedication to forming a life-long living faith among those who participate in this ministry. Watch the August "Messenger" and email announcements through the summer for announcements regarding the Fall 2023 to Spring 2024 faith formation opportunities. Seek out Pr. Jeremy, Pr. Anne, and Kristin Appel with your questions and ideas.

### Memorial Day Prayer Service

On Sunday, May 28, 2023, there will be a Memorial Day Prayer service at 9:15am. It will take place between the 8:00am and the 10:00am worship services in the Sanctuary. Active duty and veterans from each branch of the US military will be prayed for. The service will be about 20-30 minutes long. You are encouraged to invite family and friends for this time of prayer and song.



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#### Special points of interest

- Summer Service Schedule
- Community Kids Camp
- Baccalaureate Service

## Prayer Ministry

In April, a new prayer ministry was organized. It is called the "Prayer Chain." ALC has had a prayer chain in past year where members called each other with prayer requests.

Today's prayer chain uses text messages to communicate calls for prayer. You can be a participant of the prayer chain even if you do not use text messaging on your mobile phone.

### How It Works

People desiring to have a group of people pray for them in a faith and confidential way, can contact one of the pastors and the prayer chain will be started.

Confidentiality and anonymity are key values for this ministry. Contact one of the pastors to join this ministry.

## Summer Worship Schedule

Starting on May 28 through September 3, Sunday worship services will be held at 8:00am and 10:00am with a time for kinship and coffee between worship services. Consider assisting with the worship as an usher, assisting with Holy Communion set-up and clean-up, serving the Lord's Supper in worship and assisting with kinship and coffee between worship services. Also, there are opportunities to deliver flowers, serve communion to those who are homebound, join the ALC prayer chain ministry, and share music in worship. If you are interested in engaging in these ways of serving in God's church, please connect with Kelly Henkels in the Church. There will be no Wednesday evening meals, worship services, or faith formation during these weeks of summer programming.

## Congregational Vitality Survey Update

On Thursday, May 18 at 6:00pm, Pr. Troy Pfibsen, SWMN Synod Director of Evangelical Mission, will meet with the Church Council to learn about and reflect on the survey results. 133 people took the survey. Roughly two thirds of the surveys were taken on-line compared to one third that were completed using the paper copy. We at ALC are the first congregation in the SWMN Synod to take this updated survey. Pr. Pfibsen is learning along with us. One of the decision for the council is to decide how to share the survey results with members of the congregation. Listen for upcoming details in the Sunday bulletin, emails, and the June "Messenger."

## 2023 Southwestern Minnesota Synod Assembly

On June 9-10, voting members from synod congregations will gather at Gustavus Adolphus College for the annual assembly. The theme for this year's gathering is "Embody the Word." Pastor Anne, Pastor Jeremy, Arvid Nielsen, Brenda Baerenwald, Gary Brandt, Mary Brandt, Donna Cargin, with alternates of Gary and Lola Lindquist.

A synod assembly report will be shared on Sunday, June 11 during Sunday worship services. Your prayers for the ALC voting members as well as those throughout the synod would be welcome. Please include in your prayers safe travel for all, common sense wisdom during business sessions, and faithful connections through the assembly.



“Give thanks with a grateful heart.

Give praise to the Holy One,  
because God has given us Jesus Christ.”

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Seeds of hope  
Seeds of joy  
Seeds of faith

**Adult Bible Study: Genesis to Revelation** continue this May. The schedule is as follows:

Tuesdays at 1:00pm on May 2 and 9  
Wednesdays at 7:00pm on May 3 and 10.

A schedule for the topics to be discussed can be found at the Welcome Center or in the Church Office during regular hours. Both sessions meet in the Conference Room in the new addition.

This Bible study series will take a break over the summer. Watch the August “Messenger,” worship bulletins, and emails for the dates and times when this study will begin again in the fall. Have a great summer!

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*Dear friends, I give thanks for you and for your faithfulness to tell the Easter story in the cities, farmland, and towns where God has planted you. I pray for each of our congregations as you embody the good news of a living Jesus this Easter and every day. May this living Jesus strengthen your hearts, calm your fears, and send you to go and tell.* —Bishop Dee Peterson in her Easter message to the Synod

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### **Council Action: Full-Time Youth Director Sought**

On Thursday, April 20 at the regular monthly meeting, ALC’s church council, after discussion and reflection, made the motion to call a full-time Youth Ministry Director. This vote was unanimous for this action to move forward.

Pr. Anne and Pr. Jeremy were charged by the council to make this announcement on Sunday, April 23 during both worship services. The pastors were urged to “tell the stories you’ve shared with us these last months to the congregation.”

Pr. Jeremy will be the primary lead for this process working in connection with Kristin Appel and Personnel Ministry Team chair, Bob Demuth. Pr. Anne will provide administrative support and overall guidance to align this new position with the emerging strategic plan that is being developed.

There is \$25,000 allotted in the 2023 congregational budget for this position. Additional funding for the 2023 program year will need to be raised to support this position. Questions, ideas, and concerns can be directed to the pastors and council members. Prayers are encourage to nurture the growing seeds of this ministry.

## What happened to the sound?

This article explores how you can receive the best audio or sound of an ALC worship service via live-stream and occasionally in a recording. It was written by Sylvia Andersen, who has spent time listening to our worship services on a variety of different devices. There is helpful wisdom written below.

Occasionally our on-line congregation gives us feedback that there were parts of the service they couldn't hear. While most technological issues are beyond our control, I can give you a couple of tips.

- ⇒ Try using a different device for viewing. Each TV, computer, tablet and phone has different components installed for viewing and listening. So sometimes it is as simple a fix as using a different device. We have done some experiments of our own. We viewed the same service on three different devices and the results were varied. When we watched on the computer, we couldn't hear any sound if the lectern microphone was in use but all the other microphones were fine. We viewed the same service on our tablet (Kindle or iPad) and all of the microphones were acceptable. Then, we viewed the service on our phone and the sound quality was far superior no matter who was speaking or which microphone was in use.
- ⇒ If you are watching the livestream and experiencing sound or visual issues, it might be that the internet speed is unstable. In that case, watching the recording of the service that is available later might help.

We, the Technology Ministry Team and South Booth Technicians, are doing our best to make sure that we are providing the best possible quality on-line experience as you worship with us. We appreciate constructive feedback and will respond as soon as possible. Even though we have been using technology to support the sharing of worship services for a while, each time we broadcast live-stream it is a new day.

ALC is blest with gifted technology-minded people and financial resources to support this ministry.

## **Ways to Experience Worship**

One of the primary reasons for the new edition was the need for accessibility for worshipers and participants in ministry events.

There are three distinct ways you worshippers can fully participate in worship. Ushers can help you with each one:

1. **Hearing**  
**Assistance:** There are devices that can support hearing of in-person worship services.
2. **Visual Assistance:**  
There are paper copies of the bulletin for each worship service that contains all the spoken and sung words for worship in larger print.
3. **Mobility**  
**Assistance:** Valet parking is available. In addition, communion servers are comfortable and will serve you the Lord's Supper in the chair where you worship.

## Prayer

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Thank you, God,  
for your  
awesome creation.

Inspire our  
meditations in  
nature  
and lead us to  
care for all you  
have made, through  
Christ. Amen

## **2023 Star Word**

### Gratitude

How does gratitude  
shape how we care  
for creation?

For what in God's  
good world do you  
give thanks?

What is an area in  
your life you can  
adapt, change, or  
transform to care for  
creation in ways  
that helps to heal  
the brokenness of  
our natural world?

## ***Because of You...Our neighbors are fed!***

Thank you to members of ALC for responding generously to the invitation to support the Manna Food Pantry during the Lenten season! *We have wonderful news to share!* Your offerings totaled **\$9,564** and were matched 100% by the Worthington Regional Health Care Foundation to create a contribution of **\$19,128** to the pantry!

Manna Food Pantry will use these funds to purchase food from regional food banks at a much-discounted rate. Our donations get stretched to meet the needs of families right here in our community. In our neighborhoods, we have men, women and children who are food insecure – meaning they lack the resources to regularly get nutritious food. When families live without enough healthy food, they deal with sickness, more absenteeism from school and work and have less hope in their lives. Our generosity will help feed the hungry among us!

**THANK YOU** for responding to ALC's Lenten hunger appeal for Manna Food Pantry! **\$19,128** will go a long way to ease hunger and provide hope for our neighbors. We have demonstrated our gratitude for the abundant ways God has blessed us, by in turn sharing what we have. We report this not to pat ourselves on the backs, but to recognize that what we do in response to the call to follow and serve Jesus does *indeed* make a difference! *Thank you!*

*Stewardship Committee*

## ***THANK YOU to the Easter plant deliverers!***

On Saturday, April 1, beautiful Easter plants were delivered to members of our congregation who have suffered loss of loved ones, who are enduring health issues and who are coping with mobility issues. Easter is the perfect time of year to share the Good News of Christ's love and resurrection with our beloved church family!

Twenty-nine plants and many Easter cards were delivered by these faithful volunteers: Larry and Pat Boots, Dennis and Dee Hale, Paul and Karen Hanbury, Harlan and Pam Handevidt, Roger and Clasine Lester, Kieth and Marj Olson, Shirley Rempel, and Bob and Shirley Wieme.

**Thank you** for being the hands of God at this blessed time of year. Together we serve our church family as grateful and generous people!





## Summer Salad Buffet

Plan to attend our Lutheran Women's Summer Salad Buffet on **Thursday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>** at **6:00** in the Fellowship Hall. This year, our special speaker is Jill Koopman from our local community. Her program is titled "Growing through Adversity". All women are invited to join us for an evening of fellowship, delicious salads and an inspirational message from Jill. **Our three Circles will provide the salads. No need to bring anything, just come and invite a friend!**

## "JUST LOVE" Twelfth Triennial Convention of the Women of the ELCA

September 19-24, 2023 are the dates for the Triennial Convention of the Women of the ELCA to be held at the Sheraton Phoenix Downtown in **Phoenix, AZ**. The convention begins with a business meeting held September 19-21, followed by the Gathering September 21-24. Along with special, inspirational speakers, the event includes various activities, exhibits and vendors. Many additional activities are also planned, including optional tours and trips to do some sight-seeing while you are there! **Lutheran Women has allocated funds in their budget to help cover expenses for anyone who would like to attend the Gathering.** Please see Kris Besel or Diana Kvilhaug for more information on registration and the Gathering.

## REDO, RENEW, REJOICE

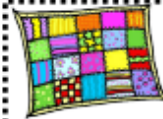
The 2023 **SWMN Synodical Women of the ELCA Convention** will be held on **Friday, May 5, 2023 at Shetek Lutheran Ministries, 14 Keeley Drive, Slayton, MN.** Although the **registration deadline was April 22, walk-ins are welcome!** Registration begins at 9:00 a.m., with a fee of \$35 to cover expenses, the noon luncheon and coffee time. There will be worship with Holy Communion, special speaker Katie Chapman from the Shetek Environmental Learning Center, music, displays and a business meeting. The convention will conclude around 3:30 p.m. All are invited to attend! Please see Kris Besel or Diana Kvilhaug for more information.

### Next Lutheran Women's Board Meeting

Monday, May 8<sup>th</sup> at 4:30

## Reminder of New Timeline for Lutheran Women's Yearbook

Just a reminder that our next Lutheran Women's Yearbook will be compiled beginning this spring and throughout the summer months and will be ready for distribution this fall. Coming soon will be your opportunity to offer to serve with one or more of our many important committees and ministries. New schedules will begin this fall.



## 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Shetek Quilt Auction Fundraiser

Don't forget to mark your calendars for the 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Shetek Lutheran Ministries Quilt Auction Fundraiser to be held at the SLM Campground Activity Center on **Saturday, June 24<sup>th</sup>**. You can preview the quilts in the Activity Center on Friday evening, June 23<sup>rd</sup> between 5:30 and 8:00 p.m. A picnic meal of burgers, brats and extras will be available to purchase Friday evening between 5:30 and 7:00 p.m. The quilts will also be available to preview on Saturday morning before the auction between 8:30 and 10:00 a.m. with the auction beginning at 10:30 a.m. Many family oriented activities are being planned for this special event on Saturday! A detailed schedule and list of events will be available in our next newsletter in June. **Plan to attend this fun and important event to support our Bible Camp!**

## Important Dates to Remember

- ♦ **Friday, May 5<sup>th</sup>** – SWMN Women of the ELCA Convention at Shetek Lutheran Ministries, 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
- ♦ **Thursday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>** – Summer Salad Buffet at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall
- ♦ **Friday & Saturday, June 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>** – 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Shetek Lutheran Ministries Quilt Auction Fundraiser at SLM Bible Camp

## Church Lending Policy

This time of year when we're busy planning graduation parties, weddings, etc., please keep in mind American Lutheran Church's Lending Policy, which was established by both the Church Council and the Lutheran Women's Board. The policy **does not allow** church items such as chairs, coffee pots, glass serving trays, tables or any other items owned by the church to be loaned out for home events or non-church related events. *We appreciate your understanding concerning this matter.*

### Let the Pastors Know. . .

**In today's world of privacy laws, it is essential to let Pastor Anne and Pastor Jeremy know directly if you are**

- In the hospital
- Need conversation
- Want to share a prayer
- Talk about matters of life and faith.

It is not uncommon for each of the pastors to hear in a given month, *"you did not visit me."*

We can only visit when you (preferably) or one of your family members tell us you would like a visit or a pastoral conversation or home communion.

If the pastors hear rumors of illness or hospitalization, they can "check-in" but cannot directly ask you or your family about your health.

Here are mobile numbers for each pastor:

Pr. Anne 608-469-9688

Pr. Jeremy 612-201-6382

Please put their phone numbers in your contact list so that they are not flagged as "spam."

IN SUPPORT OF THE EVERY MEAL PROGRAM, WE HAVE A PARTNERSHIP WITH THE INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL. TO SHOW OUR APPRECIATION FOR THE STAFF, WE PROVIDE MONTHLY TREATS.

**FOR APRIL & MAY WE WILL BRING INDIVIDUALLY WRAPPED SNACKS TO THE INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL STAFF. CONTRIBUTION ARE WELCOME!**

DELIVERY DATES ARE  
~~APRIL 10TH~~ & MAY 4TH

**YOU CAN START BRINGING INDIVIDUALLY WRAPPED SNACKS ANYTIME. DROP OFF SNACKS IN THE OFFICE WITH KELLY OR IN THE BASKET OUTSIDE THE OFFICE DOOR.**

**THANK YOU!**

### **Next Years Art & Craft Fair Date:**

November 4, 2023 is the date for our 2nd Art and Craft Fair. I am sure many of us are busy planning or making items for this event which is a big building debt reduction event. Last year we paid off \$4,600. We are excited to do that again. Thank you all for all you do. Connie Voss 506 360 8362

[cmvoss10@gmail.com](mailto:cmvoss10@gmail.com)

## Summer Prayer Shawl Schedule



### May:

Tuesday, May 16 @ 6:30pm  
Wednesday, May 17 @ 1:00pm

### June:

Tuesday, June 20 @ 6:30pm  
Wednesday, June 21 @ 1:00pm

### July:

Tuesday, July 18, @ 6:30pm  
Wednesday, July 19 @ 1:00pm

### August:

Tuesday, August 15 @ 6:30pm  
Wednesday, August 16 @ 1:00pm

## Register for Summer Camp @ Shetek

Hello, families,

For those of you registering to attend Shetek summer camps\*, please note that ALC will reimburse you for half of your child's fee. Here's how it works:

1. Register your child for camp and pay the total fee.
2. Turn in your receipt(s), showing your total payment(s), to the church office (via email, or stop in).
3. American Lutheran church will send you a reimbursement check for half of your paid fee(s).

\*For Confirmation students, attending Confirmation Camp (July 30th- August 4th) there is NO fee. American Lutheran Church handles registrations and fees for these students.

If you have any questions or need clarification, please contact the church office, Pastor Jeremy, or Kristin Appel.





## Children & Family



Preschool —  
completed grade 5.

Contact Kristin Appel  
for more information  
or

scan the QR code to  
register by May 21.



**This summer, we are partnering with area churches  
to provide a community-building VBS experience.**  
To donate (to offset the cost of food/supplies), simply make checks payable to:  
American Lutheran Church – Parish Ed. (Memo line: VBS Donation).  
**Thank you for your continued support of children's programming.**

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**WANTED:**  
**4 Meal Workers**  
**to prepare and serve a**  
**"sack lunch"**  
**for Community Kids' Camp**

Thursday, June 8  
Prep: 4:30-5:30PM  
Serve: 5:30-6PM  
Cleanup: 6-6:30PM



Email Kristin Appel: [children@worthingtonalc.org](mailto:children@worthingtonalc.org)

**May 2023**



14 Keeley Island Drive  
Slayton, MN 56172  
507-763-3567  
camp@shetek.org  
www.shetek.org

**Shetek Lutheran Ministries Where Christ Renews and Empowers**



Work at camp this summer! -  
[shetek.org/work-at-shetek](http://shetek.org/work-at-shetek)



Join us for our Pelican Fun  
Run/Walk

## **Mark your Calendar**

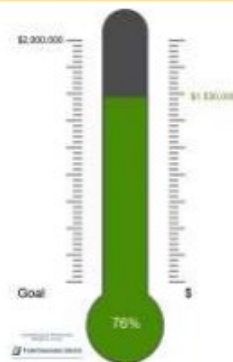
- May 6 Spring Clean Up Day
- May 13 Spring Clean Up Day
- June 11 First Day of Camp
- June 19 Golf Tournament
- June 23 Quilt Auction Preview
- June 24 Quilt Auction
- June 24 Pelican 5K Walk/Run

Register at [shetek.org](http://shetek.org) or  
Call [507-763-3567](tel:507-763-3567) for more information

## **Wish List**

- 17 foot Aluminum canoe
- Vest style life jackets
- Office supplies – reams of paper
- Flat screen computer monitor
- Volunteers

We met our Phase 1 goal!  
\$1,530,000 in gifts and  
pledges! Our challenge  
goal is \$2,000,000 and  
with increased costs, our  
budget has changed for  
our different phases.  
More info on our website.  
[https://shetek.org/slm-  
master-plan/](https://shetek.org/slm-master-plan/)



**Help send kids to Camp...Become a  
Pelican Club or Timber Society member  
today. Pelican Club members support  
the ministry with a gift of \$100 - \$499 a  
year and Timber Society members give  
\$500 or more a year. Thanks for your  
support!**






May 3, 2023  
 6:30 Pizza  
 7:00-8:00 Youth Rally  
 American Lutheran Church  
 915 Winifred St,  
 Worthington, MN

Speaker this month:  
 Mark Thiner  
 Music by: Baccalaureate Band

For Grades  
 6-12

Sponsored by:



 Baccalaureate  
 Service

May 24, 2023  
 7:30 pm  
 Worthington High School; Main  
 Gymnasium

\*Students, please arrive at 7:15 in order to  
 lineup for the ceremony. We ask that you  
 wear your gown and stole as well (No tassels  
 or cap).

This is open to the public and we would  
 love to have anyone there that is intersted in  
 celebrating the senior class through their  
 faith!

May 3rd - 507 Night at American Lutheran American Lutheran will be hosting our May 507 night! Join us for Piz-  
 za, games, and worship with other youth from our community. 6:30-8:00 p.m.

May 21st - Senior Sunday Calling all SENIORS! You are invited to join us for Senior Recognition Sunday. We want  
 to honor your gifts as you go out into the world! So, join us for worship at 10:15 a.m. and refreshments between  
 services from 9-10 a.m.

May 21st - Sunday School Celebration! Preschool-5th grade students celebrate the last day of Sunday school with  
 a special project to celebrate our graduating seniors.

May 24th - Senior Baccalaureate Service Save the date for our Senior Baccalaureate Worship service. More de-  
 tails to come.

May 31, June 21, July 12 - Summer Youth Group Open to 6th-12th graders, and their friends, from 6-8 p.m.  
 Events may include water balloons, human foosball, Gaga ball, and slip-and-slide kickball. Location and events  
 TBD.

June 5-8 Community Kids' Camp (VBS) BRAND NEW & coming to a church near you! Where: First United Method-  
 ist Church When: 5:30 p.m. MEAL / 6-8:30 p.m. CAMP FUN! Who: Preschool-5th grade students RSVP: chil-  
 dren@worthingtonalc.org (More details to come)

June 30th- High School Bonfire 9th-12th graders and friends, join us for a bonfire, smores, and a chance to  
 "check-in". Bring a lawn chair and some yard games for the night. (6-10 pm.)

July 14th- 22/23 Mission Charleston, WV 6th- 12th graders will be heading on a mission trip to Charleston, WV.  
 There are spaces available. Talk to Pastor Jeremy ASAP!

## MAY WORSHIP HELPERS AND LEADERS

**Ushers 8:00 AM (Team 6)** Greg Kvilhaug, Scott Langerud, Alec Langerud

**Ushers 10:15 AM (Team 4)** Bruce Juber, Dave Skog, Marc Janssen

**Altar Committee:** Diana Kvilhaug, Diane Levine, Kathy Sackett

**Busy Bag Monitor:** Diane Levine

**Church Lockup:** Paul Langseth

### Communion Server:

**7th** 8:00 - Russell Obermoller, Dave Nerem,  
Connie Voss

10:15 - Steve & Lori Dudley, Karen Hanbury

**14th** 8:00 - Mark Shepherd, Harlan & Pam Handevitd

10:15 - Roger & Clasine Lester, Melissa Jensen

**21st** 8:00 - Grant Sorensen, Bob & Sandy Demuth

10:15 - Jill Cuperus, Laura Hoffman, Mary Turner

**28th** 8:00 - Lola Lindquist, Gordy & Lori Heitkamp

10:00 - Bruce & Karen Juber, Nancy Marco  
(New time Starts)

### Greeters:

**7th** 8:00 - Harlan & Pam Handevitd

10:15 - Erlin & Jean Weness

**14th** 8:00 - Dennis & Dee Hale

10:15 - Diane Levine

**21st** 8:00 - Bob & Sandy Demuth

10:15 - Mary Turner

**28th** 8:00 - Lori Glawe

10:00 - Bill & Judi Hoevet  
(New Time Starts)

### March Monthly Donations

Gift Card Income	\$	4,850.00
Parish Ed Income	\$	
Youth Fund Income	\$	1,492.00
Hospitality Income	\$	553.75
Box 1 Income	\$	23,528.20
Box 1 Income-Non Synod	\$	900.00
Box 2 Income	\$	13,559.77
Thrivent Donations	\$	25.00
Box 3 Income	\$	814.00
EJ Schol/ALC Schol/Col Learn	\$	40.00
Lenten Suppers	\$	2,588.00
Holiday Offering	\$	465.00
Lutheran Women	\$	109.00
Worship/Music	\$	199.00
Memorials	\$	25.00
Food Shelf	\$	8,399.00

### Operating Finances March, 2023

<b>Income</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>57,522.72</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>61,892.08</b>
<b>Net Loss</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>4,369.36</b>

<b>Debt as of 1/1/22</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>790,148.37</b>
<b>Interest paid March 2023</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>2,282.13</b>
<b>Current Building Fund debt</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>651,448.37</b>

Worship Date	Worship Participants		
	In-Person	8:00 am	10:15 am Online
March 26	75	67	155
April 2	97	88	285
April 9	193	182	202
April 16	94	45	210
April 23	88	66	178