



## FROM THE PASTOR

### You Were Born to be You!

**Who am I? Why am I here? Do I have a purpose? What was I created to be and to do? Does God have a plan for my life?**

These are all questions we struggle with from time to time — questions some struggle with all the time. How about you? Ever wonder why you were placed on this earth? Does another year passing make you sad because it means you still do not know why you were born? Recently I was reading an older English version of the New Testament translated by J. B Phillips and found the easy English prose rather insightful. So maybe the apostle Paul can offer us some help:

**<sup>3-8</sup> As your spiritual teacher I give this piece of advice to each one of you. Don't cherish exaggerated ideas of yourself or your importance, but try to have a sane estimate of your capabilities by the light of the faith that God has given to you all. For just as you have many members in one physical body and those members differ in their functions, so we, though many in number, compose one body in Christ and are all members of one another. Through the grace of God we have different gifts. If our gift is preaching, let us preach to the limit of our vision. If it is serving others let us concentrate on our service; if it is teaching let us give all we have to our teaching; and if our gift be the stimulating of the faith of others let us set ourselves to it. Let the man who is called to give, give freely; let the man who wields authority think of his responsibility; and let the man who feels sympathy for his fellows act cheerfully.**

(Romans 12:3-8 J.B. Phillips)

What I found refreshing about the way he translates is that he makes it easy to summarize the insightful issues that

can make us take our eyes off the goal that Christ has set for us.

**Insight Number One: Maybe we think too much about ourselves.**

In verse 3, Paul says: ***"Don't cherish exaggerated ideas of yourself or your importance..."*** Maybe one way to read that would be, "Don't spend so much time thinking about yourself." Use sober or clear-headed judgment about yourself. Maybe we spend too much time trying to figure ourselves out when we should spend more time focusing on God and what He is doing, and how we are to fit into His plan.

**Insight Number Two: God's plan for us is not necessarily a puzzle to be solved.**

It is mysterious but the puzzle has been solved. Here is St. Paul's summary of how he saw His commission in the kingdom of God:

**<sup>24-26</sup> I myself have been made a minister of this same Gospel, and though it is true at this moment that I am suffering on behalf of you who have heard the Gospel, yet I am far from sorry about it. Indeed, I am glad, because it gives me a chance to complete in my own sufferings something of the untold pains for which Christ suffers on behalf of His body, the Church. For I am a minister of the Church by divine commission, a commission granted to me for your benefit and for a special purpose: that I might fully declare God's word—that sacred mystery which up to now has been hidden in every age and every generation. (Colossians 1:25-26 J. B Phillips)**

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Did you hear where Paul's focus was? It wasn't on himself. Look again at where Paul found plan for His ministry: **"For I am a minister of the Church by divine commission, a commission granted to me for your benefit and for a special purpose..."** That is a major part of the reason you are here, "to allow Christ to be revealed in you as a benefit for others". That happens when you have made your life a living sacrifice as Paul says in Romans 12:1-2, **"Do not let the world around you squeeze you into its own mold, but let God re-mold your minds from within, so that you may prove in practice that the plan of God for you is good, meets all His demands and moves you towards the goal of true maturity."**

### Insight Number Three: You were born to be you.

God makes it clear that we are all different, but we are all joined in Christ's Body to be one. We all have different gifts, but we make up the one body. We cannot be someone else. We do not have their gift. Although we may have similar qualities as our parents, as our siblings, as our closest friends, we are not them. We were not created to be them or to be like them. We were formed in our mother's womb to be us. We are to be part of the Body of Christ as designed by God, and as He designed us. **You were born to be you.** That is where you can be your best. That is where you will flourish. So, be who you were born to be: be you to the glory of Christ!

## LCMS STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY - SEPTEMBER 2023

### Stewardship in the First Commandment

The greatest gift that Martin Luther gave to us was his Small Catechism. The word "enchiridion" is part of the original title of this work. This is the Greek word for "handbook." The Small Catechism is a handbook of the Bible. All the basic knowledge that a Christian needs to understand the faith and live a godly life has been taken from the Bible and distilled into this beautiful little book of Christian piety.

Luther starts with the Ten Commandments.

The First Commandment:

You shall have no other gods.

*What does this mean?* We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things. (SC I)

We have a God above us. He is the Lord God and we are not. He is Almighty and in control. He is righteous and good. And therefore, we should fear Him.

This God is also our heavenly Father. He wants us to be saved. He does not want us to suffer His just wrath. He has provided salvation for us in His Son, Jesus Christ. And therefore, we should love Him.

Our heavenly Father will never leave us nor forsake us. He has promised as much — and the Bible shows us that He always keeps His promises. So, we should trust Him.

In the Large Catechism, Luther explains how money and possessions form one of the greatest temptations against the First Commandment:

This I must unfold somewhat more plainly, that it may be understood and perceived by ordinary examples of the contrary. Many a one thinks that he has God and everything in abundance when he has money and possessions; he trusts in them and boasts of them with such firmness and assurance as to care for no one. Lo, such a man also has a god, Mammon by name, i.e., money and possessions, on which he sets all his heart, and which is also the most common idol on earth. He who has money and possessions feels secure, and is joyful and undismayed as though he were sitting in the midst of Paradise. On the other hand, he who has none doubts and is despondent, as though he knew of no God. For very few are to be found who are of good cheer, and who neither mourn nor complain if they have not Mammon. This [care and desire for money] sticks and clings to our nature, even to the grave. (LC I 5-9)

These words of Dr. Luther should call us to repentance; sometimes, we live and act like we don't have a Father in heaven. We seek our comfort and peace outside of His gracious promises. But we do have a Father in heaven. He does love us. All His promises are true. And the Lord will surely provide. If that is our belief, then our outward lives will reflect our belief in our acts of generosity and mercy. We will see money and possessions not as gods but rather as tools for doing God's work.

**LCMS Stewardship Ministry**  
[lcms.org/stewardship](https://lcms.org/stewardship)

## OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES

# Christmas with Dignity

### CHRISTMAS WITH DIGNITY (CWD)

Hospitality House Youth Development (HHYD) sponsors **CWD** each December which allows families to buy presents for their children at 10 cents on the dollar. This year it is on Friday, December 8th. This "help-up" as opposed to "hand-out" approach offers Twin Cities Metro families a way to share in the joy of giving while preserving the self-respect and dignity of those in financial need.

We will be collecting **NEW, unwrapped toys** through Sunday, December 4th. Gift ideas will be posted on the Missions board. This info is also at <https://hhyd.org/christmas-with-dignity/donate-to-christmas-with-dignity/>. Monetary donations for purchasing larger gift items are also accepted and can be made online. There are **volunteer opportunities** the first week of December at HHYD to help set up as well as on sale day. Questions? Talk to Pam Hunter.

### OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Holy Cross will once again collect shoebox donations to be distributed throughout the world through Samaritan's Purse. The display will go up mid-October.

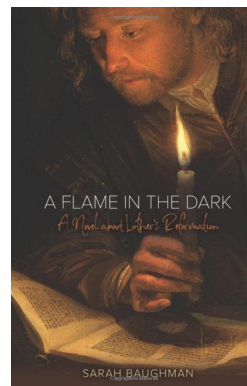
A goal page for Holy Cross has been set up where one can also "build-a-box" online. The link is <https://sampur.se/3YJyjy> or scan the QR code. Collection deadline is November 14th.



## SAVE THE DATE!

**WOMEN ON A MISSION EVENT Missions to the Nations** - Join us on **Saturday, October 7th at Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church in Plymouth.** Registration is at 8:30am. Pastor Chou Vang of Shepherd of the Grove will be speaking on his mission experiences. Lunch will follow with an international theme. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased by October 1st from Pam Hunter or Pat Harvey. The Gifts from the Heart are monetary donations for the Children's Ministry at the Hmong Lutheran Church of St. Paul. Carpooling will be available.

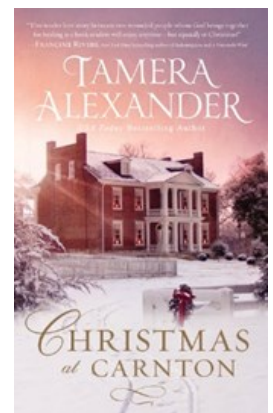
## BIBLE BOOKENDERS



Our next Bible Bookenders meeting will be **Tuesday, October 24 at 7:00 pm.** Our selection is *A Flame in the Dark - A novel about Luther's Reformation* by Sarah Baughman. This rich and authentic historical fiction novel is set against the backdrop of the Reformation, showing how the reverberations of this religious reform echoed throughout the world and in the lives of ordinary people.

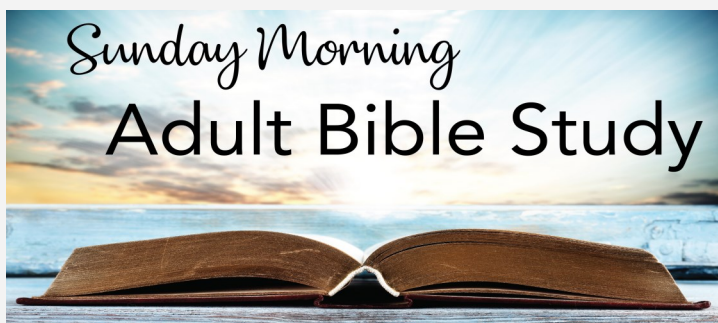
For January Bible Bookenders we will be reading *Christmas at Carnton* by Tamera Alexander on **Tuesday, January 23, at 7:00 pm.**

Invite your friends to join us, all are welcome, men, women and teenagers. Questions? Ask Bonnie Nowak, Patricia Harvey or Michele Lein.



# ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Join us for Sunday Morning Study as we look at the C.S Lewis's book **The Screwtape Letters**. It is a brilliant and satirical look at spiritual warfare and the dynamics of temptation. Screwtape, a senior demon in the bureaucracy of Hell, writes letters to his incompetent nephew Wormwood, a junior devil. The younger demon's assignment is to corrupt a young man living in London during the tumultuous days of World War II. Using Scripture references, discussion questions, and related commentary, we will examine each letter through a Christian lens of morality, temptation, and good and evil. There are two equal and opposite errors into which our race can fall about the devils. One is to disbelieve in their existence. The other is to believe, and to feel an excessive and unhealthy interest in them. They themselves are equally pleased by both errors and hail a materialist or a magician with the same delight. Join the Study if you haven't been here, discussion on these topics should be enriching for all.



- Steve Oak..... Sept 4
- Mike Harvey..... Sept 5
- Kara Petrie ..... Sept 5
- Rostina Vannett..... Sept 12
- Ann Sasse..... Sept 15
- Randy Baldwin ..... Sept 16
- Dennis Waderich ..... Sept 17
- Joyce Drenckhahn..... Sept 23
- Denny Case ..... Sept 27
- Morgan Schulze ..... Sept 27
- Eli Petrie..... Sept 28
- Nathan Hentges..... Sept 30

## PRAYER REQUESTS



If you have a prayer request on Sunday, please fill out the form in the pew and put it in the offering plate. Pastor will include them in Prayer of the Church during the service. You can also email weekly prayer requests, and any prayers that should go out to the whole congregation, to [megan@holycross-pl.org](mailto:megan@holycross-pl.org).

## NEWSLETTER REMINDER!

Reminder to get you newsletter additions in to Megan by the 15th of each month. **We'd love to have some new ideas, articles, anything you find relevant to add to the Newsletter!**



## AUGUST


 WORSHIP SCHEDULE
**Sept 3****Pentecost 14****"When Love Hits A Wall" Jeremiah 13:15-21**

Jeremiah 13:15-21      Psalm 26  
Romans 12:9-21      Matthew 16:21-28

**Sept 10****Pentecost 15****"Is God right-handed or left-handed?"****Romans 13:1-10**

Ezekiel 33:7-9      Ps 119:113-120  
Romans 13:1-10      Matthew 18:1-20

**Sept 17****Pentecost 16****"Terrible Stuff Happens" Matthew 18:21-22**

Genesis 50:15-21      Ps 103:1-13  
Romans 14:1-12      Matthew 18:21-35

**Sept 24****Pentecost 17****"Rev John Vaughn"**

Isaiah 55:6-9      Philippians 1:12-14, 19-30  
Ps 27:1-9      Matthew 20:1-16


 Upcoming  
EVENTS

<b>September 10</b>	Sunday School Starts
<b>September 11</b>	Church Council Meeting
<b>September 16</b>	LWML Fall Conference
<b>September 18</b>	Fall Community Fest
<b>September 23</b>	Poblo Meeting at Mt. Hope
<b>October 7</b>	Lutheran Women on a Mission Fall Conference
<b>October 24</b>	Bible Bookenders
<b>October 28</b>	Fall Mission Fest

## MAIN STREET LIVING NORTH



Main Street Living is an hour-long Lutheran television program that airs new episodes each Sunday morning. The Twin Cities program is broadcast at 9 am Central time on WFTC channel 29/9-2. Each Sunday, viewers enjoy a 30 minute remastered episode of "This is the Life," a popular Lutheran Hour Ministries series from the 70s and 80s. The episode is followed by a modified Lutheran worship service—led by a different local pastor each week. Main Street Living (Twin Cities) is endorsed by the Minnesota South District of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod; however, the program receives no funding from the District. It is totally funded by viewers and congregations of the WFTC viewing area.

[www.mainstreetliving.com/twincities](http://www.mainstreetliving.com/twincities)

## MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY


 MEMBER  
DIRECTORY

The membership directory has been updated! You can pick up a new copy in the back of the church. If your contact information is incorrect or needs updating, please let Megan know.

# 2 MINUTE MULTIPLIER



A WEEKDAY 2-MINUTE DEVOTION THAT HELPS YOU SEE JESUS AT WORK IN YOUR WORLD

## Omniscient

A Gwyneth Paltrow banner ad keeps stalking me. Hawking me some botox-like injections to get rid of my frown wrinkles. I have no clue how she knew I have frown wrinkles. I've never searched for any solution to them. No creams or ointments.

My wife is the sole solution: "Why are you frowning?" I guess I'm just a thoughtful serious guy. I'm ok with digital marketing that profiles me. To some extent.

Knowing my love for golf equipment. For fine wine. For lawn tools. How I keep clicking on that ad for the solid wood rowing machine that would fit perfectly in my living room as a work of art. (As if my wife would ever let that come to be.) There's a fine-line about how well you know Bill, though.

Plenty of brokenness I'd rather not come to light. Plenty of mistakes and flat-out disobedience I'd just as soon go unnoticed. God's omniscience of me causes indigestion. Nothing is hidden from His sight. Nothing

can be shelved away from His knowledge. Makes me embarrassed. Ashamed. Wondering what He thinks of me. Creates a need for me to do something about it. Undo the wrong. Make amends after amends.

Thankfully His omniscience is complimented by His infinite love. By the gift of His Son. Our God is unique. One-of-a-kind. He not only knows all and sees all. He also forgives all. Makes all right. God knows you fully and loves you fully. He never looks away. Even when you want to look away. He's like that banner ad offering you a free off-road converted Toyota Tundra camper truck at no cost. No such thing.

Except there is. His name is Jesus. His forgiveness costs you nothing. His love costs you nothing. He's exactly what you need to get rid of those frown wrinkles.

**Rev. Bill Woolsey**  
President and Founder  
FiveTwo Network

Sign up to receive the *2 Minute Multiplier* emailed to you! [www.fivetwo.com/2mm](http://www.fivetwo.com/2mm)



## S.A.G.E.S.



**What is SAGES?!!! No, it's not a candle scent!** It stands for **S**aints **A**live, **G**rowing, **E**ver **S**erving = **SAGES!** Over 30 years ago our synod requested our District, among others, to attend a conference on older adult ministry in churches of the LCMS. As a result the Minnesota South District started **SAGES**, a ministry that encourages individual churches to reach out and provide guidance and activities for their older adults. **SAGES** also hosts a yearly two-day event with speakers, workshops and socializing. The question is, do our churches have an older adult ministry in place. Sadly, most do not. It's something to work towards. A new **SAGES** newsletter, the **SAGACITY**, has been printed and has been placed on the tables as well as on the first bulletin board on the left as you enter the Commons. Take one and check SAGES out.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL



Sunday School Rally Day is **Sunday, September 10th**. Sunday school hours will be 10:30-11:30am. Sunday School calendars, showing any Sundays

off as well as special events, will be available on the bulletin board. Registration for current students is not necessary unless contact information or other info needs to be updated. The youth will be blessing us by serving coffee on the 10th. Thank you! Questions may be directed to Pam Hunter or Dorene Oak.

## THE LUTHERAN HOUR



**The Lutheran Hour** can be heard each Sunday on WCCO (830 AM) at 6:05 am. And it can be streamed online too, [www.lhm.org](http://www.lhm.org). Check-out LHM's daily devotions too.

### September 3 "Entryway"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler  
The Psalms are God's words, given to us as an entryway into His presence. (Psalm 26:8)

### September 10 "Not Just a Formality"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler  
After trust has been broken, forgiveness is more than a mere formality. (Psalm 32)

### September 17 "The Problem of Praise"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler  
(Psalm 103)

### September 24 "High Ground"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler  
(Psalm 27)

## TIME OF GRACE



Straight talk about God's Word and real hope for this life. A strong gospel message delivered in an informal Bible study style.

Subscribe to **Time of Grace** ([www.timeofgrace.org](http://www.timeofgrace.org)) resources to be delivered to your email inbox daily. You will receive daily devotion emails with "Grace Moments" written devotions and "Grace Talks" video devotions.

**Pastor Mike Novotny** • The Core, Appleton, WI • KARE (NBC 11) 10:30 am

## POBLO TEACHERS WANTED



POBLO ESL teachers wanted for the Prior Lake IFC. Mondays at 4:30pm and Wednesdays at 6pm. Please contact Shari Schulze at 612-387-6469 for more information.

## HAPPENINGS



### NOTE TIME CHANGE!!

Please submit all articles for the **Happenings by Wednesdays at 10 am!** We also need some new and fresh content for the Happenings, so if you have any great ideas, please send them over to [megan@holycross-pl.org](mailto:megan@holycross-pl.org).

## SPIRITUAL GROWTH

### Who's in Charge of Your Spiritual Growth?

Not enough is said about finishing well. Yet God considers it a virtue of sticking with something until it's done... of hanging tough when excitement and fun



fade into discipline and determination. We've become a people who embrace the "let's-just-quit" mentality. Dieting requires discipline, so we stay fat. Working through conflict is wearying, so we divorce. Sticking with an occupation is tough, so we resign. It's no different with spiritual matters. So many Christians start like lightning—hot, fast, and dazzling. But how many continue the course with sustained enthusiasm and vigor? Oh, some do, but why so few?

Our problem isn't that we're ignorant of God's expectations. His standard stretches from Genesis to Revelation. I could many verses to show this but I believe St. Paul expresses this so well in Romans:

**"Brothers and sisters, in view of all we have just shared about God's compassion, I encourage you to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, dedicated to God and pleasing to Him."**

God has made it possible for us to walk in an intimate relationship with Him, but He has given us the responsibility of walking. It takes deliberate, daily decisions for singles to remain pure... for parents to keep training their children... for all of us to continue pursuing godly living. So as we begin a new Fall where we traditionally put our focus on educating our children, may you also realize that as God's child, He wants you to also put this emphasis into your life to grow in His Wisdom and understanding. I urge you to *finish well* by pursuing God's will every day you walk with Him on this earth. As you do, let me also urge you to come alongside me as I encourage others to do the same.

## COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

Please check out the coffee signup in the Commons. I encourage those who haven't as yet chosen to do so to pick a Sunday. Serving with another person/couple is a good option for first-timers. Thank you to those who always faithfully sign up to serve.



## FALL COMMUNITY FEST

Holy Cross will be participating in the Community Fest, held at the Prior Lake High school, on **Monday, September 18th, 6:00-8:30pm**. Those willing to help represent Holy Cross at this event can speak with Buffy Mobroten.



## FALL MISSION FESTIVAL



Mark your calendar! Our Fall Mission Fest will be **Saturday, October 28th, 5:00-8:00pm**. As always, there will be great food, a silent auction, as well as a live(ly) auction! We will be blessed to hear from the new missionary for POBLO Twin Cities, Issa Safadi. More details will be coming!



## SEPTEMBER COMMEMORATIONS

You may have noticed in on pages x-xi in the front of our Lutheran Service Book a list of Commemorations commonly observed in the Lutheran Church. There are also listed historic commemorations of some of our forebearers in the faith on pages xii and xiii. The following brief descriptions of the significance of these commemorations in September are from the Treasury of Daily Prayer.

### Holy Cross Day (September 14)

One of the earliest annual celebrations of the Church. The cross on which our Lord was crucified has become the universal symbol for Christianity, replacing the fish symbol of the early church, though the latter has been revived in recent times. After the end of the persecution era, early in the fourth century, pilgrims began to travel to Jerusalem to visit and pray at the places associated with the life of Jesus. Helena, the mother of the emperor, was a Christian and, while overseeing excavations in the city, is said to have uncovered a cross, which many believed to be the Cross of Christ. Holy Cross Day, traditionally commemorated this discovery of the original cross of Jesus on September 14, 320, in Jerusalem. Later a basilica was built on the site of the Holy Sepulchre, so in conjunction with the dedication of a basilica at the site of Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection, the festival day was made official by order of Constantine in AD 335. Holy Cross Day has remained popular in both Eastern and Western Christianity. Many Lutheran parishes have chosen to use "Holy Cross" as the name of their congregation.



### St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist (September 21)

St. Matthew, also known as Levi, identifies himself as a former tax collector, one who was therefore considered unclean, a public sinner, outcast from the Jews. Yet it was such a one as this whom the Lord Jesus called away from his occupation and wealth to become a disciple (Matthew 9:9-13). Not only did Matthew become a disciple of Jesus, he was also called and sent as one of the Lord's twelve apostles (Matthew 10:2-4). In time, he became the evangelist whose inspired record of the Gospel was granted first place in the ordering of the New



Testament. Among the four Gospels, Matthew's portrays Christ especially as the new and greater Moses, who graciously fulfills the Law and the Prophets (Matthew 5:17) and establishes a new covenant of salvation in and with His own blood (Matthew 26:27-28). His symbol is three blue money bags on a white shield.



Matthew's Gospel is also well-known and beloved for its record of the visit of the Magi (Matthew 2:1-12); for the Sermon on the Mount, including the Beatitudes and the Our Father (Matthew 5-7); and for the institution of Holy Baptism and the most explicit revelation of the Holy Trinity (Matthew 28:16-20). Tradition is uncertain where his final field of labor was and whether Matthew died naturally or a martyr's death. In celebrating this festival, we therefore give thanks to God that He has mightily governed and protected His Holy Church through this man who was called and sent by Christ to serve the sheep of His pastures with the Holy Gospel. The Winged Man (left) represents St Matthew because his Gospel lays stress on the Incarnation of the Son of God.

### St. Michael and All Angels (September 29)

The name of the archangel St. Michael means "Who is like God?" Michael is mentioned in the Book of Daniel (12:1), as well as in Jude (v. 9) and Revelation (12:7). Daniel portrays Michael as the angelic helper of Israel who leads the battle against the forces of evil. In Revelation, Michael and his angels fight against and defeat Satan and the evil angels, driving them from heaven. Their victory is made possible by Christ's own victory over Satan in His death and resurrection, a victory announced by the voice in heaven: "Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come" (Revelation 12:10). Michael is often associated with Gabriel and Raphael, the other chief angels or archangels who surround the throne of God. Tradition names Michael as the patron and protector of the Church.



St. Michael's Church,  
Hamburg, Germany



2023



A Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Congregation

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
<b>3</b> <b>14th Sunday after Pentecost</b> 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Bible Study	★ ★ ★ H A P P Y <b>LABOR DAY</b> 	<b>5</b> 7:00 pm Elder's Meeting	<b>6</b> 10:00 am Happenings Articles Due	<b>7</b> 7:00 pm Choir Practice	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> <b>15th Sunday after Pentecost</b> 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Bible Study 10:30 am Sunday School	<b>11</b> 7:00 pm Church Council Meeting	<b>12</b> 4-5:30 pm Confirmation	<b>13</b> 10:00 am Happenings Articles Due	<b>14</b> 7:00 pm Choir Practice	<b>15</b> Mum Delivery	<b>16</b> LWML Fall Retreat
<b>17</b> <b>16th Sunday after Pentecost</b> 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Bible Study 10:30 am Sunday School	<b>18</b> 6:00 pm Fall Community Fest at Prior Lake High School	<b>19</b> 4-5:30 pm Confirmation	<b>20</b> 10:00 am Happenings Articles Due	<b>21</b> 7:00 pm Choir Practice	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> POBLO Meeting at Mt. Hope
<b>24</b> <b>17th Sunday after Pentecost</b> 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Bible Study 10:30 am Sunday School	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 4-5:30 pm Confirmation	<b>27</b> 10:00 am Happenings Articles Due	<b>28</b> 7:00 pm Choir Practice	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>