

## A CONGREGATION'S EXPECTATIONS OF HER MEMBERS

*For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.*

—1 Corinthians 12:12

The word “member” is a wonderful term we use when referring to a Christian who belongs to a particular congregation. It’s taken from the Bible, of course, such as when St. Paul writes, “We, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another” (Romans 12:5). He’s most especially talking about how each one of us is a member of the universal Church, which spans time and space, but this term can also speak of how each Christian congregation is a body and those who are attached to it are its members. Just as you can’t have a human body without members—legs, toes, eyeballs—so you also can’t have a congregation without members—people.

A member of a congregation isn’t simply a name on a list, so that once you’re on said list, you’re in for life. To be a member of a congregation is different than being a member of some board or club. But rather, it’s to be a member of a family. We are brothers and sisters in Christ, who gather in our home each week, under the care of our Father, who sent his Son, our Brother, to redeem us from sin. And as a family, each member is important. You matter to me, and I matter to you. We don’t come to church as individuals, in order to sneak in and out, so as to not be bothered. You wouldn’t do that at your mother’s house, and you certainly shouldn’t do it at your Father’s either.

And just as there are expectations in your earthly home—things for you to do, goals to be accomplished, and rules to follow—so it is in the household of God. There ought to be certain expectations for each member to meet, for the sake of the family, for the building up of one another.

I’m stealing this from another pastor, but I think what he suggests is spot on. At the very least, the expectations of every member of this congregation should be this:

1. You are in church every Sunday.
2. You tithe.
3. You read your Bible every day.

These three expectations are at the heart of what it means to be a member of this congregation, a part of this body. To refuse to do them is to sever yourself from the body. These three Christian duties attach yourself to the family, giving you work to do in God’s kingdom and pulling you away from yourself and back to Christ.

For the next three months, we will look closely at each of these expectations to better understand why you ought to be doing them and how you can accomplish them, so that each of us as individual members might meet these standards for the sake of the whole body.

In Christ,

Pastor Haller

# WHY?

## QUESTIONS ABOUT THE LITURGY

### Why does the pastor wear such strange clothes?

The word "holy" is often used to describe things in the Christian Church. We read from the *Holy Bible*. We are washed in *Holy Baptism*. We partake of the *Holy Communion*. And we are called saints, that is, *holy* people. This word "holy" is often thought of to mean "perfect" or "without any sin," but it actually doesn't mean that. Rather, something that is holy is simply *different*. It has been made different from the average and ordinary. A holy thing or person has been separated by the Lord for his good purposes. The Holy Bible is different from all other books, for God is its author. Holy Baptism is not at all the same as washing your hands. Holy Communion is unlike any other meal you eat. And we, as saints, have been separated and saved from the rest of the fallen world.

This is why our worship is so different from anything else we see in our lives. The church's message is one of free forgiveness, grace with no strings attached, and mercy that has no end. The extraordinary love of our Father is so unlike the world, and therefore, so is the way we worship.

And so also are the clothes the pastor wears in worship. He doesn't have an ordinary wardrobe. On Sundays, he's not wearing his casual t-shirt and jeans. If what he's doing in worship isn't ordinary or casual, but rather extraordinary and holy, then his clothes ought to match that. They should be different.

First, the pastor wears a **clerical shirt**. It's a black shirt with a white collar, a reminder that he is a sinner, darkened by original sin, and the only good thing he has to offer us is what comes from his vocal cords. God's words are spirit and life, and that's what the pastor is called to preach and proclaim, thus his collar is white.

Second, for the Divine Service, the pastor wears what most consider to be a "robe." It's actually called an **alb**, taken from a Latin word meaning "white." The alb completely covers the pastor, just as the righteousness of Christ covers all our sins. His role in the Divine Service is not to be seen or noticed, but all the attention is on the God who comes to serve us.

On top of the alb, the pastor wears a **stole** around his neck, which represents the yoke of Christ, as Jesus says "my yoke is easy and my burden is light" (Matthew 11:28). The pastor stands in Christ's stead, and the stole helps us remember that.

If the pastor is also administering the Sacrament of the Altar as the celebrant, he may also wear a **chasuble** over the alb and stole. Holy Communion is the pinnacle of Christian worship, and the one who consecrates and hands out our Lord's body and blood is doing so by the Lord's command. The pastor is the ambassador for Christ, and so it is fitting that he look like Christ (compare the chasuble to what Jesus is wearing in our sanctuary's artwork).



## SHUT-IN ADDRESSES

Continue to pray for those who can't be with us on Sunday mornings.

**Jean Adams**

8678 W. Deckerville Rd.  
Reese, MI 48757

**Don Carpenter**

Tuscola County Medical Care Facility  
1285 Cleaver Rd.  
Caro MI 48723

**John & Ruth Ann Kajjala**

6004 Gilford Rd.  
Fairgrove, MI 48733

**Pat Starkey**

Heritage Hill  
1430 Cleaver Rd.  
Caro, MI 48723

## August Divine Services

*(services with Holy Communion)*

*Sunday, August 3, 2025*

The Seventh Sunday after Trinity  
Mark 8:1-9

*Sunday, August 10, 2025*

The Eighth Sunday after Trinity  
Matthew 7:15-23

*Sunday, August 17, 2025*

The Ninth Sunday after Trinity  
Luke 16:1-13

*Sunday, August 24, 2025*

The Feast of St. Bartholomew  
John 1:43-51

*Sunday, August 31, 2025*

The Eleventh Sunday after Trinity  
Luke 18:9-14



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*The WORD of the LORD  
ENDURES FOREVER*

### AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- 16 Daryl Winter
- 17 Harold Burnison  
Joann Van Every
- 18 Julian Worden
- 19 Pastor Joshua Haller
- 23 Daniel Reinbold
- 30 Pamela Ill

### AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

- 5 Stephen & Jennifer Bender
- 26 Gordon & Joanne Bigham
- 27 John & Ruth Ann Kajjala
- 29 Larry & Diane Spencer

### **NEXT VOTERS MEETING:**

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2025 @ 11 AM**

### CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Private Confession and Absolution is available Saturday, August 24th, from 9 to 10 am in the sanctuary or anytime by appointment.



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Grace Lutheran Church—Fairgrove

Check out our website:  
[www.gracefairgrove.org](http://www.gracefairgrove.org)



# —STEWARDSHIP—

August Coffee Money  
Seminary Student



**Lutherans IN Africa**  
FORMING AFRICAN LUTHERANS TO BE TEACHERS OF THE FAITH

The Stewardship Board's Special Mission from July through September will be to Lutherans in Africa. Founded in 2010, Lutherans in Africa (LIA) equips Africans to be teachers of the saving faith in Christ Jesus. This is done through training pastors, evangelists, deaconesses, and Sunday school teachers in the pure doctrine of the Scriptures, the Lutheran Confessions as contained in the Book of Concord, and the liturgy and hymnody of the historic Church. LIA also translates key doctrinal resources into African languages.

By training Africans to be teachers of the faith, Lutherans in Africa (LIA) is able to help fill the need for pastors and further spread the Gospel, allowing God to work through His Word. Lutherans in Africa does that work all over Africa.

For those willing to support, specific envelopes can be found on the display table in the fellowship hall.



## Altar Flowers

In an effort to enhance the Divine Service, Ladies Aid has posted a flower chart for families or church boards wishing to participate. Please consider signing up to beautify the altar sometime this year...

1. Sign up for a Sunday on the Flower Chart on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall.
2. Inform the Ladies Aid members for that month (see newsletter) to schedule the dropping off of flowers.
3. Have flowers at the church by Saturday or early Sunday morning for your week.



On Sunday, August 24th, after the Divine Service, join your brothers and sisters in Christ at the Hallers' (4818 Slack Rd.).

Drinks and pulled pork will be provided. Bring a dish to pass!

## A HOLY CONVERSATION

**Saturday, November 8<sup>th</sup>**

9:30 am	Matins
10:15 am	Session 1
11:30 am	Lunch
12:30 pm	Session 2

**Sunday, November 9<sup>th</sup>**

Session 3 during Bible Study

**THE SPEAKER:** Dr. Peter Scaer serves as professor and chairman of the Exegetical department at Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, IN. His passions include the Gospel of Mark, highlighting the sacramental ministry of Jesus. He loves to show how the life and teachings of Christ anticipates and forms the life of the Church.

He is deeply involved in life issues and serves as president of Allen County Right to Life. He is a founding member of Shepherds United, an ecumenical Christian group formed to defend life, natural marriage and religious liberty. He speaks out on the issues that affect both our Church and society, always placing the focus on Christ, who gives us life and defines for us what it means to be truly human.

He and his wife, Amy, are blessed with three children.



# CHRISTIAN TRAINING

## SUNDAY SCHOOL AND ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Regularly scheduled Sunday School will begin Sunday, September 14th with three classrooms:  
Preschool/Kindergarten, 1st through 4th grade, and 5th through 8th grade.

**THE SUNDAY SCHOOL CHILDREN'S CHOIR WILL BE SINGING FOR  
THE DIVINE SERVICE ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9th**

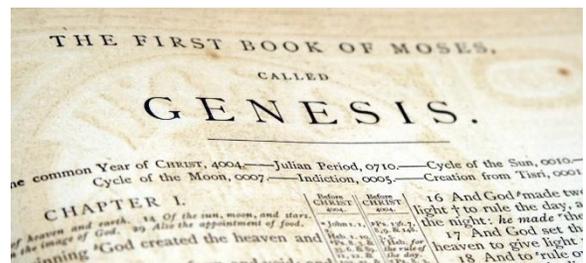
## THE MEN'S STUDY

Saturday, August 23rd, 7:30 to 9 am  
breakfast + prayer + the Lutheran Confessions



## WEDNESDAYS AT GRACE

9:30 am          Matins  
10 am             Bible Study



## JUNIOR HIGH CATECHESIS

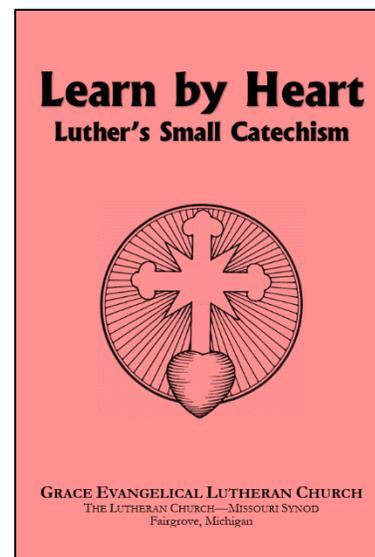
Head of Household Meeting  
Wednesday, August 6th at 7 pm

Catechesis begins Wednesday, August 27th, at 7 pm

All 5th through 8th graders in the congregation are expected to participate in Junior High Catechesis. For any younger children, who are also interested in participating, please speak with Pastor Haller.

## HIGH SCHOOL CATECHESIS

Catechesis begins Sunday, September 21st



“Learn by Heart” booklets are available to everyone on the table near the south entrance of the church building. Use this tool to learn Luther’s Small Catechism by heart.

# THE DAILY READINGS FOR AUGUST

“God’s Word is the treasure that makes everything holy. By it all the saints have themselves been made holy. At whatever time God’s Word is taught, preached, heard, read, or pondered, there the person, the day, and the work is hallowed, not on account of the external work but on account of the Word that makes us all saints.”

—Martin Luther, The Large Catechism, 91-92

<b>August 1st</b>	Psalm 70	1 Sam. 17:1-19	Acts 26:1-23
<b>August 2nd</b>	Psalm 71:1-8	1 Sam. 17:20-47	Acts 26:24-27:8
<b>August 3rd</b>	Psalm 68:4-10	1 Sam. 17:48-18:9	Acts 27:9-26
<b>August 4th</b>	Psalm 56:1-4	1 Sam. 18:10-30	Acts 27:27-44
<b>August 5th</b>	Psalm 21:1-7	1 Sam. 19:1-24	Acts 28:1-15
<b>August 6th</b>	Psalm 92:1-9	1 Sam. 20:1-23	Acts 28:16-31
<b>August 7th</b>	Psalm 144:3-10	1 Sam. 20:24-42	1 Cor. 1:1-25
<b>August 8th</b>	Psalm 62:1-7	1 Sam. 24:1-22	1 Cor. 1:26-2:16
<b>August 9th</b>	Psalm 94:8-15	1 Samuel 25:1-22	1 Cor. 3:1-23
<b>August 10th</b>	Psalm 14	1 Sam. 25:23-44	1 Cor. 4:1-21
<b>August 11th</b>	Psalm 51:10-13	1 Sam. 26:1-25	1 Cor. 5:1-13
<b>August 12th</b>	Psalm 99:1-5	1 Sam. 28:3-25	1 Cor. 6:1-20
<b>August 13th</b>	Psalm 68:1-6	1 Sam. 31:1-13	1 Cor. 7:1-24
<b>August 14th</b>	Psalm 33:13-21	2 Sam. 1:1-27	1 Cor. 7:25-40
<b>August 15th</b>	Psalm 132:11-18	2 Sam. 5:1-25	1 Cor. 8:1-13
<b>August 16th</b>	Psalm 11	2 Samuel 6:1-19	1 Cor. 9:1-23
<b>August 17th</b>	Psalm 24:1-6	2 Samuel 7:1-17	1 Cor. 9:24-10:22
<b>August 18th</b>	Psalm 107:1-9	2 Samuel 7:18-29	1 Cor. 10:23-11:16
<b>August 19th</b>	Psalm 12	2 Samuel 11:1-27	1 Cor. 11:17-34
<b>August 20th</b>	Psalm 51:1-8	2 Samuel 12:1-25	1 Cor. 12:1-13
<b>August 21st</b>	Psalm 139:13-24	1 Kings 1:1-4,15-35	1 Cor. 12:14-31
<b>August 22nd</b>	Psalm 97	1 Kings 2:1-27	1 Cor. 13:1-13
<b>August 23rd</b>	Psalm 111:1-10	1 Kings 3:1-15	2 Cor. 1:1-22
<b>August 24th</b>	Psalm 27:1-11	1 Kings 5:1-18	2 Cor. 1:23-2:17
<b>August 25th</b>	Psalm 32:1-7	1 Kings 7:51-8:21	2 Cor. 3:1-18
<b>August 26th</b>	Psalm 36:7-12	1 Kings 8:22-30,46-63	2 Cor. 4:1-18
<b>August 27th</b>	Psalm 72:1-7	1 Kings 9:1-9; 10:1-13	2 Cor. 5:1-21
<b>August 28th</b>	Psalm 48:1-8	1 Kings 11:1-26	2 Cor. 6:1-18
<b>August 29th</b>	Psalm 17:6-14	1 Kings 11:42-12:19	2 Cor. 7:1-16
<b>August 30th</b>	Psalm 29:10-11	1 Kings 12:20-13:5, 33-34	2 Cor. 8:1-24
<b>August 31st</b>	Psalm 68:15-20	1 Kings 16:29-17:24	2 Cor. 9:1-15

## VOTER'S MEETING

July 13, 2025

Aaron Reinbold called the meeting to order and Pastor Haller opened the meeting with a reading from the Old Testament Genesis 50, which related to forgiving the transgressions of your brothers, as Joseph forgave his brothers who sold him into slavery. Ended the discussion with prayer.

### SECRETARY'S REPORT – Joanne Hills

- Roll call was taken with 26 present and 4 excused.
- Minutes were reviewed from April 13<sup>th</sup> voter's meeting, as well as, the Parish Planning meeting from July 9, 2025. Motion to accept both minutes by Diane Spencer and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Leslie Reinbold. Motion carried and approved to accept the meeting minutes, with the exception of Laura Starkey's name being misspelled in the Voter's minutes.
- Accepted into membership was Holly Winter.

### TREASURER'S REPORT – No Report

### CHURCH PROPERTIES – Steve Reinbold

- Fan replaced in men's bathroom and faucet on north side of fellowship hall was replaced.
- Power washing the north side of the church and Mike Starkey will do the parsonage.
- Reviewed the parking lot situation.
- New trash can was gotten.
- Meetings are second Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m. Next meeting to be held August 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:30.
- Faucet on right side in women's bathroom has a bad leak.

### ELDERS – Joe Bublitz

- Reviewed and approved a new catechesis booklet.
- Holly Winter is the new church office assistant.
- Continuing to contact and work with delinquent members.
- Changed the communion supplier – Michigan Church Supply.
- Discussed Holy Conversation, which will be November 8 & 9 with guest Pastor Peter Scaer.

### EVANGELISM AND MERCY – Holy Winter

- Picture Directory went well with 33 families, 3 nonmember families and 10 families who will be submitting pictures.
- Met with the Picture Directory personnel on July 8 to establish the layout. Elizabeth LaPouttre will be doing the computer work for the directory.
- July 19 is the clothing giveaway at Grace. Set up will be week of July 14. Any help appreciated.
- Discussion on game night with a fall date.
- Discussed Labor Day float. Looking for a utility trailer.

### LADIES AID – Diane Spencer – No report.

### STEWARDSHIP – Joanne Hills

- July and September coffee money to Worship Anew and August coffee money to the seminary student.
- Missions – September – Education Sunday will go to Luther Classical College in Wyoming.
- Stewardship's Special Quarterly Missions will go to Lutherans in Africa.

### FELLOWSHIP – Tracey Reinbold

- Easter breakfast came off without a hitch. Approximately 80 were served and had nice compliments about the menu choices.
- Mother's Day served strawberry shortcake.
- Father's Day served pies.

### **FELLOWSHIP – Tracey Reinbold (continued)**

- Since the board has had a lot of requests to bring back the potlucks, it was decided to do just that during our summer months. The first one was on June 13, which went over very well. Our second summer potluck is July 20 and our last one is at Pastor Haller's home on August 24.
- After our summer potlucks are completed, focus will be on the Harvest Dinner and Advent meals.

### **YOUNG PEOPLE'S WORK – Laura Starkey**

- Met with board and discussed having a Fun Night for the youth. It was discussed having all ages from young ones to 8<sup>th</sup> grade with devotions, games, a meal and maybe a bon fire. Date to be set.
- Plans to maybe visit a nursing home.

### **PASTOR'S REPORT**

- There were two committal burials: Noah Bender on March 27<sup>th</sup> and Thomas Bender on June 5<sup>th</sup>, burial of Lillian Wheeler on June 13<sup>th</sup> and funeral and burial of Marge Montgomery on July 9<sup>th</sup>.
- Michigan Lutheran Convention was June 22-24. Pastor and Aaron Reinbold attended. Pastor reported that President David Davis was reelected. All resolutions were resolved, except for closed communion, as the committee stated it was previously resolved.
- Catechesis booklet was presented with good discussion and overall expectations. Good feedback. There were six Jr. High young people this last year. There will be 12 next year. There are three First Communion candidates for July. This year there were six Sr. High young people. Next year there will be five. Deegan Walstead was confirmed on June 29<sup>th</sup>. Younger ones that want to join Jr. High, please contact Pastor.
- Men's Bible study going well. There were 11 men in attendance last month. The next one is July 19<sup>th</sup>. Wednesday Bible study of Genesis is going well with Sunday Bible study of Revelation going slowly. Private Confession after Men's Bible study from 9-10 a.m.
- Two things discussed with Elders: First is a Home School Coop. There are three families, Bender, Worden and LaPoutre, who will be home schooling their children. Pastor will meet with moms soon. The Church building will be offered on Wednesday with as much or as little participation expected. Finding ways to reach out to the community. Second is having Sunday School for the middle school. There are 12 students in 5-8 grades. Fathers only will teach this class with rotation of fathers each Sunday. Will get with Dan and Tracey Reinbold to discuss the Sunday School curriculum.
- There will be cleanup of the Youth Room in the near future with sorting of the posters.
- Pastor is off on July 16, will attend a convention in Wisconsin July 28-30 and go on vacation to the UP September 4-8.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

- Kitchen Remodel: Aaron discussed the kitchen remodel. There are two plans the committee is looking at with Plan A including the addition and Plan B just remodeling the existing kitchen with Plan A costing approximately \$125,000 and Plan B approximately \$64,500. Looking into having the Byler cabinet makers near Cass City build our cabinets. Upon further discussion, the board decided to do a kitchen fund raiser first until January. Also, a suggestion was made to do pledges.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- It was asked if there will be a VBS church night. It was stated it will be the same night as the Youth night.

Next Parish Planning meeting will be on Tuesday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7PM

Next Voter's Meeting will be on Sunday, October 12<sup>th</sup> at 11AM.

Motion to adjourn made by Dan Reinbold and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sarah Hall.

Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer and singing of the Doxology.

Minutes respectfully submitted,  
Joanne Hills, Acting Secretary

# Serving Our Lord in the Month of August

## **Elders for August**

Joseph Bublitz & Stephen Bender

## **Ladies Aid for August**

Hannah Haller & Jean Trisch

## **Sunday, August 3, 2025**

*Refreshments:* Sandy Goodrich, Hannah Haller, Renee Hecht

*Propers Choir:* Alberta Reinbold, Daniel Reinbold

*Acolyte:* Wayne Seeley

*Bible Study Babysitter:* Ashley Bublitz

*Youngers' Sunday School Teacher:* Nicole Seeley

## **Sunday, August 10, 2025**

*Refreshments:* Joanne Hills, Beth Hoppe, Pamela Ill

*Propers Choir:* Aaron Reinbold, Amelia Reinbold

*Acolyte:* Brandt LaPouttre

*Bible Study Babysitter:* Alberta Reinbold

*Youngers' Sunday School Teacher:* Hannah Haller

## **Sunday, August 17, 2025**

*Refreshments:* Susan Pfund, Sarah Reid, Joanne Reinbold

*Propers Choir:* Gabriella Reinbold, Winston Reinbold

*Acolyte:* Noah Reinbold

*Bible Study Babysitter:* Pamela Ill

*Youngers' Sunday School Teacher:* Steven Reinbold

## **Sunday, August 24, 2025**

*Propers Choir:* Joanne Hills, Mary Masker, Susan Pfund

*Acolyte:* Winston Reinbold

## **Sunday, August 31, 2025**

*Refreshments:* Leslie Reinbold, Tracey Reinbold, Diane Spencer

*Propers Choir:* Hannah Haller, Hunter Reid, Sarah Reid

*Acolyte:* Erwin Reinbold

*Bible Study Babysitter:* Gabriella Reinbold

*Youngers' Sunday School Teacher:* Laura Starkey

\*\*If your name is not on the refreshment list and you would like to serve, please contact the church office.

\*\*If you're not able to serve on a particular Sunday, please call someone to replace you.

# AUGUST 2025

Church Office: (989) 693-6322      Pastor Haller's cell phone: (248) 794-3703

Executive Director: Aaron Reinbold (989) 233-5105

Elders of the Month: Joseph Bublitz (989) 528-9120 & Stephen Bender (989) 430-9910

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>3</b> <i>The Seventh Sunday after Trinity</i> <b>9:15 am Divine Service</b> <b>11 am Sunday School Bible Study</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>  <b>7 pm Elders</b>	<b>6</b> <b>9:30 am Matins</b> <b>10 am Bible Study</b>  <b>7 pm J.H. Catechesis Meeting</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> <b>Pastor's Day Off</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> <i>The Eighth Sunday after Trinity</i> <b>9:15 am Divine Service</b> <b>11 am Sunday School Bible Study</b>	<b>11</b>  <b>7:30 pm Properties</b>	<b>12</b> <b>9 am Quilters</b>	<b>13</b> <b>9:30 am Matins</b> <b>10 am Bible Study</b>	<b>14</b> <i>Pastor on vacation</i>	<b>15</b> <i>Pastor on vacation</i>	<b>16</b> <i>Pastor on vacation</i>
<b>17</b> <i>The Ninth Sunday after Trinity</i> <b>9:15 am Divine Service</b> <b>11 am Sunday School Bible Study</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> <b>9:30 am Matins</b> <b>10 am Bible Study</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> <b>Pastor's Day Off</b>	<b>23</b> <b>7:30 am Men's Study</b> <b>9 to 10 am</b> <b>Private Confession</b>
<b>24</b> <i>The Feast of St. Bartholomew</i> <b>9:15 am Divine Service</b> <b>11 am Potluck @ Hallers'</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> <b>9 am Quilters</b>	<b>27</b> <b>9:30 am Matins</b> <b>10 am Bible Study</b>  <b>7 pm J.H. Catechesis</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> <b>Pastor's Day Off</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b> <i>The Eleventh Sunday after Trinity</i> <b>9:15 am Divine Service</b> <b>11 am Sunday School Bible Study</b> <b>dusk Fireworks</b>	<b>September 1</b>  <i>Labor Day</i>					