

YOU ARE EXPECTED TO TITHE

God loves a cheerful giver.

—2 Corinthians 9:7

Last month, I wrote about the expectation that every member of our congregation will come to the Divine Service every week, the time when the Lord gives to us the saving benefits of his death and resurrection through both Word and Sacrament. These gifts are essential, because without them, you cannot be saved. And how wonderful it is to begin every week in the Lord's house, for he is the foundation of our lives; he gives meaning and purpose to every day. And so what better way to start another week than with the Lord and his promises? And not only do we begin every week by receiving from the Lord, but we also begin every week by giving to the Lord.

"On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside" (1 Corinthians 16:2). Since the time of the apostles', not only did Christians come together every Lord's Day (Sunday) to receive God's gifts but also to respond with their own gifts. They understood, even as we ought to, that what we set aside for the Lord is already the Lord's, that is, all that we have comes from him. We know that "we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world" (1 Timothy 6:7), because "the earth is the Lord's and everything in it" (Psalm 24:1). What you have in your bank account has been entrusted to you by the Giver of all good things. He has made you his steward to manage his creation and everything you get out of it for his sake and for the sake of our neighbor. And so, when you put your money in the offering plate, you are simply giving back to the Lord what he first gave to you.

And what you give to the Lord is used for his good purposes. First, your offerings provide for your pastor, so that "those who proclaim the gospel get their living by the gospel (1 Corinthians 9:14). Your money is used to pay the church's bills, keep the lights on, the water running, and the building in tip-top shape. It's used to help those in need, to support missions in our country and throughout the world, and to send our children to a Lutheran school. There's a wide range of ways in which God uses our gifts to support his Church and to give to those outside of it.

So how do I, as your pastor, expect you to give? Let us take to heart the Word of the Lord:

"On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up, as he may prosper, so that there will be no collecting when I come" (1 Corinthians 16:2).

"The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work" (2 Corinthians 9:6-8).

Based off of that Scripture, consider these four points.

1. Give voluntarily and cheerfully.
2. Give your firstfruits.
3. Give proportionally.
4. Give faithfully.

1. *Give voluntarily and cheerfully.* There are no tax laws in the Church. We do not charge people at the sanctuary doors before they walk in. The Gospel is never for sale but always free to those who hear it. Putting your money in the offering plate should never be done reluctantly or under compulsion. It's never forced on you, but rather, you want to give. You love to give. You are a cheerful giver. I'm instructing you now on how to give not for my sake or even the congregation's sake but for your own. Your giving is a good work, a response to the Gospel which you can never pay for or earn. Your gifts are an act of love for God, because he first loved you. So don't give because you feel like you have to, but give because you want to. You want to give back what the Lord has first given to you.

2. *Give your firstfruits.* You should never give God your leftovers, whatever's at the bottom of the barrel, but you are to give him what's on top. You give to him on the first day of the week before you use your money on anyone or anything else. The Lord comes first in all things, even when it comes to your spending. And so you don't budget for the week and then give from whatever is left, but the Lord's Church is the first item on your budget, leaving the groceries, bills, and everything else to follow after.

3. *Give proportionally.* Every week, you give a portion of what you have earned. You don't give based on whatever happens to be in your wallet that morning, but you give based on your income for that week. For some, that income is the same every week throughout the year, for others it can vary. Either way, the percentage should stay the same. And what percentage should that be? In the Old Testament, it was 10% (Leviticus 27:30-32), as the word "tithe" means a tenth. As New Testament Christians, we are not bound to that Old Testament law, but we should be encouraged to follow the spirit of it. And so, 10% of our income is a good place to start. Every week of the year, you should set aside a certain portion and percentage of what you have earned in order to give it back to the Lord, who gives you everything for every week of the year.

4. *Give faithfully.* Such giving is done out of faith and confidence that the Lord will always provide you with what you need to support this body and life. If giving 10% of what you earn requires you to sacrifice some of your spending on other things, most especially certain luxuries in life, then you should most definitely do it. This will help you practice self-control and to place your priorities on the things above and not below. Such a sacrifice rips you away from worldly treasures and back on the treasures of heaven, that you might serve God and not money. Giving to the Church is more important than paying for cable television, your phone's data plan, or a vacation up north. You give faithfully and regularly to the One who is always faithful, who will never leave you nor forsake you.

I expect every member to take part in the finances of the Church, such finances that allow the Gospel to be proclaimed in this community. Each of us is a member of the household of God, and we must all do our part to give towards the building up of God's kingdom, so that we might continue to be kept in the faith and so that others who are outside might be brought in. This is my expectation, not my commandment. I write these things to encourage you, not condemn you. I pray that this instruction would allow you the opportunity to examine how you give and how much you give, that you would be more faithful to the One who gives you all things, both temporal and eternal.

In Christ,

Pastor Haller

**I have held many things in my hands and I have lost them all.
But whatever I placed in God's hands, that I still possess.**

Martin Luther

WHY?

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE LITURGY

Why do we use a processional cross?

The processional cross is a cross attached to a long pole and is carried in and out of the sanctuary by an acolyte. It represents the presence of Christ. The cross itself is not Jesus nor is it some sort of idol or relic. And yet, every cross is always a symbol of our God. We believe that Christ Jesus is literally present with us through his Word and Sacrament in the Divine Service, and so, this cross helps us remember that; it helps us remember why we are here and who is here with us.

The cross is carried in first by the crucifer (meaning "cross-bearer") and everyone else follows, whether that be those carrying the candles (a lucifer, meaning "light-bearer"), the one who carries the Bible, or the pastor. Christ comes first, and we follow him. And just as we do so entering the church (processional), so also as we exit as well (recessional). We follow Jesus throughout the week, as he remains with us each day.

The cross is also carried to the center of the sanctuary for the Gospel Reading. Reading the Gospel in the middle of the nave helps us remember that such good news is to be proclaimed into all the world. Christ has come to save every corner of the planet. And the Christ known to us in the Gospels can be seen hanging on that cross.

Because of who the cross represents, it is appropriate to bow and even make the sign of the holy cross as it passes you in the sanctuary. Such reverence isn't given to the cross itself or the one carrying it but to Christ who was crucified for your salvation.

Here at Grace, an acolyte will carry the processional cross every Sunday. On certain feast days, the lucifers and Bible-bearer will also assist him to add even more beauty and reverence to the Divine Service.



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

October Divine Services

(services with Holy Communion)

Sunday, October 6, 2025

The Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity
Luke 7:11-17

Sunday, October 13, 2025

The Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity
Luke 14:1-11

Sunday, October 20, 2025

The Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity
Matthew 22:34-46

Sunday, October 27, 2025

The Festival of the Reformation (observed)
Matthew 11:12-19



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The WORD of the LORD
ENDURES FOREVER

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Cindy Burnison
Nevin Hanby
Pat Starkey
- 4 Diane Spencer
- 17 Julia Hargash
- 24 Aaron Reinbold
- 30 Winston Reinbold

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 20 Daryl & Holly Winter
- 26 Brandon & Chelsea Worden

NEXT VOTERS MEETING:

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2025 @ 11 AM



Like us on Facebook



Grace Lutheran Church—Fairgrove

Check out our website:

www.gracefairgrove.org



CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Private Confession and Absolution is available Saturday, October 18th, from 9 to 10 am in the sanctuary or anytime by appointment.

—STEWARDSHIP—

Missions

Luther Classical College

October Coffee Money

Good Samaritan Fund

The Stewardship Board's Special Mission from October through December will be for Family Promise of Tuscola County, a nonprofit organization that helps homeless and low-income families achieve sustainable independence through a community-based response. They provide shelter, meals, and support services such as job training and childcare, with the ultimate goal to empower families to regain their independence and secure permanent housing.

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.

Harvest Dinner

*Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures forever.*

Sunday, October 26th, at 5 pm

Invite your family and friends!



ACOLYTE CORPS

Saturday, October 25th

10 am to 1 pm



All young men of the congregation, from the 5th to 12th grade, who desire to serve the Lord in his Divine Service as an acolyte, are called upon to come together for a time of training, service, and fellowship.



Christian Training

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND ADULT BIBLE STUDY

	Sunday School	Adult Bible Study
11 to 11:45 am	Lesson	Revelation
11:45 am to noon	Music	Luther's Large Catechism

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL CHILDREN'S CHOIR WILL BE SINGING FOR THE DIVINE SERVICE ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2nd

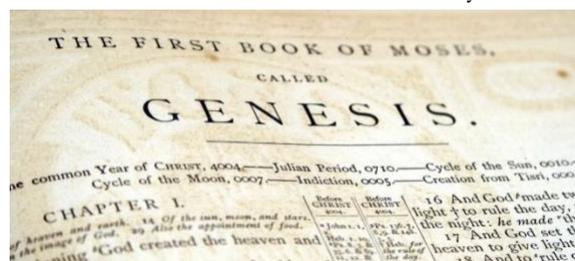
The Men's Study

Saturday, October 18th, 7:30 to 9 am
breakfast + prayer + the Lutheran Confessions



Wednesdays at Grace

9:30 am Matins
10 am Bible Study

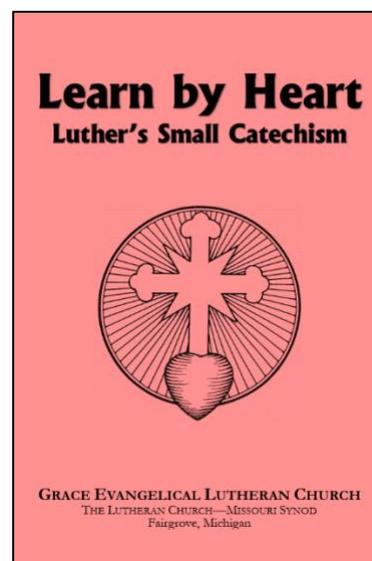
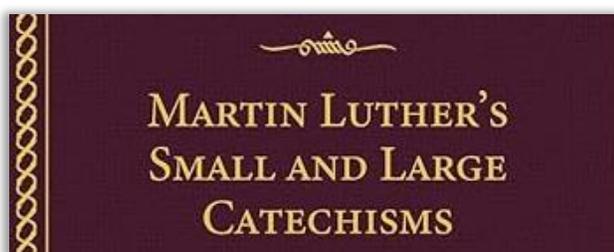


Junior High Catechesis

Wednesdays, October 1st, 8th, 22nd, 29th, at 7 pm
Ten Commandments Oral Exam due October 21st

High School Catechesis

Sunday, October 19th
6 to 8 pm at the Haller Household



"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.

A HOLY CONVERSATION

Confessing the God of Genesis and Revelation

The major issues of our day revolve around the first chapters of Genesis. Is life precious? Will we stand up for the unborn? What is marriage? What does it mean that we are created male and female? How shall we think about the transgender issue? Some say these are simply social issues, but they go to the heart of the gospel. When we stand up for the unborn, we confess Christ who made his home in Mary's womb. When we confess the truth of marriage, we confess Christ who gave his life for his bride the church. We are called to be faithful, and the truth of our faith must be confessed by our speaking and by our lives.

Saturday, November 8th

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

THE SPEAKER: Dr. Peter Scaer serves as professor and chairman of the Exegetical department at Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, IN. 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.



SIGN UP ON THE FELLOWSHIP HALL BULLETIN BOARD

THE DAILY READINGS FOR OCTOBER

“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

October 1st	Psalm 130	Deut. 2:16-37	Matt. 6:16-34
October 2nd	Psalm 3	Deut. 3:1-29	Matt. 7:1-12
October 3rd	Psalm 119:9-16	Deut. 4:1-20	Matt. 7:13-29
October 4th	Psalm 80:1-7	Deut. 4:21-40	Matt. 8:1-17
October 5th	Psalm 86:1-10	Deut. 5:1-21	Matt. 8:18-34
October 6th	Psalm 91:9-16	Deut. 5:22-6:9	Matt. 9:1-17
October 7th	Psalm 121	Deut. 6:10-25	Matt. 9:18-38
October 8th	Psalm 126	Deut. 7:1-19	Matt. 10:1-23
October 9th	Psalm 103:1-10	Deut. 8:1-20	Matt. 10:24-42
October 10th	Psalm 106:1-12	Deut. 9:1-22	Matt. 11:1-19
October 11th	Psalm 23	Deut. 9:23-10:22	Matt. 11:20-30
October 12th	Psalm 119:97-104	Deut. 11:1-25	Matt. 12:1-21
October 13th	Psalm 111	Deut. 11:26-12:12	Matt. 12:22-37
October 14th	Psalm 114	Deut. 12:13-32	Matt. 12:38-50
October 15th	Psalm 119:33-40	Deut. 13:1-18	Matt. 13:1-23
October 16th	Psalm 37:3-11	Deut. 14:1-2, 22-23; 14:28-15:15	Matt. 13:24-43
October 17th	Psalm 39:4-7, 12-13	Deut. 15:19-16:22	Matt. 13:44-58
October 18th	Psalm 75	Deut. 17:1-20	Matt. 14:1-21
October 19th	Psalm 80:14-19	Deut. 18:1-22	Matt. 14:22-36
October 20th	Psalm 138	Deut. 19:1-20	Matt. 15:1-20
October 21st	Psalm 142	Deut. 20:1-20	Matt. 15:21-39
October 22nd	Psalm 62	Deut. 21:1-23	Matt. 16:1-12
October 23rd	Psalm 107:10-16	Deut. 24:10-25:10	Matt. 16:13-28
October 24th	Psalm 99	Deut. 25:17-26:19	Matt. 17:1-13
October 25th	Psalm 93	Deut. 27:1-26	Matt. 17:14-27
October 26th	Psalm 12	Deut. 28:1-22	Matt. 18:1-20
October 27th	Psalm 20	Deut. 29:1-29	Matt. 18:21-35
October 28th	Psalm 127	Deut. 30:1-20	Matt. 19:1-15
October 29th	Psalm 56	Deut. 31:1-29	Matt. 19:16-30
October 30th	Psalm 90:7-17	Deut. 31:30-32:27	Matt. 20:1-16
October 31st	Psalm 46	Deut. 32:28-52	Matt. 20:17-34

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

Parish Planning Meeting September 23, 2025

Attendance: Pastor Haller, Joe Bublitz, Steve Reinbold, Aaron Reinbold, Holly Winter, Joanne Hills, Laura Starkey, Tracey Reinbold and Mary Masker.

Aaron Reinbold called the meeting to order. Pastor Haller opened with a reading and devotion from Luke 17 and closed the devotion with prayer.

Review of the July Parish Planning meeting minutes. Motion to accept the minutes by Joanne Hills and 2nd by Joe Bublitz. Motion carried and approved.

Treasurer's Report ~ Mary Masker

- Checking account balance as of September 22 at \$16,946.76 and Designated funds at \$101,318.34.
- Mary needs 2026 budget from each board prior to the voter's meeting.
- Sent email, followed by a letter to IRS about incorrect tax ID that they say we should file under and owe money. Finally was able to speak to someone and explain the same name and address, but District number and ID number are different. We have been using the same ID number for over 30 years. Was told that I will get a reply from the letter sent and hopefully be able to straighten it out.

Church Properties ~ Steve Reinbold

- Daryl fixed sinks in women's bathroom.

Elders ~ Joe Bublitz

- Discussed delinquent members.
- Planning for Holy Conversation in November, "Confessing God of Genesis and Revelation."
- Synod convention next year. Circuit forum coming up to pick delegates to go.
- We have 12 students applying for tuition assistance. Elders decided to pay 75% for each and looking at options of how to handle remaining balance and next year's budget.

Evangelism and Mercy ~ Holly Winter

- Clothing drive in July went well with approximately 46 people stopping in. Left over school supplies were donated to Family Promise of Tuscola County. Was informed that Family Promise is able to take worn out and stained clothing and able to get money for them.
- Hosted gathering for Labor Day fireworks, served popcorn and lemonade. Youth made the float.
- Meeting Thursday to discuss budget and church directory.
- May plan for a family game night in January.
- Let the board know of any other needs that they may be able to address and help with.

Ladies Aid ~ No Report

Stewardship ~ Joanne Hills

- October and December coffee money goes to Good Samaritan / November to seminary student.
- October thru December special collections: Mission envelope to Luther Classical College /Church Anniversary to building fund /Thanksgiving Eve to Bethesda home /Christmas Eve Choir program to Wellspring Lutheran Child & Family Services and Candlelight to our General Fund /Christmas Day to Lutheran Heritage Foundation and New Year's Eve to POBLO. Stewardship 4th Quarter Special Mission collections will go to Family Promise of Tuscola County.
- We will be keeping our budget the same for 2026.
- Our seminary student for this school year will be Ian Habicht who is in his 4th year at seminary.

Fellowship ~ Tracey Reinbold

- Fellowship board hosted last two summer potlucks. July 20th potluck for Pastor Haller's 10th Anniversary was a complete success as everyone was able to keep the surprise at a classified level and what a joy it was gifting him with a gathering because he loves being surprised so much. The 3rd potluck in August, with many thanks was hosted by the Hallers at their home. Pork, brats and drinks were provided. Thank you to everyone who stepped up to help with prep and clean up.
- Sunday School kick-off was on September 14th with ice cream sundaes provided.
- Harvest Dinner is planned for October 26th, serving a traditional Thanksgiving meal with all the fixings. Time will be 5pm.
- We only have three Advent dinners to plan for this year: December 3rd, 10th and 17th.

Young People's Work ~ Laura Starkey

- Youth made the float for the Labor Day Bean Festival parade. It was extremely hot day but they had fun with pizza for lunch and ice cream sundaes at the end of the day.
- Would like to plan another activity yet this year, but with sports and busy schedules, it's hard to find dates to work. Also need to check on Higher Things information.

Pastor's Report

- Jr. High Catechesis, with sixteen students from 1st to 8th grade. High School Catechesis has 5 catechumens from 10th to 12th grade.
- Celebrated 1st Communion with Brandt LaPouttre, Charles Bender and Henry Bender on July 20th.
- Deegan Walstead was confirmed on June 29th, and Jacob and Charity Hanby on August 31st.
- Performed Christian Burial for Leslie Reinbold on September 2nd.
- We have a Home School Co-Op with four families, eight children, who meet two Thursdays out of the month. Day starts with Matins at 9:15 and each parent teaches a subject of Art, Music, Science and Reading. Pastor also has time with the children and they finish around noon with lunch.
- Higher Things information comes out October 1st. Will be June 23rd-26th or June 30th-July 3rd at Washington University in St. Louis. 7th grade and up are able to attend (11 possible).
- All Pastors Conference MI District on October 6th and 7th.
- Circuit Forum to elect Synod Convention delegates (July 18-23, 2026).
- Holly Winter is helping in the office, printing bulletins. Hunter Reid is building a new office computer which has been ordered and on its way. We have Microsoft 365 for office software.
- Sunday School started with 3 classrooms: Youngers, Elementary and Middle School. We have 23 children in all. They will be singing for All Saints Day on Sunday, November 2nd.
- Holy Conversation on Sat, Nov 8th, 9:30am-1:30pm with Dr Peter Scaer. Invited 20 congregations.

Old Business

- Kitchen Remodel: Committee will need to plan on meeting again soon.
- Front Sign: Received another quote and prices have gone up, around \$12,500 now. Will have to present at Voter's meeting again.
- Carillon: Quote for around \$7000 for an upgrade. Discuss level of priority at Voter's meeting.

New Business

- Need to look into restretching upstairs carpet or replacing.

Next Voter's meeting will be on Sunday, October 12th at 11AM.

Next Parish Planning meeting will be on Thursday, December 11th at 7PM.

Motion to adjourn made by Joe Bublitz and 2nd by Joanne Hills.

Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Minutes respectfully submitted,

Mary Masker,

Secretary/Treasurer

Serving Our Lord in the Month of October

Elders for October

Stephen Bender & Daniel Reinbold

Ladies Aid for October

Joanne Bigham & Pamela Ill

Sunday, October 5, 2025

Refreshments: Sarah Reid, Joanne Reinbold, Tracey Reinbold

Provers Choir: Jacob & Charity Hanby

Acolyte: Erwin Reinbold

Bible Study Babysitter: Chelsea Worden

Youngers' Sunday School Teacher: Laura Starkey

Middle School Sunday School Teacher: Brandon Worden

Sunday, October 12, 2025

Refreshments: Diane Spencer, Laura Starkey, Cindy Voss

Provers Choir: Daniel Reinbold, Gabriella Reinbold, Winston Reinbold

Acolyte: Noah Reinbold

Bible Study Babysitter: Ashley Bublitz

Youngers' Sunday School Teacher: Jennifer Bender

Middle School Sunday School Teacher: Winston Reinbold

Sunday, October 19, 2025

Refreshments: Helene Weber, Chelsea Worden, Jennifer Bender

Provers Choir: Sarah Hall, Aaron Reinbold, Amelia Reinbold

Acolyte: Brandt LaPouttre

Bible Study Babysitter: Gabriella Reinbold

Youngers' Sunday School Teacher: Pamela Ill

Middle School Sunday School Teacher: Steven Reinbold

Sunday, October 26, 2025

Refreshments: Ashley Bublitz, Joyce Dickson, Ann Emery

Provers Choir: Olivia Hargash, Joanne Hills, Mary Masker

Acolyte: Winston Reinbold

Bible Study Babysitter: Jennifer Bender

Youngers' Sunday School Teacher: Nicole Seeley

Middle School Sunday School Teacher: Aaron Reinbold

**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.

OCTOBER 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: Stephen Bender (989) 430-9910 & Daniel Reinbold (989) 670-9048

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 9:30 am Matins 10 am Bible Study 7 pm J.H. Catechesis	2 10 am Ladies Aid	3 Pastor's Day Off	4
5 <i>The Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity</i> 9:15 am Divine Service 11 am Sunday School Bible Study	6 <i>Pastor at a Conference</i>	7 <i>Pastor at a Conference</i>	8 <i>Pastor at a Conference</i> 7 pm J.H. Catechesis	9 9:15 am Matins 9:45 am to noon Homeschool Co-op 7 pm Elders	10 Pastor's Day Off	11
12 <i>The Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity</i> 9:15 am Divine Service 11 am Sunday School Voters Meeting	13	14 9 am Quilters 7:30 pm Properties	15 9:30 am Matins 10 am Bible Study	16	17 Pastor's Day Off	18 7:30 am Men's Study 9 to 10 am Private Confession
19 <i>The Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity</i> 9:15 am Divine Service 11 am Sunday School Bible Study 6 to 8 pm H.S. Catechesis	20	21	22 9:30 am Matins 10 am Bible Study 7 pm J.H. Catechesis	23 9:15 am Matins 9:45 am to noon Homeschool Co-op	24 Pastor's Day Off	25 10 am Acolyte Corps
26 <i>The Festival of the Reformation</i> 9:15 am Divine Service 11 am Sunday School Bible Study 5 pm Harvest Dinner	27	28 9 am Quilters	29 9:30 am Matins 10 am Bible Study 7 pm J.H. Catechesis	30	31 Pastor's Day Off	