

YOU ARE EXPECTED TO BE IN CHURCH EVERY SUNDAY

Let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

—Hebrews 10:24-25

In last month's newsletter, I set before you three expectations I have for every member of this congregation. Just as a family has expectations for the members of the household, so also our parish ought to expect certain things from her members. Those expectations are:

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

This month, we will first look at why every one of us should be in the Lord's house for the Divine Service week after week. This expectation has its roots in the very beginning when God created the heavens and the earth. He worked for six days, making all that is visible and invisible, from light out of darkness to man out of the dust of the earth. After his work was done, he saw everything he had made, and behold, it was very good.

And then, he rested. God instituted the Sabbath, a Hebrew word that means "rest." It wasn't as though the Creator was tired and needed a nap before he could continue with his work the next day, for the LORD "will neither slumber nor sleep" (Psalm 121:4). But rather, he did it for your sake, so that you might be able to rest from your work. Such rest is found not simply in taking a day off or enjoying the weekend, but it's found most especially in God's Word. God commanded the children of Israel to keep the Sabbath Day holy by ceasing from all their labor, giving them not only physical rest but a spiritual rest, as they were to "remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the Lord your God brought you out from there with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm" (Deuteronomy 5:15). The Sabbath Day was a day to rejoice in and to receive the mercy of God.

As Christians, we no longer have a specific day of the week in which God forbids us from performing any manual labor, for Christ himself is our Sabbath, even as he said, "Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28). Through his death and resurrection, he lifts the heavy load of our sin off our shoulders that you might have "rest for your souls" (11:29). As Luther teaches in his Large Catechism, every day is a Christian's Sabbath Day, in which we rejoice in and receive God's mercy through his Word, remembering how we once were slaves to sin but have been brought out from there with God's mighty hand and outstretched arm. When we daily read our Bibles, we make that day holy, for God's Word makes everything holy.

On top of this daily rest, Christians have continued to meet one day out of the week to hear the preached Word of God and receive his body and blood in the Holy Supper. This practice dates back to the days after Pentecost, when Christians "devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers." They would come together on the first day of the week (Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 16:2) on what they called "the Lord's Day" (Revelation 1:10).

The Lord's Day is a great title for Sunday, as we begin each week with and in our Lord Jesus. It is his day, for our entire lives are his. "You are not your own, for you were bought with a price" (1 Corinthians 6:19-20). He purchased us with his holy, precious blood and his innocent suffering and death. We belong to him, and every Sunday, we are not only reminded of that fact, but we devote ourselves to it and receive the token of such belonging, of such a salvation, through his Word and Sacrament.

Every single week, your Lord invites you into his house, so that he can serve you. This is why we call what takes place on Sundays at 9:15 am the Divine Service. We don't come to church to serve God, but he is there to serve you. Through his means of grace, he forgives you your sins and restores your soul. He strengthens and keeps you in the true faith. And so, to not receive his Word and Sacrament would be more detrimental than not receiving food and drink. The gifts of the Church are your spiritual lifeline, without which you cannot survive. You cannot be saved.

This is why coming to church every week is the first expectation for every member of this congregation. The Divine Service is why we have a congregation. To be a member means you are attached to a body—the body of Christ. And so, to not gather with that body of believers, to not receive the body and blood of Christ, is to be detached and cut off from both the assembly of believers and from God himself.

You come to church to abide with Jesus, so that the rest he earned for you on the cross would be yours. You can't hang on to it all on your own, but he must continually give it to you. You must continue to be fed, nourished, and strengthened by hearing his Word and receiving his Sacrament. Otherwise, you are without Jesus, and therefore without Life.

But you don't just come to church just for yourself, but you also come for your fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. Coming to the Divine Service isn't like going to a restaurant, where you sit at a private table and eat your own food, but it's exactly like coming home for a family meal, for we are "fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God" (Ephesians 2:19). And as such, I need you, and you need me. Your presence matters to others, and therefore, your absence is also felt. There's a reason we all gather together to receive God's gifts, and it's not for practical purposes, but it's done out of spiritual necessity. It is not good for man to be alone. As Christians, we need to be with each other in order to "encourage one another and build one another up" (1 Thessalonians 5:11). Luther calls this encouragement another means of grace: "The Gospel, which gives guidance and help against sin in more than one way, because God is extravagantly rich in his grace: first, through the spoken word; second, through baptism; third, through the holy Sacrament of the Altar; fourth through the power of the keys and also through *the mutual conversation and consolation of brothers and sisters*" (Smalcald Articles, Part III, Article IV).

If it's not your habit to be in the Lord's house on the Lord's Day every week, it needs to be. I expect it. And if it's not, you need to ask yourself why. What are you doing instead? What is more important, more worthwhile, than being with the Lord and with his people to receive the greatest treasures on earth, necessary means to survive and remain in the faith. The fact is, there is nothing more important or more worthwhile than the Divine Service. We should make every excuse to be there. It should be an expectation, a weekly habit, an event we can't imagine ever going without.

If you are traveling and are too far from Fairgrove, there are plenty of other churches in fellowship with ours that you can attend. Please ask me about it, and I'll find you one. There's no excuse to not be fed on the Lord's Day, so don't go looking for one. Crucify your flesh with its passions and desires and feed the new man inside you, that he might walk in newness of life.

"Let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near" (Hebrews 10:24-25).

In Christ,

Pastor Haller

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

September Divine Services

(services with Holy Communion)

Sunday, September 14, 2025

The Feast of the Holy Cross
John 12:20-33

Sunday, September 21, 2025

The Feast of St. Matthew
Matthew 7:15-23

Sunday, September 28, 2025

The Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity
Matthew 6:24-34

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Amelia Bender
- 2 Christi Diener
- 3 Hannah Haller
- 4 Gordon Bigham
Hunter Reid
- 7 Deegan Walstead
- 9 Joanne Reinbold
- 12 Markel Lokinski
- 15 Earl Voss
- 17 Jean Trisch
- 20 Brian Steinley
- 22 Henry Bender

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 5 Don & Carolyn Carpenter



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ENDURES FOREVER*



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NEXT VOTERS MEETING:

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2025 @ 11 AM

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Private Confession and Absolution is available Saturday, September 20th, from 9 to 10 am in the sanctuary or anytime by appointment.

—STEWARDSHIP—

Education Sunday
Luther Classical College

September Coffee Money
Worship Anew



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 Scriptures and Lutheran Confessions. LIA also translates key doctrinal resources into African languages.

On **Sunday, September 21st**, Rev. Paul Arndt will be here at Grace to both preach in the Divine Service and offer a presentation on the work being done by LIA.

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.

A HOLY CONVERSATION

Saturday, November 8th

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

Sunday, November 9th

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.



Sunday, August 31st

dusk: fireworks at the church parking lot

Monday, September 1st

11 am: parade

For the full schedule, visit
www.michiganbeanfestival.org

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 2nd

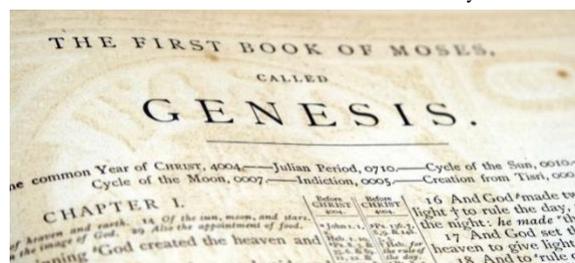
The Men's Study

Saturday, September 20th, 7:30 to 9 am
breakfast + prayer + the Lutheran Confessions



Wednesdays at Grace

9:30 am Matins
10 am Bible Study

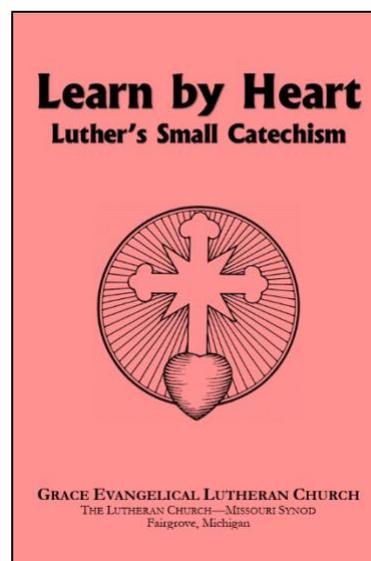


Junior High Catechesis

Tuesday, September 2nd,
Wednesdays, September 10th, 17th, 24th, at 7 pm

High School Catechesis

Sunday, September 21st
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.

THE DAILY READINGS FOR SEPTEMBER

“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

September 1st	Psalm 47	1 Kings 18:1-19	Eph. 1:1-23
September 2nd	Psalm 138	1 Kings 18:20-40	Eph. 2:1-22
September 3rd	Psalm 119:57-64	1 Kings 19:1-21	Eph. 3:1-21
September 4th	Psalm 90:13-17	2 Kings 2:1-18	Eph. 4:1-24
September 5th	Psalm 56:8-13	2 Kings 2:19-25; 4:1-7	Eph. 4:25-5:14
September 6th	Psalm 127	2 Kings 4:8-22, 32-37	Eph. 5:15-33
September 7th	Psalm 131	2 Kings 4:38-5:8	Eph. 6:1-24
September 8th	Psalm 71:12-16	2 Kings 5:9-27	Philipp. 1:1-20
September 9th	Psalm 61	2 Kings 6:1-23	Phil. 1:21-2:11
September 10th	Psalm 58:1-8	2 Kings 9:1-13; 10:18-29	Phil. 2:12-30
September 11th	Psalm 44:1-8	2 Chronicles 29:1-24	Phil. 3:1-21
September 12th	Psalm 94:12-15	2 Chronicles 31:1-21	Phil. 4:1-23
September 13th	Psalm 27:7-13	2 Chronicles 32:1-22	Col. 1:1-23
September 14th	Psalm 38:6-16	2 Chronicles 33:1-25	Col. 1:24-2:7
September 15th	Psalm 1	2 Chron. 34:1-4, 8-11, 14-33	Col. 2:8-23
September 16th	Psalm 108:1-6	2 Chron. 35:1-7, 16-25	Col. 3:1-25
September 17th	Psalm 130	2 Chron. 36:1-23	Col. 4:1-18
September 18th	Psalm 118:5-14	Nehemiah 1:1-2:10	1 Tim. 1:1-20
September 19th	Psalm 136:1-9	Neh. 2:11-20; 4:1-6	1 Tim. 2:1-15
September 20th	Psalm 46	Nehemiah 4:7-23	1 Tim. 3:1-16
September 21st	Psalm 55:12-19	Neh. 5:1-16; 6:1-16	1 Tim. 4:1-16
September 22nd	Psalm 119:97-104	Neh. 7:1-4; 8:1-18	1 Tim. 5:1-16
September 23rd	Psalm 51:5-13	Neh. 9:1-21	1 Tim. 5:17-6:2
September 24th	Psalm 123	Neh. 9:22-38	1 Tim. 6:3-21
September 25th	Psalm 12	Malachi 1:1-14	Matthew 3:1-17
September 26th	Psalm 16	Malachi 2:1-3:5	Matthew 4:1-11
September 27th	Psalm 91:9-16	Malachi 3:6-4:6	Matt. 4:12-25
September 28th	Psalm 145:17-21	Deuteronomy: 1:1-18	Matt. 5:1-20
September 29th	Psalm 19:7-14	Deut. 1:19-36	Matt. 5:21-48
September 30th	Psalm 63	Deut. 1:37-2:15	Matt. 6:1-15

Serving Our Lord in the Month of September

Elders for September

Daniel Bublitz & Aaron Reinbold

Ladies Aid for September

Joanne Hills & Jean Trisch

Sunday, September 7, 2025

Refreshments: Chelsea Worden, Ashley Bublitz, Sandy D'Addezio

Propers Choir: Daniel Reinbold, Gabriella Reinbold, Winston Reinbold

Bible Study Babysitter: Chelsea Worden

Youngers' Sunday School Teacher: Pamela Ill

Sunday, September 14, 2025

Refreshments: Joyce Dickson, Ann Emery, Sandra Goodrich

Propers Choir: Aaron Reinbold, Amelia Reinbold

Acolyte: Brandt LaPouttre

Bible Study Babysitter: Gabriella Reinbold

Youngers' Sunday School Teacher: Jennifer Bender

Middle School Sunday School Teacher: Steven Reinbold

Sunday, September 21, 2025

Refreshments: Sarah Hall, Hannah Haller, Renee Hecht

Propers Choir: Joanne Hills, Mary Masker, Susan Pfund

Acolyte: Noah Reinbold

Bible Study Babysitter: Ashley Bublitz

Youngers' Sunday School Teacher: Nicole Seeley

Middle School Sunday School Teacher: Aaron Reinbold

Sunday, September 28, 2025

Refreshments: Joanne Hills, Beth Hoppe, Pamela Ill

Propers Choir: Hannah Haller, Hunter Reid, Sarah Reid

Acolyte: Wayne Seeley

Bible Study Babysitter: Jennifer Bender

Youngers' Sunday School Teacher: Hannah Haller

Middle School Sunday School Teacher: Stephen Bender

**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.

SEPTEMBER 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: Daniel Bublitz (989) 392-7805 & Aaron Reinbold (989) 233-5105

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 11 am Bean Fest Parade	2 7 pm J.H. Catechesis	3 9:30 am Matins 10 am Bible Study	4 <i>Pastor on Vacation</i> 10 am Ladies Aid	5 <i>Pastor on Vacation</i> Pastor's Day Off	6 <i>Pastor on Vacation</i>
7 <i>The Twelfth Sunday after Trinity</i> 9:15 am Matins 10:30 am Sunday School Bible Study	8 <i>Pastor on Vacation</i> 7:30 pm Properties	9 9 am Quilters 7 pm Elders	10 9:30 am Matins 10 am Bible Study 7 pm J.H. Catechesis	11 9:15 am Matins 9:45 am to noon Homeschool Co-op	12 Pastor's Day Off	13
14 <i>The Feast of the Holy Cross</i> 9:15 am Divine Service 11 am Sunday School Bible Study	15	16	17 9:30 am Matins 10 am Bible Study 7 pm J.H. Catechesis	18	19 Pastor's Day Off	20 7:30 am Men's Study 9 to 10 am Private Confession
21 <i>The Feast of St. Matthew</i> 9:15 am Divine Service 11 am Sunday School Lutherans in Africa 6 to 8 pm H.S. Catechesis	22	23 9 am Quilters 7 pm Parish Planning	24 9:30 am Matins 10 am Bible Study 7 pm J.H. Catechesis	25 9:15 am Matins 9:45 am to noon Homeschool Co-op	26 Pastor's Day Off	27
28 <i>The Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity</i> 9:15 am Divine Service 11 am Sunday School Bible Study	29	30				