

REFORMATION — OCTOBER 31ST

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Lord's blessings to you! **The last Sunday of this month is the celebration of Reformation.** Reformation began with the normal act of writing and posting on the church door several pages of concerns by Rev. Dr. Martin Luther in Germany, called historically, the 95 Theses (these 95 points were scriptural and practical church concerns Luther wanted to debate with other Catholic theologians). The church door in the 1500's not only was the entrance to the church building but it was the community bulletin board of that day. It was the Facebook or Twitter for each community to share concerns, prayers, good news, and bad news.



The door of the castle church door in Wittenberg where Martin Luther nailed his 95 Theses in 1517.

The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther nailed the 95 Theses on October 31 in 1517. This date marks the beginning of the protestant Reformation that the Lord used Pastor Luther to draw people and the Christian church back to the very Word of God and the true teachings of salvation, that by grace we are saved through faith in Christ Jesus. (Eph 2:8) Luther wanted to reform the Catholic doctrine that had been teaching the church many years falsely about God's forgiveness. Luther said scripture and not the Pope or any man's thoughts are inerrant, but only God's Word. Luther taught from the book of Romans that forgiveness was offered to us freely through the love and sacrifice of Christ on the cross of Calvary. You cannot earn forgiveness or buy it, or buy it for someone else as the Pope in Luther's Day was teaching for the purpose of gaining earthly wealth. But Luther declared that Holy Scripture teaches about God's gift of undeserved love by giving up His only Son, Jesus, to die for our sin and to rise again on the first day of the week to forgive all our sin; please join us Sunday, October 31, this year to remember the blessing of the Lord using His gracious love to help Luther and many others to proclaim the Gospel in all its truth.

*"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by His grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by His blood, to be received by faith." **Romans 3:23–25a***



Serving by grace through faith in Christ's love,
Pastor Jim

Stewardship – Which Servant Will You be?

(first, please read Matthew 25:14-30 before reading this article)

“Many of you have heard of C.S. Lewis. In his book titled, ‘Mere Christianity’ he says: ‘Every faculty you have, your power of thinking or of moving your limbs from moment to moment, is given you by God. If you devoted every moment of your whole life exclusively to His service, you could not give Him anything that was not in a sense His own already.’ Stewardship! We might be inclined to ask, “What does Christian stewardship look like in our lives today?” Unfortunately, many Christians only associate the idea of stewardship with sermons they have heard about church budgets, building programs and prying or guilt money out of people. Stewardship should be about something much more than that. It is where the concepts of faith, work, and economics come together.

Here are four principles about biblical stewardship.

1. The principle of ownership. In **Psalm 24** we read: **‘The earth is the LORD’s, and everything in it, the world and all who live in it.’** We know that ‘In the beginning God created’ everything putting Adam and Eve in the Garden to work and take care of it. It is clear, people were created to be stewards and to care for all that God created. This is a fundamental principle of biblical stewardship. God owns everything. God made everything. We are the managers or administrators, acting on His behalf. Stewardship expresses our respect for all that God has made for us, and stewardship is the administration of everything God has placed under our control. Stewardship is the commitment of oneself and one’s possessions to God’s service, recognizing that we do not have the right of control over our property or ourselves. **Deuteronomy 8:18** gives us good counsel. It says: **‘Remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth.’**

2. The principle of responsibility. Responsibility is best understood as this: God gives us ‘all things richly to enjoy,’ but nothing is ours. However, we are responsible for how we treat it, and what we do with it. While we complain about our rights here on earth, the Bible constantly asks, ‘What about your responsibilities?’ Owners have rights; stewards have responsibilities. In this parable we are called as God’s stewards to manage that which belongs to God. While God has graciously entrusted us with the care, development, and enjoyment of everything He owns, as his stewards we are responsible to manage His holdings well, and according to His desires and purposes. It is our place to

read His Word, understand and learn His ways and will, and carry out that will in the stead and by the command of God. The foremost being, sharing that Word, will, love and salvation with everyone.

3. The principle of accountability. In the parable from Matthew, a steward is one who manages the possessions of another. We are all stewards of the resources, abilities and opportunities that God has entrusted to our care, and one day each one of us will be called to give an account for how we have managed what the Master has given us. This is the message taught by the Parable in our Gospel reading for today. God has entrusted authority over Creation to us, and we are not allowed to rule over it as we see fit. We are called to exercise our dominion under the watchful eye of the Creator, managing His creation in accord with the rules He has put in place. He is the master, He is the owner, we are the stewards of His property. Like the servants in the parable, we will be called to give an account of how we have administered everything we have been given including: our time, money, abilities, information, wisdom, relationships, and authority. We will all give an account to the rightful owner as to how well we managed the things He has entrusted to us. The most important being sharing His salvation which we are called to invest in other’s souls.

4. The principle of reward. Paul writes in **Colossians 3:23-24**: **‘Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.’** The Bible shows us in the parables of the Kingdom that faithful stewards who do the will of the master with His resources can expect to be rewarded incompletely in this life, but fully in the next. Let us hear then; **‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’**

As Christians, embracing this larger biblical view of stewardship, which goes beyond budgets and projects, let us look at stewardship as it connects everything we do, to what God is doing in the world. Let us be faithful stewards of all God has given us within the opportunities He provides to glorify Him, serve the common good, and further His Kingdom. Of

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course, all of this is with a primary focus on bringing the message of salvation to those lost souls. Isaiah proclaims: **'The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone.'** **Is. 9:2** That is the task to which we have been given stewardship.

Which servant will you be? Will you invest the resources God has given to you, and show a return for your work, or will you bury the precious gift of salvation and keep it for yourself planning only to

turn it in at the end, selfishly, for your own reward? The parable tells us what God Calls us to do. Jesus makes His plan clear when He says in **Matthew 28:19-20 'Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them all I have commanded you and surely, I will be with you always until the end of the age.'**"

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OCTOBER

Service Themes and Scriptures

OCTOBER 3, 2021

LWML Sunday • 9:00 am Worship

Theme: "How is Your Heart?"

Text: Ezekiel 36:25-27

Lessons: Ezekiel 36:22-27; 1 Peter 1:18-22;
Mark 12:28-31

OCTOBER 10, 2021

20th Sunday after Pentecost • 9:00 am Worship

Theme: "Seek good...that you may live!"

Text: Amos 5:14

Lessons: Amos 5: 6-7, 10-15; Hebrews 3:12-19;
Mark 10:17-22

OCTOBER 17, 2021

21st Sunday after Pentecost • 9:00 am Worship

Theme: "The Path that Prospers."

Text: Mark 10:25-26

Lessons: Ecclesiastes 5:10-20; Hebrews 4:1-13
(14-16); Mark 10:23-31

OCTOBER 24, 2021

22nd Sunday after Pentecost • 9:00 am Worship

Theme: "Blind, Begging and Broken! Shouting Aloud to See Jesus!"

Text: Mark 10:46-52

Lessons: Jeremiah 31:7-9; Psalm 126; Hebrews
7:23-28; Mark 10:46-52

OCTOBER 31, 2021

Reformation Sunday • 9:00 am Worship

Theme: "Abide in my word....and the truth will set you free."

Text: John 8:31-32

Lessons: Revelation 14:6-7; Psalm 46; Romans

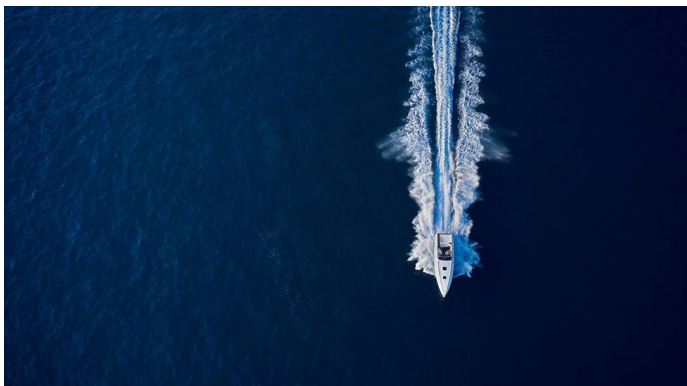
 perspectives:

Science, Religion & Meaning

Sunday, October 24, 12:30-3:30pm
Glory of Christ Lutheran Church,
4040 CR 101, Plymouth MN

Dr. Angus Menuge from Concordia Mequon will be speaking on Scientism, an ideology masquerading as science. We often hear today that a claim must be believed because it's science. The assumption is that anything calling itself "science" has infallible authority. While good scientists are aware of the tentative and fallible nature of their models and predictions, many in our culture try to make science into a religion known as scientism. According to scientism, materialistic science is the only or best way to really know something, while moral and religious claims are just feelings or opinions. Tis exaggerates the authority of science and denigrates other ways of knowing. In reality, scientism is not science but rather a self-defeating philosophy. Science depends on non-scientific assumptions, and the validity of these assumptions is best supported by Christian theology. That theology shows how science is possible and why it is valuable, and it restores meaning and dignity to all of human life. Christianity, not scientism, is the best friend of science. This is a FREE presentation. All materials provided. Please register at <https://www.gloryofchrist.org/events>

Caring for Your Mental Health When the World Seems Unstable



This week we packed our two cars full of kids and dogs and clothes and moved across the country. Moving is destabilizing. Most of what you know is stripped away. You have to have your GPS for a trip to the grocery store. The schools are different. Your church is different. Your home is different. Your neighbors are different.

With or without a move, the world is destabilizing right now. Things seem different, in constant flux and change.

The Human Experience is Unstable

If it isn't COVID-19, it's arguments about something political that likely shouldn't need to be political. There are daily reports of shootings and more cybersecurity risks. There is injustice and there is loss. There are thousands of people or more desperately in need of refuge, sanctuary, and protection. Family violence and suicide are not new, but they are also on the rise. We are all boats in the middle of the lake of life, wondering if one more wave might find us overboard. You can trust in the security of the One Who Calms the Waves and still struggle when you see the next wave coming.

I think King David, Paul, Timothy, Lydia, Martin Luther, and Martin Luther King Jr. have all felt the same way. In the human experience, since brokenness entered our world in the Garden of Eden, one thing is for sure: we are not, nor have we ever been, stable.

God is Always Stable

But what do we do about it? How do we live like this, with uncertainty all around us, and wake up each new day with strong mental and emotional health? First, you are stronger than you think. We were created for resilience. God knew the whole story, God knows the whole story, and He knows that Hope wins. Second, this same God who created you for resilience in an unstable, broken world, is not absent, even when He feels distant.

God is invested. He was invested in the beginning, when Adam and Eve ate the fruit, and He's invested now. He was invested enough to send Jesus to die and rise for our salvation and He doesn't stop there. Each day, He invests in this world through the Holy Spirit, alive and well in you and in me.

God's stability is constant when our world feels uncertain.

There are three things we can engage in every day to help us see that stability through that inner sense of instability when it rises up:

1. Each morning, stand in the promise that God is doing something new.

Life can feel awfully burdensome, and we often carry the weight of the world on our shoulders in very real and physical ways. The concept of newness is life-affirming when the heaviness makes us feel stuck or weighed down, sad and grouchy for longer than we'd like. New is sometimes hard to see. God sees new when we cannot because He is God and we are not.

Try setting a reminder of the hope of newness on your phone or a sticky note from Isaiah 43:19:

"Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert."

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2. Do not try to make simple what is complex.

Allow for not knowing the answers to life's problems without ignoring them. Acknowledging that life is hard holds the incredible power of validation. When we dismiss our hardships, whether we perceive them as small or large, we end up feeling as if God is dismissive of them. Humans might be dismissive, but God is anything but dismissive. Try this question out when you see something destabilizing on the Internet or in your own life: What makes this problem complex? What is too complex for God?

Jeremiah 32:27 reminds us that God is found often in what is complex:

"Behold, I am the Lord, the God of all flesh. Is anything too hard for me?"

3. Do not respond.

This is a Jesus pro-tip when encountering people committed to misunderstanding or misrepresenting Him. Jesus, perfect son of God, didn't always engage in the discussion offered to Him. Jesus had boundaries. We have the ability to choose who gets our energy.

The Gospel will not suffer because we jumped out of a discussion thread or kept our mouths zipped during our cousin's birthday party. The Gospel is a gift we get to share with others, not

something we need to defend at all times. There are many hearts out there who need the Gospel but they have to be in a tender-hearted place to hear it. Otherwise, we end up just poking the bear. The Holy Spirit gives us the ability to be the Gospel with shoes on, by being present in people's lives, with handshakes, hugs, a listening ear, and time spent in relationship.

When you need to apply some boundaries, take heart in John 2:24-25:

"But Jesus on his part did not entrust himself to them, because he knew all people and needed no one to bear witness about man, for he himself knew what was in man."

When the world feels destabilizing, our God is an anchor, a solid rock, a refuge, and a fortress. May the love of Jesus Christ and the justice He embodies be ever-present in your days during this life of shifting sands. And may your mental health be strengthened by knowing He has made you with resilience in mind.

Written by Heidi Goehmann

Heidi is a licensed clinical social worker and mental health provider, deaconess, writer, speaker, wife, mom, and advocate. She can always be found at heidigoehmann.com, advocating and providing resources for mental health and genuine relationship. Heidi loves her family, sticky notes, Jesus, adventure, Star Wars, Star Trek, and new ideas...not necessarily in that order.

Reformation Sunday — October 31

WEAR RED TO CHURCH

to celebrate and honor our strong God for giving Martin Luther the courage and wisdom to help reform the church of the 1500's to look to educate ALL the people in the true Word of God and the gift of faith by **GRACE ALONE!** (Ephesians 2:8-9)





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. Check-out LHM's daily devotions too.

October 3

"Approval Cannot Equal Love"

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

God places Christians in neighborhoods, among neighbors who don't necessarily share their beliefs. How should they relate? Dr. Michael Zeigler talks about avoiding the pitfalls of isolation and approval. (1 Corinthians 10:23-11:1)

October 10

"Giving God Our Garbage"

Guest Speaker: Dr. Harold Ristau

Everything belongs to God and there isn't anything anyone could possibly give Him that He doesn't already have. And yet, there is one thing He desires: our garbage—our sins, our shame, our guilt—that He might put it all on Jesus. (1 Samuel 2:1-10)

October 17

"Dead Man, Walking"

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

The Old Testament books of Samuel tell the story of Israel's King David and share the promise of the greater King to come. (1 Samuel 3:18)

October 24

"He will Take It"

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

Dr. Michael Zeigler helps us to see God's wrath within the bigger story of God's love. (1 Samuel 15)

October 31

"Not How, but Who"

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler
(1 Samuel 17:37)

VANCO
FAITH

NEW MOBILE APP IS HERE

We're excited to announce Holy Cross has upgraded our mobile app! Vanco, our eGiving provider, has launched an updated mobile app called Vanco Mobile to replace GivePlus Mobile. You can download the Vanco Mobile app for free from the App Store or Google Play. From there, you can make a one-time donation or set up recurring giving right through the app. Just select your fund and amount, enter a payment method and complete the donation. To help you get started with the Vanco app, view the [instructions](#) or [video](#).



THE FALL FESTIVAL IS COMING!!!

It's that time again! Our Fall Festival will be held on Saturday, Nov 6th from 5-8pm. Once again, a meal will be served and we will have talent (with lots of laughs). A silent auction will be held and the money raised will go to support local missions. Tickets are free. We guarantee you will have a good time, or your money will be refunded!



Have you ever considered that Rev. Jobst is "on call" 24 hours a day, seven days a week?

He may have set office hours, but he doesn't clock out after that. Can you think of any other job where an employee must be on call 24x7x365, carry the emotional burdens of dozens of people, be held to a higher standard of behavior just because of the position, and still find time for a personal and family life? Pastor's calendar is filled with shut-in visits, meetings, counseling, teaching, community-relationship building, and phone calls. **These can be very overwhelming tasks and ones that can lead to a lot of stress, late nights, and Mountain Dew.**

October is Pastor Appreciation Month! Lift Pastor up in prayer; ministry during the pandemic of 2020 and the following months has not been easy. Ask him if he has any prayer requests. Treat him to a meal out at his favorite restaurant. Seek ways to get to know him outside of church. Think of meaningful ways to express your appreciation. He does not need another mug, cross necklace, or Bible.

Do not forget to show Vivian a special measure of appreciation as well! Cards, flowers, a surprise

corsage some Sunday morning, or a cup of coffee with friends are all great ways to show how much you care about her.

Gift Pastor and Vivian with an outing they both can enjoy.

We as a congregation along with our church leadership might consider reviewing the tasks he performs with the goal of identifying those things that could be performed by lay workers. In other words, if Pastor is regularly doing things that don't require a seminary degree – maybe someone else should be doing them!

When you think about it, most pastors have a tough job. While every job has its own share of difficulties and challenges, the pastor's job often carries greater weight than many others. After all, God has commissioned pastors with the responsibility for spiritual oversight. That's a tall order. What can you do to encourage and show appreciation to your pastor?

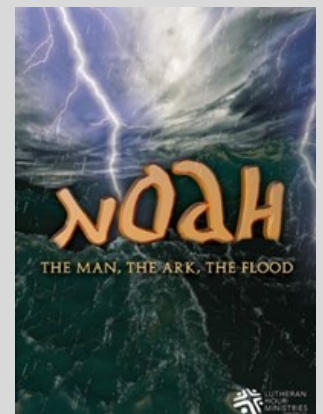
Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. (Hebrews 13:7)



The LWML-Women of Hope are pleased to announce the Harvest Bazaar on Saturday, October 16th from 9am–2pm. Bazaar includes crafts, vendors, homemade baked goods including pies in apple, rhubarb, cherry, blueberry and pumpkin, and cinnamon and caramel rolls. **Mount Hope Lutheran Church, 3601 Old Shakopee Road in Bloomington.** Don't miss it!

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Join us at 8:00am on Tuesday mornings for our new four week series on "NOAH, The Man, The Flood, The Ark." The DVD is on location at the Creation Museum in Petersburg, Kentucky.



International Friendship Centers – Twin Cities

What's the Lutheran Church doing about climate change, the Afghanistan War, the Israeli/Palestinian conflict, and the humanitarian crisis in Ethiopia? What? That is not the business of the church, is it? Except that some of our young people are leaving the church precisely because they say that the church is irrelevant to what is going on in the world.

What they need to know, what we all need to know, is that the Lutheran Church is involved in all these conflicts in announcing and living out good news to the refugees and immigrants who have fled these disasters. Now congregations in our area are setting up "International Friendship Centers" with the help from POBLO, affiliated with the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

The Friendship Centers reach out to people whose lives have been turned upside down in coming here. At the centers some learn English, do some family sewing, get school supplies for the kids, and learn how to become citizens. Most important they find friends who love them, stand with them, and even share their faith with them.

POBLO International Friendship Centers – Twin Cities is up again after the COVID crisis. In a RESTART, programs are back underway, with a new



INTERNATIONAL
FRIENDSHIP CENTER

organization, a coordinator to facilitate the work, and missionary Nadar Alaraj will be assisted by an ambassador to reach out to the congregations in the area. In this RESTART the focus is on how POBLO can help people of local congregations experience the excitement and enjoyment of working with their new neighbors.

Available for preaching is the new ambassador, Rev. Dr. Robert Schmidt. A former missionary to Nigeria, he was Dean of Theology at Concordia University in Portland and has lectured in Zimbabwe, Germany, China, India, Japan, and Kazakhstan. He joins Nadar Alaraj, a native of Palestine, the missionary of POBLO in the Twin Cities, in assisting congregations in their mission.

As part of their own mission, congregations can aid POBLO, by placing them in their yearly budget. The Southern Minnesota District recognizes the value of this ministry and has pledged to match congregation funds with their own and possibly even more.

An agnostic in Portland, Oregon, was once asked why there were so many refugees in the Twin Cities. He said, "I guess that it is because of all those Lutherans there." Was he right?

October Upcoming Events

Oct 5	8:00 am	Men's Bible Study
Oct 7	7:00 pm	Elder's Meeting
Oct 11	7:00 pm	Church Council Meeting
Oct 12	8:00 am	Men's Bible Study
Oct 19	8:00 am	Men's Bible Study
Oct 31		Halloween



What is the LWML?

LWML stands for the Lutheran Women's Missionary League. The Lutheran Women's Missionary League is the official women's auxiliary of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS). The LWML helps Lutheran Women in Mission to joyfully proclaim Christ, support missions, and equip women to honor God by serving others.

- It has as its "mission heart" thousands of volunteers who are daily dedicating their lives to making a difference in this world.
- It is also Lutheran Women in Mission, the dba ("doing business as") name adopted by the Board of Directors in January 1998.
- It is women who are finding avenues to use their God-given talents as they meet the challenges to share the Gospel message.
- It is composed of individual women and women's groups within congregations of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, on campuses, in resident homes, or in other settings.
- The LWML seeks to develop and maintain a greater mission consciousness among women of the LCMS through education, inspiration, and service.

For almost 80 years a major emphasis has been the support of mission and ministry throughout the world by means of mite box offerings. These mite box offerings have funded tens of millions of dollars in mission grants since the organization's inception in 1942. Learn more about the mission grants and the LWML at www.lwml.org.

All women at Holy Cross are invited to attend any of our Bible studies, mission service activities, or other gatherings. Sometimes you might hear us call it the Holy Cross Women's Ministry or LWML, it is one in the same. Watch for upcoming events and join us when you are able!



FALL CONFERENCE RALLY

Saturday, October 9, 2021

LWML Fall Conference Rally is going to be October 9th. Registration begins at 8:30am with the program starting at 9:00am. Guest speakers for the Rally are, Rev. Fungchatou Lo and Dr. Kalia Sayaovong Lo, missionaries serving the Hmong people of South East Asia. Rally will be held at Shepherd of the Grove Lutheran Church, 11875 Eagle Lake Dr., Maple Grove. Tickets for the Rally are \$10 which includes the Asian/American lunch. Tickets can be purchased from Pat Harvey. We will be carpooling from Holy Cross to Maple Grove.



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Shoeboxes and supplies have been ordered and are on their way! Meanwhile, be on the lookout for items that you can fill your shoebox with. Dollar stores are a good place to start. Information concerning items to pack can be found at samaritanaspurse.org/occ. **Our drop-off deadline at Holy Cross is Sunday, November 14th.** Another option, "Build a Shoebox Online" Goal page will be set up in October. Information concerning this will be shared via The Happenings. **Remember, your shoebox may be the only gift a child ever receives.**



Holy Cross

A Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Congregation

	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
3 LWML Sunday 9:00 am Worship/Communion 10:15 am Sunday School 10:15 am Bible Study	4	5 8:00 am Men's Bible Study	6 12:00 pm Happenings Articles Due	7	8	9	2
10 20th Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 am Worship/Communion 10:15 am Sunday School 10:15 am Bible Study	11 7:00 pm Church Council Meeting	12 8:00 am Men's Bible Study	13 12:00 pm Happenings Articles Due	14	15 12:00 pm Newsletter Articles Due	16	
17 21st Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 am Worship/Communion 10:15 am Sunday School 10:15 am Bible Study	18	19 8:00 am Men's Bible Study	20 12:00 pm Happenings Articles Due	21	22	23	
24 22nd Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 am Worship/Communion 10:15 am Sunday School 10:15 am Bible Study	25	26	27 12:00 pm Happenings Articles Due	28	29	30	
31 23rd Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 am Worship/Communion 10:15 am Sunday School 10:15 am Bible Study							