

# Holy Crossings

# Newsletter

JULY 2024

## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

### One More Memorial Celebration

Recently I was reminded again of the line in the Hymn, "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing" LSB 686 that reads "Here I raise my Ebenezer." (I'm sure most of you are already asking, "What's an Ebenezer? And "Where is Pastor going with this one?") To help you with this, let me share the history behind Samuel's remark.

One of the most catastrophic military losses in Israel's history occurs when the Philistines capture the ark of the covenant at Ebenezer (I Samuel 4:1-11). About twenty years later (and after retrieving the ark), the Israelites engage the Philistines in another significant battle, only this time it is they who prevail (I Samuel 7:7-11). Unlike the first battle, in which the nation acts without consulting God (I Samuel 4:3), they choose to rely on divine intervention (I Samuel 7:8) and are rewarded with an improbable if not miraculous victory. It is a significant triumph as it marks the first time in the nation's history that they defeat the Philistines. Samuel, Israel's last judge, first prophet and de facto leader, commemorates the occasion by setting a monument between Mizpah and Shen, and named it Ebenezer, saying, "Thus far the Lord has helped us." (I Samuel 7:12).

As I'm writing this article, I remember that it was just 3 weeks ago that we remembered Memorial Day which honors those who died fighting in one of America's wars. As I thought about it, I realized that this is far from being the first memorial nor the most significant memorial that was set up. This honor goes to the Memorial established by Jesus Christ Himself to help us remember how He willingly gave up His life so that you and I might have eternal life. As I pondered all of this, it dawned on me that long before

this, God, the creator of the universe, established a weekly memorial of His creative power and ability. Unfortunately, most of mankind pretty much ignores this memorial recorded in Scripture. While it is mentioned many times let these two references suffice:

*By the seventh day God had finished the work He had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all His work. And God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done. (Genesis 2:2-3)*

*Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your manservant or maidservant, nor your animals, nor the alien within your gates. For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy. (Exodus 20:8-11)*

The Sabbath (seventh day) was given to mankind at the close of creation by God Himself as a memorial of His creative power. God blessed it and made it holy. Later, God reestablished the importance of the Sabbath when He gave us **His** Ten Commandments. The Third Commandment (above) is the only one of the ten that begins with the word "**Remember**" – and yet it is the one commandment of the ten that has all but been forgotten and ignored by most of today's so-called Christians. If God did not intend for us to remember the Sabbath day and to keep it holy, why did He give us the Third Commandment?

*(continued on next page)*

## FROM THE PASTOR *(continued)*

Many of today's so-called Christians teach that we now only have Nine Commandments, at least, that's what their lifestyles are teaching their children and the non-Christians who live near them. In doing so, I believe they are gravely in error. You may or may not agree... but I am convinced, now more than ever, that God's Ten Commandments represent **His** standard of holiness – they always have and they always will, at least until heaven and earth disappear (Matthew 5:17-18).

Because of these ten Commandments I have no trouble acknowledging my failure to keep them in the true spiritual intent as Jesus declares them nor the fact that I can only be saved by God's grace through His gift of faith in Jesus (Ephesians 2:8-9). It is impossible for me to be good enough to deserve God's gift of salvation. It is impossible for me to earn God's gift of salvation. I cannot be saved by obeying the Ten Commandments, because it is impossible for me to perfectly obey them. From God's perspective (when He looks at my heart and my mind), I have broken **all** of His Ten Commandments.

Even though I cannot be saved by obeying God's Ten Commandments, I firmly believe I should do my best to obey them – **ALL** of them. Why? Because, (and let me say this again) they represent God's standard of holiness. Disobeying them would be wrong. If I love God and if I love Jesus, I will obey the commandments that reveal God's will to me. (John 14:15, 1 John 2:3-4 and 1 John 5:1-3).

Now...back to the memorial God has given us... **don't get all bent out of shape** about what day you or others **GO** to church. I don't care what day you **GO** to church – and I don't think God cares what day you (or they) **GO** to church. So, instead of just **GOING** to church, I encourage you to start **BEING** the church. I realize that **BEING** the church is a new concept to most of today's so-called Christians – but that is exactly what God had in mind when He created the church, and when He gifted His church with the spiritual gifts (Romans 12:6-8; 1 Cor. 12:4-11, and when the Holy Spirit gifted us in Baptism.

## JULY

### WORSHIP SCHEDULE

#### JULY 7 - 7th Sunday after Pentecost

"Blinded By Familiarity"

Mark 6:1-5

Ezekiel 2:1-5

2 Corinthians 12:1-10

Mark 6:1-13

#### JULY 14 - 8th Sunday after Pentecost

"A Matter Of Perspective"

Ephesians 1:11

Amos 7:7-15

Ephesians 1:3-14

Mark 6:14-29

#### JULY 21 - 9th Sunday after Pentecost

"With Different Eyes"

Ephesians 02:18

Jeremiah 23:1-6

Ephesians 2:11-22

Mark 6:30-44

#### JULY 28 - 10th Sunday after Pentecost

"The View"

Ephesians 3:21

Genesis 9:8-17

Ephesians 3:14-21

Mark 6:45-56

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



We welcome into the church this month new members Stewart and Blesilda Case, and Becca Reyes and her sons Liam, Jace, Noah. Welcome to our church community, we are thrilled to have you join us!

## Happenings

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

### WOMEN'S PARKING LOT BIBLE STUDY

Women of Holy Cross are invited to a parking lot Bible Study on **Tuesday, July 2 at 6:30pm**. Join us at church for a casual evening of fellowship and faith. Bring your Bible, lawn chair or blanket, and maybe some bug spray! Be encouraged by the Word and renewed by the fellowship of those in the faith.



### GAME NIGHT!

Plan to attend game night on **Wednesday, July 3, 6:30-10:00 pm** at church. Play games, enjoy yummy food and celebrate Independence Day with your church family. Attendees are asked to bring beverages and an appetizer or dessert item to share along with their favorite games. Come for one hour or the whole time, whatever works for your family! Contact Joy Anderson (612-423-1204 or spitjoy@hotmail.com) if you have questions. RSVP on the bulletin board in the commons area or on the church Facebook page.

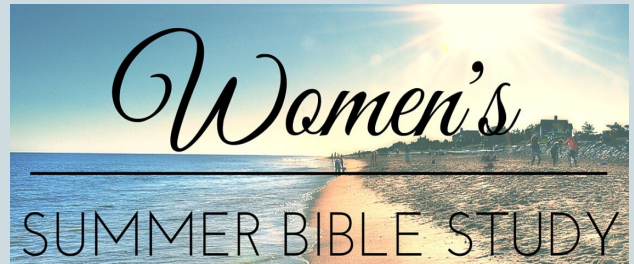


### LAWN MOWING HELP NEEDED!



We would love to have some more volunteers for lawn mowing. We only have two lawn mowers currently, so even an hour or two of mowing once a month would really help out. Pick a day or evening and let Denny Case, Rich Vannett or Dave Albrecht know when you'd like to do it, or go ahead and surprise us! We try to mow later in the week so it looks good for Sunday, so any time Wednesday or after.

### SUMMER WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY



Join us for the Summer Women's Bible Study on Ecclesiastes. Solomon shares a very human perspective on life in Ecclesiastes that matches our own frustrations with the world and our lives, and things that may seem meaningless. Join us for our women's study this summer on this great and unique book of the Old Testament that gives us much hope amid despair.

The remaining dates are **July 10, 17, and 24**. We will be meeting on Wednesday evenings from 7:00-8:30 pm. Invite your friends, family and neighbors. Watch for sign up and more information coming. Questions contact Michele Lein.

The next Voters' Meeting will be held on **July 28th at 10:15 am**.



### CHURCH COUNCIL

The next Church Council meeting will be **Monday night, July 8 at 7:00 pm**. All members of the boards are invited and encouraged to attend these meetings.



### WORSHIP FOR SHUT-INS

Worship For Shut-Ins is a 30 min television service that is distinctly Lutheran. It is a



traditional weekly service that includes the assigned readings for the day, the Apostles' Creed, Lord's Prayer, sermon, and traditional hymns sung by choirs. The messages, shared by Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod pastors, are designed for individuals who do not go to church because they are not able or choose not. You can view this program on DIRECTV channel 377 at 10:30 am, or you can go to their website at [www.worshipforshutins.org](http://www.worshipforshutins.org).

### 4TH OF JULY QUOTES TO REMEMBER

Though it's hard to believe, Lady Liberty is celebrating 248 years of freedom this Fourth of July. But, of course, we must say, she doesn't look a day over 200.

However you plan to celebrate July 4, whether it's by attending a local fireworks display or hosting a red, white and blue party in the backyard, these Fourth of July quotes are the perfect accompaniment to all your Independence Day activities.

From short, patriotic quotes including Oliver Wendell Holmes' memorable saying, **"One flag, one land, one heart, one hand, one nation, evermore!"** to funny Fourth of July quotes like Stephen Colbert's classic comment, **"It's Fourth of July weekend, or as I call it, exploding Christmas."** Here are some to help you celebrate in style.

*Those who expect to reap the blessings of freedom, must, like men, undergo the fatigue of supporting it.*  
~Thomas Paine

*Let freedom never perish in your hands.*  
~Joseph Addison

*You have to love a nation that celebrates its independence every July 4, not with a parade of guns, tanks, and soldiers who file by the White House in a show of strength and muscle, but with family picnics where kids throw Frisbees, the potato salad gets iffy, and the flies die from happiness. You may think you have overeaten, but it is patriotism.*  
~Erma Bombeck

*"He who is brave is free."* ~Lucius Annaeus Seneca

*"America is a tune. It must be sung together."*  
~Gerald Stanley Lee

*"Remember, remember always, that all of us, and you and I especially, are descended from immigrants and revolutionists."*  
~Franklin D. Roosevelt

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- Mike Hentges ..... July 5
- Bonnie Nowak ..... July 5
- Meg Batchelder ..... July 7
- Shari Schulze ..... July 8
- Daniel Vannett ..... July 9
- Brad Lein ..... July 12
- Norma Jabs ..... July 16
- Tyler Drangstveit ..... July 17
- Larry Sasse ..... July 18
- Randy Drangstveit ..... July 20
- Corey Einarson ..... July 20
- Steve Cordell ..... July 21
- Doug Schulze ..... July 24
- Olivia DeRosier ..... July 25
- Jonas Petrie ..... July 31





## LCMS STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY – JULY 2024

### The Rewards of Godliness

It's no secret that you can't bribe your way into heaven. No amount of good works will impress God enough to open heaven's door for their sake. "For the wages of sin is death" (Rom. 6:23) and the person who "keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become guilty of all of it" (James 2:10). Rather, salvation is "the free gift of God... in Christ Jesus" (Rom. 6:23).

So, your good works won't earn you the reward of heaven. But does that mean that there are no rewards at all? Consider what the Small Catechism says in the "Close of the Commandments":

**What does God say about all these commandments?** He says, "I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate Me, but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love Me and keep My commandments." (Ex. 20:5–6)

**What does this mean?** God threatens to punish all who break these commandments. Therefore, we should fear His wrath and not do anything against them. But He promises grace and every blessing to all who keep these commandments. Therefore, we should also love and trust in Him and gladly do what He commands. (SC II)

God promises to bless you in keeping His commandments. What might these blessings be?

Well, consider what Paul says about keeping the Fourth Commandment: "Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 'Honor your father and mother' (this is the first commandment with a promise), 'that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land'" (Eph. 6:1–3).

And think about what your life would be like if you went around stealing (breaking the Seventh Commandment), telling lies about people (breaking the Eighth Commandment), and generally being cruel to those around you (breaking all the commandments!). That is obviously not a blessed way to live. In fact, you'd be miserable living that way.

And Jesus says more about what is in store for those who make sacrifices for His sake: "Jesus said to them, 'Truly, I say to you, in the new world, when the Son of Man will sit on His glorious throne, you who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands, for My name's sake, will receive a hundredfold and will inherit eternal life'" (Matt. 19:28–29).

So don't grow impatient in doing good. Follow the Lord who has freely given you everlasting life.

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

### COFFEE SERVERS

July 7	Rich & Rostina Vannett
July 14	Buffy Mobroten
July 21	Robert & Bonnie Nowak
July 28	Jimmy & Joy Anderson

If you are not able to serve on your assigned day, please find an alternate to fill in, and make the notation on the serving list on the bulletin board. Thanks!



### PRAYER REQUESTS

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

## THE LUTHERAN HOUR



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

### JULY 7 - "My Pastor"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler  
Like sheep that need a shepherd, followers of Christ need pastors who will come looking for them when they stray. (Acts 20:28)

### JULY 14 - "Words of Grace Build Us Up"

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Daniel Paavola  
The gracious words of God change our lives for the better, tell us of our inheritance, and remind us that we are part of a much larger family. (Acts 20:32)

### JULY 21 - "Unhindered"

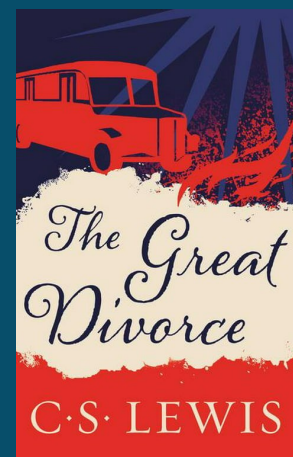
Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler  
Dr. Jeff Gibbs and podcaster Jessica Bordeleau join Dr. Michael Zeigler to talk about St. Paul's harrowing journey to Rome. (Acts 27 & 28)

### JULY 28 - "Thus and So Spoke the Girl from Israel"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler  
Jesus is making His people into a light for a world that's crying for help. He came to make God's light shine on us so that all people might see the face of God. (2 Kings 5:4)

## BIBLE BOOKENDERS

**DATE CHANGE!** Our next Bible Bookenders meeting will be **July 18, 2024 at 7pm**. We will be reading **"The Great Divorce"** by CS Lewis. This delightful thought provoking book is a story where damned spirits are given a "vacation" or "holiday" away from Hell to visit Heaven, where they are invited to stay forever. There, they are persuaded by people they formally knew, relatives and friends, to come with them up the mountain to enjoy the bliss of Heaven. What's the catch? They must leave behind what is keeping them in Hell and accept the love of God. "If we insist on keeping Hell (or even earth) we shall not see Heaven: If we accept Heaven we shall not be able to retain even the smallest and most intimate souvenirs of Hell." CS Lewis. Mark your calendars for these other Bible Bookenders dates:



**October 23, 2024 "The Hiding Place"** by Corrie ten Boom. This is also a selection we have read. Feel free to reread or read a newer book called **"The Watchmakers Daughter"** by Larry Loftis.

**January 21, 2025 "Shepherd's Abiding"** for the 30th Anniversary of the release of Jan Karon books. (The Mitford Series)

## GARAGE SALE

Save the date! We will be holding a Missions garage sale this year on **August 8, 9 and 10th**. As you declutter, remember our sale. You can put your donations in the Preschool Room. Proceeds benefit various mission efforts. For pricing; if you plan to price your donations ahead, please note that we will not be pricing any items at 25¢. If you have some little items please group them together by bagging them or attaching them together using safety pins or string. Thank you.



# 2 MINUTE MULTIPLIER



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

## Car Ride

It wasn't a huge fight. Just a public one. A man and woman - husband and wife? - were going at it at the golf course the other day. Beside their car. About to head home. I hope the ride to the house was quieter than the parking lot conversation. Maybe he belittled her on the course. Maybe she belittled him. It could have been something totally unrelated to the game. How he forgot to pick up the dog from the groomer. How she forgot to take the dog to the groomer. No clue.

Only now it took on Frankenstein qualities. A do-it-yourself monster on asphalt. Running over two people who love each other. Fighting done in anger sucks the energy out of the room. Public fighting sucks it out of the parking lot. Denigrating others verbally destroys the bond between you and them. When you allow your words to go nuclear, people doubt the shelf life when they sound loving.

"How long before he berates me again?" "Which ones are the real her - the ugly or the beautiful?" "From the

fruit of his lips a man is filled with good things as surely as the work of his hands rewards him." - Proverbs 12.14

How much thought do you put into the words you use with friends? Family? Co-workers? "Reckless words pierce like a sword, but the tongue of the wise brings healing." - Proverbs 12.18

Some falsely believe words are unimportant. Temporary. Fleeting. God decided to share Who He is and what He's done using words. His Word. His Word gives life. Helps us see clearly. Helps us understand how the universe works. If God puts such high value on words, should not we, also? It certainly makes the ride home more fun.

Rev. Bill Woolsey  
President and Founder  
FiveTwo Network

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

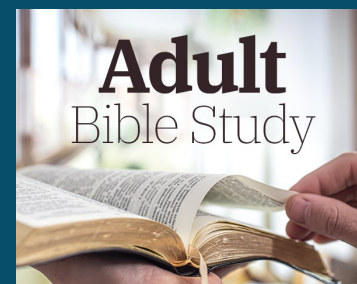
## UPCOMING EVENTS

- |                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| <b>JUL 2</b>    | Women's Parking Lot Bible Study<br>Elder's Meeting |
| <b>JUL 3</b>    | Game Night   |
| <b>JUL 8</b>    | Church Council                                     |
| <b>JUL 10</b>   | Women's Summer Bible Study                         |
| <b>JUL 17</b>   | Women's Summer Bible Study                         |
| <b>JUL 18</b>   | Bible Bookenders                                   |
| <b>JUL 24</b>   | Women's Summer Bible Study                         |
| <b>JUL 28</b>   | Voter's Meeting                                    |
| <b>AUG 6</b>    | Elder's Meeting                                    |
| <b>AUG 8-10</b> | Missions Garage Sale                               |
| <b>AUG 12</b>   | Church Council                                     |



## SUNDAY ADULT BIBLE STUDY

The Sunday Bible study will be paused until after Labor Day as our Vacancy Pastor will be almost more vacant than here. Of the nine



Sundays in July and August he will be vacant for four of the Sundays. On September 8th we will begin a new study on understanding the creeds we confess. While the Apostles Creed may be easy to understand (though there are some questions) The Nicene Creed and the Athanasian Creeds have phrases that are much more challenging.



## Four Ways to Encourage Your Kids to Leave the Church

I'm never for doing anything halfway. So if you want your kids to leave the church when they leave your home, I've got a list for you. Here are four ways that you can contribute to your child's spiritual demise:



1. Make other things a priority over church assemblies and functions. Be sure that you are giving your child the impression that there are some things that are more important than assembling with the church if they are "big" enough. Be sure the church comes second to some things. These things include (but are not limited to) sporting events, vacations, family get-togethers, and even some forms of working. Only doing this occasionally is sufficient to get the point across to your child. Better yet, cut out Bible class entirely and only come for Sunday morning worship.
2. Don't talk about God, Jesus, or the church when you are at home or in the car. Keep your lips sealed when it comes to spiritual matters. Don't ask, and don't tell.
3. When you do talk, be sure to complain and nitpick as much as possible. Complain about the preacher, his sermons, the elders, the deacons, the singing, the song selection, the Bible class, the Bible class teacher, the Bible class materials, young kids, older people, and any other Christian who is different from yourself. Never give your child the impression that you are appreciative of the church, or that you respect those who serve it. Never be satisfied. Be sure to plant the seed of dissatisfaction in your child's mind.
4. Indulge your child's immaturity. Despite the fact that they have yet to develop a real concept of the value of a dollar, give them full control when it comes to their most valuable asset: their soul. Even though they might want to eat pizza and french fries for every meal, let them make every soul-affecting decision for themselves. If they don't want to do "it," don't make them do "it." This applies to all aspects of participation, including Bible class, worship, and even (for the boys) leading worship. Make attendance optional. For that matter, make everything optional, with no consequences.

Of course no Christian parent really wants to drive their child away from God and the church. But sometimes we do things that might inadvertently do just that. I'm not saying that if you ever do one of the previous four things I mentioned that your kids are destined for Hell's fire. But what I am saying is that if you can catch yourself before you keep up some of

those pitfalls then you will have a far better time helping your children to transition from being preteens, to being spiritually minded teenagers, and then to being faithful Christian adults.

Consider the statement made in Psalm 127:4: "Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, so are the children of one's youth." Just as arrows need to be aimed well in order to have a chance of hitting their target, our children need to be "aimed" well in order for them to have a chance of "hitting the target" of righteous and faithful living, and ultimately Heaven. Even though the possibility exists that you won't hit the "target" with your "arrows," you definitely won't get anywhere near the target if you aren't at least taking careful aim at it. You have to at least try! Here are a few things to consider when it comes to making that aim:

1. Matthew 6:33 - Be sure that the kingdom (the church) is really the first priority in your family life. Don't let other things become diversions that take you and your kids away from the church. Even missing or failing to participate a few times can set a precedent in your child's mind that's hard to change. You get bonus points if you take or encourage your children to go to Gospel meetings, singings, Summer Youth Series, Bible camp, and other such things.
2. Deuteronomy 6:6-7 - Teach your children at every opportunity. A nature walk can become a discussion about Genesis. A ride home from baseball practice can become a lesson about always doing your best (cf. Ecc. 9:10). Mealtime can become Bible time. Take those opportunities to teach, as they are all around you.
3. Proverbs 22:6 - The word "train" in this verse means more than just talking to your kids about God. It literally means "to narrow," and also is translated as "dedicate" in other places besides this passage. Think about dedicating your child's path to the Lord, as well as "reining in" their immaturity. That's what it really means to train - to narrow the focus of your child's life to not just what they should do, but what they ought to do. There is a difference.

This is by no means an exhaustive list, But I pray that you will take these words, and do some studying and praying on your own. "Step up like a warrior, and aim those arrows to Heaven." You see, the reality is that there is one person who has more to do with a child's direction in life than any preacher, elder, youth minister, teacher, or coach: It's you, their parent. Step up like a warrior, and aim those arrows to Heaven.



# JULY 2024



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	6:00 pm IFC	6:30 pm Women's Parking 7:00 pm Lot Bible Study Elder's Meeting	10:00 am Happenings 6:00 pm Articles Due 6:30 pm IFC Game Night			
<b>7th Sunday after Pentecost</b> 9:00 am Worship	6:00 pm IFC 7:00 pm Church Council		10:00 am Happenings 6:00 pm Articles Due 7:00 pm IFC Women's Bible Study			
<b>8th Sunday after Pentecost</b> 9:00 am Worship	6:00 pm IFC		10:00 am Happenings 6:00 pm Articles Due 7:00 pm IFC Women's Bible Study			
<b>9th Sunday after Pentecost</b> 9:00 am Worship	6:00 pm IFC		10:00 am Happenings 6:00 pm Articles Due 7:00 pm IFC Women's Bible Study			
<b>10th Sunday after Pentecost</b> 9:00 am 10:15 am Voter's Meeting	6:00 pm IFC		10:00 am Happenings 6:00 pm Articles Due 7:00 pm IFC			