

# Holy Crossings

# Newsletter

AUGUST 2024

## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

### “It costs too much to become a Christian?”

*Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.”  
(Matthew 10:38-39 (NASB))*

As the summer meanders along and you find your spiritual life possibly wandering as well, I'd like you to ponder on the cost of your discipleship and relationship with Jesus. I begin with one of my joys of summer .... Offer me an ice cream for \$500 and I'd refuse. It costs too much. Offer me a brand-new car for \$500 and I'd think it so cheap that there must be a catch. It's not the cost that's the real issue, it is the question "What is being offered?" The cost of becoming a Christian is so enormous that it is exceeded only by the benefits. Nevertheless, the rewards are so immense that the cost shrivels to insignificance.

The wonderful thing about becoming a Christian is that you never do it alone. You are entering into partnership with the One for whom nothing is impossible. He is always with you to comfort, encourage, strengthen, liberate, protect and to shower you with compensations for what you have left behind. Try as you may, you can sacrifice nothing for God. The most you can do is exchange fleeting pleasure for eternal joy. That's not a sacrifice. It's an investment. For you see, God is a giver, not a taker. What he desires is like a perfect marriage. In every way we benefit from His proposal and God gets the raw end. But God is love. He wants this holy union more than we can imagine so don't break His heart by holding back.

True marriage costs. It involves total commitment of all that you have and all that you are. It is believing in someone so completely that you entrust your entire being to that

person for life. The Lord is eager to be that devoted to you, but for marriage to work, the commitment must be mutual. If a street bag-lady married a millionaire, she would get his riches and he would get her debts. He would be tarred with her shame, and she would gain his honor. For this to happen, she must turn from rival relationships and bind herself and her meager possessions to this man in marriage. Everything he has would become hers, provided she lets everything she has become his.

Similarly, if we entrust to God everything we have - our time, abilities, relationships and possessions - He will reciprocate, embracing us with divine extravagance. We hand our depravity to Jesus, relinquishing even our fondest sin. It becomes His. That's what killed Him. In return, Jesus' sinless perfection envelops us, enabling us to be on intimate terms with the Holy God. That is what St. Paul was sharing about God's love for you when he said, **“He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him”** (2 Corinthians 5:21). The culmination of this divine exchange of holiness for depravity will be seen when all evil is finally wiped off this planet - we will be spared, and no one can accuse God of injustice or favoritism. He has borne the penalty himself.

God invites us to enter into this love pact where we give God the right to do whatever He likes with our assets, but

*(continued on next page)*

## FROM THE PASTOR *(continued)*

the Owner of the universe makes His riches available to us. **"God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus"** (Philippians 4:19) We trade our talents, for His unlimited power; our attempts to run our lives, for His unrivaled wisdom. We give Him our time on earth, and He gives us eternity.

The following prayer corresponds to wedding vows in which you promise to love, honor and obey the Lord, thus making Him your God. In turn, the King of kings makes you worthy of His spiritual bond with Him and pledges to devote Himself unreservedly to you. If the following accurately describes your feelings, you can make it your prayer by reading it to God.

*Lord, It's hard to admit how sinful I've been. I have caused You grief, yet You sent Your Son who gave His life and defeated death to secure my pardon. (Romans 4:24-25; 6:4-5; 1 Corinthians 15:3-8,14,17; Colossians 2:12; 1 Peter 1:3) You have given Yourself totally for me and I long to reciprocate. In response to Your overwhelming love, I dedicate all I have to loving You. I yield to Your loving protection and guidance. I surrender my sins to You, renouncing even those things that entice me. And in exchange I receive Your pardon and purity and Your empowerment to live a life worthy of You. Thank You that You have now commenced a union with me that not even death can break.*

The Lord of heaven and earth knows your secret thoughts. (Hebrews 4:13) If you prayed the entire prayer honestly, you have entered a new spiritual realm. That's hard to believe. Everything seems the same. But not from heaven's perspective. The spiritual contract is sealed. The proof rests not in your feelings (such as whether you feel guilty or happy), but in the integrity of the Holy One. He has given His word (in the Bible) that whoever turns from sin and looks to Jesus for cleansing, has a radically new destiny. (John 3:36; 6:37; 14:6; Acts 4:12; Romans 6:11-18; Philippians 3:8,9; Colossians 1:20-22). My prayer is that you will re-commit yourself in new ways to serving the Lord and vast and wonderful opportunities and doors He opens up for us to show our love for Him.

## AUGUST

### WORSHIP SCHEDULE

#### AUGUST 4 - 11th Sunday after Pentecost

**"It's All About Jesus"** John 6:22-35  
Exodus 16:2-15 Ephesians 4:1-16  
John 6:22-35

#### AUGUST 11 - 12th Sunday after Pentecost

**"Being Hot Under The Sun"** Ephesians 4:25-5:2  
1 Kings 19:1-8 Ephesians 4:17-5:2  
John 6:35-51

#### AUGUST 18 - 13th Sunday after Pentecost

**Pastor Pat Simmons** (Senior Administrative Pastor)  
**St. Michael's Lutheran, Bloomington**  
Ecclesiastes 9:7-12 Matthew 13:47-52

#### AUGUST 25 - 14th Sunday after Pentecost

**Pastor Hunde Takele** (Assistant Pastor)  
**St. Michael's Lutheran, Bloomington**  
Exodus 34:1-16 John 10:11-18

#### SEPTEMBER 1 - 15th Sunday after Pentecost

**Pastor Ryan Alvey** (Associate Pastor)  
**St. Michael's Lutheran, Bloomington**  
Exodus 12:21-32 1 Corinthians 10:16-17  
Matthew 26:26-29

## 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!

### 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).

### CONFIRMATION CLASS

Confirmation Class will begin on **Tuesday, September 10th**, with class at 4:00-5:30 pm. If you have children that are planning on being in Confirmation, please fill out a registration form (found on the visitors table by the secretary's office) so we can order enough materials for class.



### GARAGE SALE

**AUGUST 8-10, 2024**  
**Thursday and Friday 9:00 am to 5:00 pm**  
**Saturday 9:00 am to 12:00 pm**

Times fly'n! The Holy Cross garage sale is August 8-10. Pricing dots are available in the Commons. Garage sale items may be brought in and placed in the Preschool room until Monday, August 5. No donations will be accepted after the 5th. As in the past we will not be taking clothes, but we will accept shoes and boots in very good condition. All items should be clean and in working condition. Volunteers will be needed to help set up, work the sale and clean up. There's an opportunity for everyone! Food will be served again this year. Helpers eat free!



Help will also be needed the week of the garage sale. Sign up in the commons area. Questions? Talk to Pam Hunter.

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- Tess Lerum ..... August 1
- Carol Ham ..... August 5
- Noah Reyes Reints ..... August 7
- Jace Fitzwater ..... August 11
- Alanna Hentges ..... August 11
- Mary Deluhery ..... August 13
- Lance Lerum ..... August 13
- Charlie Vig ..... August 14
- Wendy Fitzwater ..... August 16
- Jace Reyes Reints ..... August 18
- Sheri Brunner ..... August 24
- Dave Albrecht ..... August 31



### CHURCH COUNCIL

The next Church Council meeting will be **Monday night, August 12 at 7:00 pm**. All members of the boards are invited and encouraged to attend these meetings.



### COFFEE SERVERS

- August 4** Randy & Nancy Baldwin
- August 11** Steve & Dorene Oak
- August 18** Shari Schulze
- August 25** Joy & James 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!



## LCMS STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY – AUGUST 2024

### Mercy and Grace Lead to Generosity

Thanks be to God for His inexpressible gift" (2 Cor. 9:15)! This is St. Paul's exclamation upon hearing the Corinthian church's response to the preaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and his request for support for the church in Jerusalem. The Christians in Corinth heard and received God's mercy in Christ, and they responded to St. Paul's call to support Christians in Jerusalem with a collection. The Corinthians' joy filled Jerusalem's need.

This is the reality of stewardship. Because of God's generosity in the giving of His Son to die on the cross for us, we are to be generous with all that we receive from Him. What do we receive? Everything. All that we are and all that we have is the Lord's. He is the creator and the giver. We are His creatures and those who receive what He gives.

It sounds easy. And it is. But then again it isn't. Stewardship is easy because it is God's work. Through what God gives, we give to others. Through what God gives, we support the work of the church for the life of the world. He gives; we receive. And like our generous Father in Heaven, we, as His children, use what He gives to us to love and serve others.

But stewardship is also difficult. That is because it goes against our natural inclination to think that what I have is mine to do what I want with. This is our sinful nature.

It is our selfishness and our greed. How can we who have been given everything — life, food, clothing, house, home, forgiveness, divine sonship, an eternal inheritance — be so stingy with what we give to the church, the place where we hear about and receive all that God gives us and does for us? We are all guilty of this kind of thinking. And the only godly response is to repent and trust in the Gos-pel.

For if God has given you His own Son, will He not give you all things? Yes. He will. This is His sure and certain promise. God provides for His people. He provides everything we need for this body and life and for the life that is to come.

The church is a mercy place. It's a place where God's mercy in the death and resurrection of His Son, Jesus Christ, is given and received. For us who believe it means forgiveness, life and salva-tion in the face of sin, death and the power of the devil. Here in the church, we inhale God's mercy in Word and Sacrament, and exhale this same mercy in love and service to our neighbor. And that is an enduring, joyful thing to do. Our joy fills our neighbor's need because His joy filled ours (Heb. 12:2). Thanks be to God for His inexpressible gift!

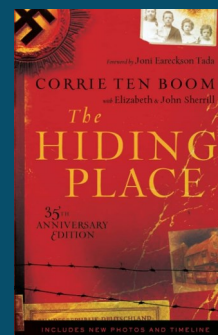
**LCMS Stewardship Ministry**  
[lcms.org/stewardship](https://lcms.org/stewardship)



As a community of faith, we are called to lift each other up in prayer and support. We invite you to share your prayer requests with us so that we can pray together as a church family. Whether you have personal concerns, joys, or challenges weighing on your heart, we are here to pray with you. Your requests can be submitted confidentially through email at [megan@holycross-pl.org](mailto:megan@holycross-pl.org) or given to Pastor Gade. Let us join in prayer, knowing that together, we can make a difference through the power of prayer.

### BIBLE BOOKENDERS

Our next Bible Bookenders meeting will be **October 23, 2024 at 7pm**. We will be reading "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.



Mark your calendars for this other Bible Bookenders date:

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



## A DIVIDED NATION

*First of all, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, (1 Tim. 3: 1-3)*

Recent events in our nation's life have revealed the sad results of a perpetually heated and vitriolic political environment—an assassination attempt on a presidential candidate. Sadly, our nation is no stranger to such hatred and acrimony and its destructive results. As Christian citizens, we are called to a higher standard. We are to love people and use politics, not the other way around. When Christians engage in malicious exchanges in the public square, it only demeans the Christian witness in the eyes of a jaded public. We are to refrain from vehemence, hatred, and any sinful behaviors, digital or otherwise, even as we participate in the political process and engage our civic duty with a good conscious. We are to be salt and light in a world of darkness and animosity (Matt. 5:13-14).

As we do, we must remember we are bound to the word of God, not a political party, nor any one candidate. As the Psalmist says, "Put not your trust in princes, in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation." (Psalm 146:3). Christians recognize that no one political candidate has all the right answers; it's wrong to view anyone in messianic terms, blindly elevating him or her to god-like status.

Instead, the Apostle Paul directs us to esteem and pray for rulers and those in high positions, that all members of society may lead a peaceful and quiet life, dignified in every way. To that end, many pastors and congregations of the district are offering prayer services. I encourage you to attend as you are able. Then, continue to pray. The words of the litany offer specific petitions for our nation and leaders that you might use (*Lutheran Service Book, p. 288*):

L: To give to all peoples concord and peace; to preserve our land from discord and strife; to give our country Your protection in every time of need; To direct and defend our president and all in authority; to bless and protect our magistrates and all our people; To watch over and help all who are in danger, necessity, and tribulation...; and to have mercy on us all:

**C: We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**

L: To forgive our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers and to turn their hearts; to give and preserve for our use the kindly fruits of the earth; and graciously to hear our prayers:

**C: We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**

The word of God must be our guide as we engage with those whose political passions are running hot. May you see your fellow citizens first and foremost not as 'Democrat' or 'Republican' but rather someone Christ loved to death, even death on the cross. The Lord grant you courage and wisdom to be salt and light as a Christian who lives as a citizen in a troubled and divided country.

**In Christ,  
Rev. Dr. Lucas V. Woodford  
President, MN South District  
The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod**



## ▶ 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.

### August 4

#### "Jesus' Resurrection: God's Public Guarantee"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz  
A crucified Savior, a resurrected, living Lord: the public guarantee of God, at work in the world for you. (1 Corinthians 15:17-19)

### August 11

#### "God's Peacemakers for a Troubled World"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz  
Don't let anger, disagreement, and stress damage your relationships. Hear how God changes troublemakers into peacemakers. (Philippians 4:4-13)

### August 18

#### "The Child Glad to Be Born"

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Dale A. Meyer  
The Child Who wanted to be born can make you glad to be alive! That joy for living comes when you hear His story. (Luke 2)

### August 25

#### "When the Monsters Come"

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Dale A. Meyer  
We can never be too vigilant against the devil's attacks but in Christ we can always be confident that the victory is ours. (Job 40:15-41:34)

# 2 MINUTE MULTIPLIER



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

## Muck

He spent the day with a bow rake and shovel. 100° temps baked him. The water dialed it back some. The place had sat empty for years. Occasionally hosting guests for weekends. But rarely. The waterfront hosted a variety of plant life. Weeds and grasses so overgrown the bulkhead disappeared. An eyesore for the neighbors. His plan? Clear it out. Return the lakefront to a sense of respectability. To let the beauty shine through.

Success arrived after a day of pulling and digging. What a difference. Will the work last forever? No. Will the weeds return? For sure. But the certainty of good not lasting didn't keep him from revealing beauty today.

Similar to the Apostle Paul's challenge to not let sin grow in our lives. God's grace for us knows no limits. Jesus' gift of membership in our Creator's family is irrevocable. Yet God's infinite grace for us shouldn't lead us to treat it lightly. To excel at sinning. To belittle Jesus' work for us.

"What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase?" (Romans 6.1)

Rather, it should propel us to live as our Father sees us. To strive for holiness. To allow God's Spirit to work goodness and gentleness in our lives. To shape us into people after God's heart. People loving mercy and justice. People caring for creation as ones entrusted with it. People loving those others would discard.

To work for divine beauty in and throughout life. Especially in relationships. Mark will need to tackle the waterfront again next summer. Such is reality in a Texas lake. Such is reality in our lives, daily.

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)

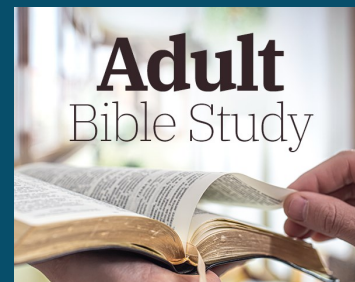
## UPCOMING EVENTS

- AUG 6** Elder's Meeting
- AUG 8-10** Missions Garage Sale
- AUG 12** Church Meeting
- SEP 3** Elder's Meeting
- SEP 9** Council Meeting
- OCT 1** Elder's Meeting
- OCT 14** Council Meeting
- OCT 23** Bible Bookenders
- OCT 26** Mission Fest
- OCT 27** Voter's Meeting
- NOV 5** Elder's Meeting
- NOV 11** Council Meeting



## 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.

## The Lord is His Pastor

by Gary Kurz

"No, I don't think you understand me Chief," explained Mike in pigeon English, a blend of English and local dialect. "I am trying to tell you about Jesus and how much He loves you and your people, but you are talking about some real person."

Almost as quickly as the words left his mouth, Mike quickly retracted them; "I don't mean that Jesus is not real, but that you are talking about someone who you met in person and you can't meet Jesus in person."

Mike's voice trailed off as he realized he had muffed it again. That wasn't what he wanted to say either. Of course Jesus is a real person. Of course you can meet Him. He knew what he wanted to say, but this language barrier was proving to be more of a problem than he had anticipated.

Why had he volunteered to come here anyway? Surely the tribe could do without their missionary pastor while he was on a few months furlough. Arguing with a tribal Chief who always gets his way was not his idea of fun. But he was deep into it now. Focusing, he tried again. "My friend, I am trying to tell you about the one true God. He lives in a place up there," he said pointing upward, "and he hasn't been here in a long, long time. You simply could not have met Him in person."

Obviously frustrated himself, the chief retorted in his own blend of English and local language "How God help me if no come village"? Before Mike could answer, the Chief added "Him live here many days. Him give food, teach people, heal sick. Him love my people. Him Lord".

"No, no Chief, you don't understand" Mike cried, "whoever you are talking about is not Jesus. Jesus left this world. He is not here. But He promised He will come back one day".

The Chief, with great enthusiasm responded "Ah yes, now you see Chief's point. Jesus come here. Him do all you say. Him leave like you say. But him promise to come back."

Exasperated, Mike said mockingly, "Okay chief, when? When will He come back?" Certain he had finally prevailed; Mike folded his arms and leaned back on his stool with a grin. But

the Chief's response quickly erased the grin and almost caused Mike to fall off the stool; "two days Jesus come."

Not knowing how to respond, Mike decided to leave the conversation there and wait for two days to pass. "Then", he thought to himself, "the Chief will see I was right."

It was barely dawn when the young native shook Mike from sleep "Come, come; Chief say you come? Him say Jesus here." Half asleep and half numbed by the startling, unexpected news, Mike hurriedly dressed and ran as fast as his feet could take him to the main camp. His mind raced ahead of his feet as he wondered what on earth this news could mean.

As he came into the camp, he saw a large group of villagers crowded around the meeting arena. As he pushed his way past the outer ring of the crowd, he saw a tall man towering above the people. Several were patting him on the back. Others were hugging him in tears of joy.

Mike couldn't quite make out who the man was until he was almost upon him, but when he did finally recognize him, Mike stopped dead in his tracks. There in front of him was the Missionary Pastor. Mike had forgotten that the Pastor's furlough was almost over and that this was the day he was to return.

Immediately, Mike understood. While he had been right, it was a hollow victory as the Chief's position had been more accurate and insightful. The Missionary Pastor had set such a perfect Christian example that the people had mistaken him for the very Savior he was telling them about.

He had so personified the attributes of Jesus in his service to the villagers that when he spoke about the Lord they could not make a distinction and naturally assumed he was speaking of himself. No doubt the Pastor would correct this misconception when the time was right.

If you have read this far then let me give you the insight of this story. Sometimes the only Jesus people will ever see is us. Win them by example.



## NEW MEMBER INTRODUCTION

### Becca Reyes

I was born and raised in Sioux County, Iowa. I grew up in the LCMS faith. My parents, Robert and Pamela Reints, avidly attended St. Paul's Lutheran Church in the small town of Ireton, Iowa with me, my younger sisters Rachel and Abigail, and my youngest brother Jacob in tow. I was confirmed in the faith at St. Paul's Lutheran just before my family decided to move from their acreage outside of town to Orange City, Iowa, where my parents still reside today. Pastor Daumer of Faith Lutheran Church there confirmed my siblings, married us, baptized my children and was a mentor for the majority of my life. (He since moved to Maryland to be with his adult children and grandchildren.)

Fun Fact: My parents, my siblings, and I all graduated from Northwestern College of Orange City, Iowa. Dad and Jacob have Business Degrees. Mom and Abby have Accounting Degrees. Rachel received her BSN (nursing). I studied Business and Spanish Education and returned to NWC to earn my MEd.

My husband, Nelson, and I met in Sioux Falls, SD where we began our lives together. In 2017 we moved to Minnesota for my husband's job. I worked for 4 years in the Prior Lake-Savage School District, 1 year in District 196, and settled in 2022 in Bloomington Public Schools. Today, Nelson continues as a concrete foreman and does many personal jobs on the side, often working 6 days a week.

At the time we united, Nelson's three beautiful children, Daniela, Fernando, and Eduardo, were in Honduras with their mom. Enduring this distance would continue to be our biggest struggle for many years. Liam swiftly joined us in 2014, the year we also married. Jace came along in 2018 with Noah on his heels in 2019, just a under a year later. After 4 years of back and forth with the immigration system both here



and in Honduras, Nelson became a US permanent resident in 2018 and was able to reunite with his family and older children after 10 years of being away. Shortly after we started their immigration processes, but the pandemic delayed response times. Nevertheless, we saw success in 2021 when they finally immigrated too. Today we live in Shakopee. Daniela graduated from SHS this year and is expecting to attend Normandale in the Fall. Fernando and Eduardo will be at SHS in the Fall, and Liam, Jace, and Noah will be at Red Oak Elementary (finally no daycare -Yay!).

This year Nelson and I celebrate 10 years of marriage with the utmost happiness. The little boys and I will be traveling back to Honduras for a month in July. The big kids continue to work hard at their jobs with college and car dreams on the horizon. I'm proud to become a member of this church and am excited to continue to grow my kids up in this faith and community.

- Becca Reyes

## 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).

The mission of **Time of Grace** is to connect people to God. Using a variety of media, we teach tough topics in an approachable and relatable way, accessible in multiple languages, making the Bible clear and understandable for those who do not know God. [www.timeofgrace.org](http://www.timeofgrace.org)





# AUGUST 2024



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
11th Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 am Worship	6:00 pm IFC	7:00 pm Elder's Meeting	10:00 am 6:00 pm Happenings Articles Due IFC	Church Garage Sale 8	Church Garage Sale 9	Church Garage Sale 10
12th Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 am Worship	6:00 pm IFC 7:00 pm Church Council		10:00 am 6:00 pm Happenings Articles Due IFC			
13th Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 am Worship	6:00 pm IFC		10:00 am 6:00 pm Happenings Articles Due IFC			
14th Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 am Worship	6:00 pm IFC		10:00 am 6:00 pm Happenings Articles Due IFC			