

# CLARION

JULY 2023

FROM PASTOR'S DESK



## The Dog Days of Summer

*"You have fixed all the boundaries of the earth; you have made summer and winter."  
- Psalm 74:17*

Ahh, the "dog days of summer."

Perhaps you've heard that phrase and wondered about it. When I did a little research, I was surprised to learn that the Farmers' Almanac specifically defines the "Dog Days" of summer as the period from July 3 to August 11 each year; generally speaking the hottest and most unbearable days of the summer season.

More interesting, though, is the origin of the name. While the imagery of a lazy dog soaking in the sun is apt, the phrase is actually a reference to Sirius, also called the "Dog Star," because it is the brightest star in the constellation "Canis Major" (the "Greater Dog"). It turns out that during the summer, Sirius rises and sets about the same time as the sun. The ancient Romans noted this and figured that because Sirius is so bright, it probably gives off heat and boosts the warmth we get from the sun, making for long sultry days. They coined the phrase "diēs caniculārēs," or "dog days."

In reality, the extra heat we experience in the summer isn't actually because of the Dog Star but rather because of the tilt of the Earth; summertime allows the sun's rays to hit at a more direct angle and for a longer time throughout the day.

I know what you're thinking: "All of this is fascinating, Pr. Longman, but so what? We're hot. Get to the point."

Fair enough. Here's the point: my ruminations on the origins of the phrase "dog days of summer" ultimately led me to this important reminder: All of this is because that's how God created it to be.

He made the sun and the stars (Genesis 1:16; Psalm 147:4), He placed them in the Universe and determined their paths (Psalm 8:3), and He ensures that all things hold together for our good (Colossians 1:17, Romans 8:28).

Is there another god like this? NO! "I am the first and the last; besides me there is no god" (Isaiah 44:6b).

And you are blessed to know Him (1 John 2:13), to see Him through Jesus (John 14:9), and to be saved through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ (Psalm 68:20).

Knowing all that God has done for you, how will you respond through the rest of the dog days of summer? Through the rest of the year? Through the rest of your life?

Here's an idea: "Sing the glory of his name; give to him glorious praise!" (Psalm 66:2). To God be the glory, now and forever!

In Christ,  
Pr. Longman

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## FROM THE OFFICE

Any information you need put into our weekly **NEWS & NOTES** needs to be submitted to the office by **NOON** on **WEDNESDAY** of each week.

Any information you'd like put into the **CLARION** is due to the office by **NOON** on the **15th** of every month.



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### **FOOD PANTRY**

**Tuesday-Friday**

**2 pm-4 pm**

### **PASTOR'S CARE FUND**

**Thursday & Friday**

**2 pm-4 pm**

### **GENERAL OFFICE HOURS**

**Monday-Friday**

**9 am -4 pm**



## **PINOCHLE**

**Friday, August 11th** will be our next date for playing cards. Hopefully you have your calendar marked and will be ready to help set up at 6:00 pm and get cards in your hand for play at 6:30. Don't forget to bring a little something to share for a snack. Looking forward to seeing everyone and perhaps a few new faces!



## **CHURCH BUS**

We offer rides to our Sunday services in the church van. The van does **NOT** have wheelchair access so riders will need to be able to get in and out with a hand from the driver. We are looking for drivers to help with this ministry as well. If you could help even one or two Sundays a year it would be greatly appreciated! If you are interested call or text Ted Reinker at (409) 750-9633.

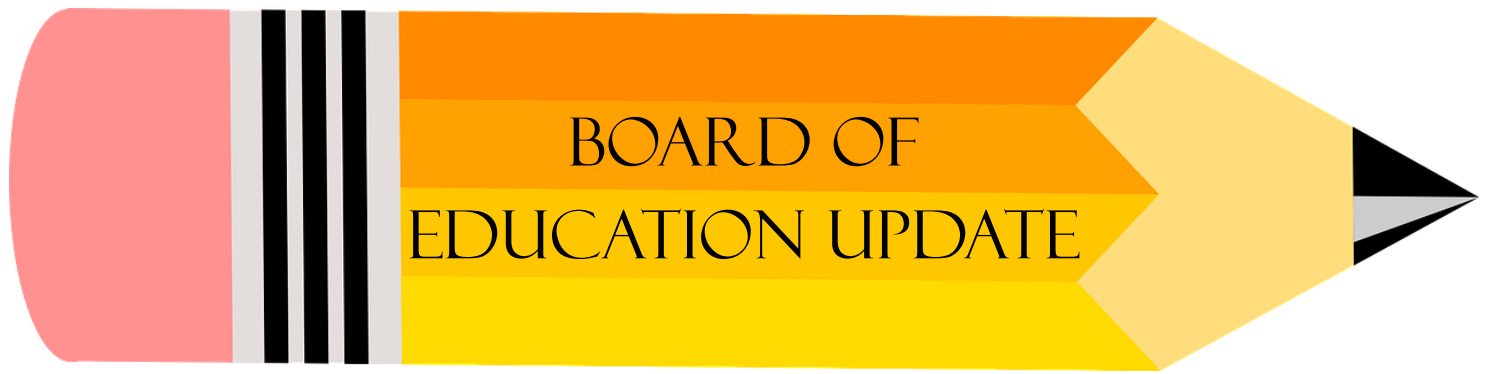


*Charlotte Elizabeth*

**I HAVE  
CALLED YOU  
BY NAME**

## **BAPTISM**

We welcomed Charlotte Elizabeth Sanders to God's Holy family through baptism on Sunday, July 30th!



Summer is speeding by and if we blink twice, those school buses will be rolling! Your Board of Education has been busy making plans for the new academic year...

The church library continues to offer excellent choices in adult and juvenile literature. If you're looking for a resource for yourself or the kiddos, check it out. If you have suggestions of things that could be added to our shelves, please contact Jan Sij and she will be happy to help.

The Cradle roll is up and running and open for business. This isn't just for our immediate members! Do you have grandchildren ages newborn to three who would benefit from Christian parenting resources for their little one? Please add their names to our rolls. We consider this an outreach as well as a service to our members. See Melinda Miller to enroll your child.

Our Connection groups have continued to stay in touch during the summer. Is God calling you to be a part of those studies? Current leaders include Peggy Jones, Lyn Spencer, Pastor Longman, and Dave and Christy Lehenbauer. These groups meet in homes and enjoy sweet fellowship and some tasty desserts as well! There are other leaders standing by as soon as groups are formed. If you are interested, Christy and Dave Lehenbauer can direct you.

VBS has already come and gone and been a blessing to all who participated. Thanks especially to Deb and Abbey Peterson for heading that up and to all the volunteers who helped. Already planning for next year!

Rally Day is planned for August 27. More details about that event will be posted in the News and Notes, eblasts, and announcements after services.

# HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

# P D O Parents' Day Out

The children have been hard at work in their classrooms investigating art materials, using paint on their hands and feet in the infant/toddler room. The babies and toddlers love being greeted with an art project as they first come in. They have also been enjoying earlier outside activities, taking advantage of cooler morning temperatures.

In the preschool room children have been using chalk, water, straws, river slate and of course their hands as they create their work. They have also been enjoying their Chapel time every Thursday, listening to Bible stories and asking questions about what they hear and see in the Sanctuary or the Outdoor Chapel, if weather permits.

We have some exciting news: we are opening a pre-k classroom in September. We will be needing two new preschool teachers for our 2.5-4 year old room. If you are interested or you know someone who may be, please let me know! We are looking for a lead teacher with previous classroom teaching experience and a co-teacher with experience *or* an assistant teacher without any classroom experience, but some babysitting experience would be helpful.

We are also in need of some blocks for children aged 3-5, preferably legos. We could also use some books. If you have some old ones taking up room in your garage, we'll be happy to take them.



Thank you so much for supporting our PDO program! The children get so much out of this ministry, growing in Faith and learning how to play with one another!





# *The Holy Spirit's Succulent Fruit*

***The Holy Spirit unleashes his power through us, his vines,  
and we then get to watch as his fruits blossom and ripen.***

As Christians, we live in and through the forgiveness of sin won for us on the cross by Jesus. That's what it means to be a Christian. Forgiveness, new life, and eternal salvation are declared to us through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. That's why the Holy Spirit sends us preachers.

But there's something more that the Holy Spirit then does for us that we often ignore or overlook. We are set free by God's boundless forgiveness and love in Jesus Christ, not for our own sake, but to serve our neighbors. We are forgiven and receive new life so that we can be instruments of God's good works. But, our good works are not for the purpose of gaining merit before God. Instead, they are an outpouring of gratitude and a physical manifestation of the Spirit's fruits that he produces in and through us.

You see, God doesn't need our good works, our neighbor does. We're not out here performing some divine audition for God's approval. No, it's all about being an instrument of God, a vessel for the Spirit to do his thing. It's about the Holy Spirit unleashing that love and mercy upon our neighbors, offering a hand when they stumble and helping them stand up when they're down and out. And that hand, and those feet, are us.

But it's easy to get caught up in the rat race, chasing our own desires along with the rest of this godless world of malfunctioning robots, forgetting the power of God's grace. But when that rebellious love grabs hold of us, when the Holy Spirit ignites our souls, it's a game-changer. Suddenly, we're not just living for ourselves anymore. We become an instrument of divine goodness, spreading the love and mercy of God to all who cross our path.

That's the beauty of the Christian faith. We're set free by Christ not to chase our own agendas, but to serve our neighbors with unbridled passion. That's the whole reason we've been created, redeemed, and put here. We're not put here to play the victim, whining about how unfair life is, demanding to receive what we didn't work for. We're put here by God to shake things up.

The Holy Spirit unleashes his power through us, his vines, and we then get to watch as his fruits blossom and ripen; faith is created from nothing, lives are changed, hearts are healed, and God's good works make the people who annoy the hell out of us suddenly and inexplicably worth living and dying for.

*(continued on page )*

So the fruits of the Holy Spirit are not mere decorations on a tree that we get to stare at like cows staring at a new gate; they are the very essence of our calling. Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control: these are the vibrant colors God uses to paint the canvas of our lives.

Again, we're no spectators to this; we are the vines and he is the branch. We are the instruments of the Spirit. It's the Spirit of God who produces these fruits through us, working in mysterious ways for the good of others that leave us humbled and in awe, grateful that we're chosen to be a part of his good and gracious works.

So to repeat, our good works are not our good works. Therefore, we don't get to anticipate personal accolades. We don't get to act like we're entitled to some heavenly reward because we're well behaved little workers, like elves in Santa's workshop. The fruits of the Spirit are about point others to the source of all goodness, and that's not us. It's Jesus Christ.

Every act of kindness, every display of patience, every word of encouragement - it's all part of God's good will to draw sinners closer to the saving grace of Jesus Christ. We are instruments of God's boundless love, charged with the mission of spreading his forgiveness and mercy. It's not about performing for the applause of the world; it's about illuminating the path that leads to redemption, pointing lost souls toward the ultimate good work of God: the creation and sustenance of faith through his Word and sacraments.

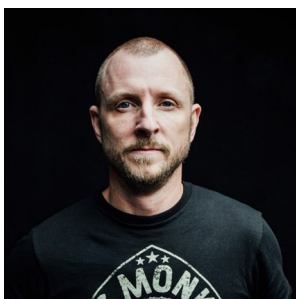
And so we don't worry about what kinds of fruits we will produce that testify to the goodness of our Lord. He will do it in and through us, whether we're on board with his choices or not. We simply say "Amen" to it all.

So in this Christ-won forgiveness and new life, we trust that we will live boldly because the Holy Spirit is at work in us. We will love fiercely because that is what he chooses for us. We will serve our neighbors with audacious compassion because that is God's will for us and our neighbor.

And every good work he undertakes through us will serve as a testament to the relentless grace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, drawing others into the holy communion of baptized sinners who love and serve each other, not for themselves, but for the sake of the faith and salvation of everyone around them.

One last thing: If anyone is wondering, "Who is my neighbor?" "Who does God intend for me to serve?" That's simple. Whoever is standing right in front of us at any given moment is our neighbor. Our neighbor is whoever God puts right in front of our faces.

Our neighbor is unavoidable because the Holy Spirit wants us to be there, face to face with them as an instrument of his forgiveness and mercy. Good works flow from the heart and out of the mouth of the one who has been captivated by the boundless love and forgiveness of Christ.



Good works, whatever they may be and however they may appear, are not a transaction intended to earn God's favor. They are a response of gratitude and joy, ignited by the Holy Spirit, who strengthens us to love and serve our neighbors with a radical selflessness that reflects the very nature of our Savior, Jesus Christ. And to that we simply say, "Amen: as we enjoy a succulent piece of the Holy Spirit's fruit."

#### **Contributor | Donavon Riley**

*Donavon Riley is a Lutheran pastor, conference speaker, author, and contributing writer for 1517. He is also a co-host of Banned Books and Warrior Priest podcasts. He is the author of the book, "Crucifying Religion" and "The Withertongue Emails." He is also a contributing author to "The Sinner/Saint Devotional: 60 Days in the Psalms" and "Theology of the Cross."*

*Riley, Donavon. "The Holy Spirit's Succulent Fruit." 1517, 3 July 2023, [www.1517.org/articles/the-holy-spirits-succulent-fruit#](http://www.1517.org/articles/the-holy-spirits-succulent-fruit#).*

# KIDS IN THE DIVINE SERVICE



## What is “Matins”?

Today we receive our Lord’s gracious gifts through the Order of Matins. The word “Matins” comes from the Latin word “matutinus” which means “of the morning.” Matins is a service of prayer that is used by the Church **in the morning**.

## Why do we use the Order of Matins?

The Order of Matins has been used by Christians since almost the beginning of Christianity. At the beginning of the day, Christians prayed the Order of Matins because it started their day off right! You can use the Order of Matins too! When you wake up in the morning, grab your hymnal and try it. What better way than to begin each morning deep in God’s wonderful Word? If you’re not sure how to do it, then ask your pastor. He’d be glad to help you!

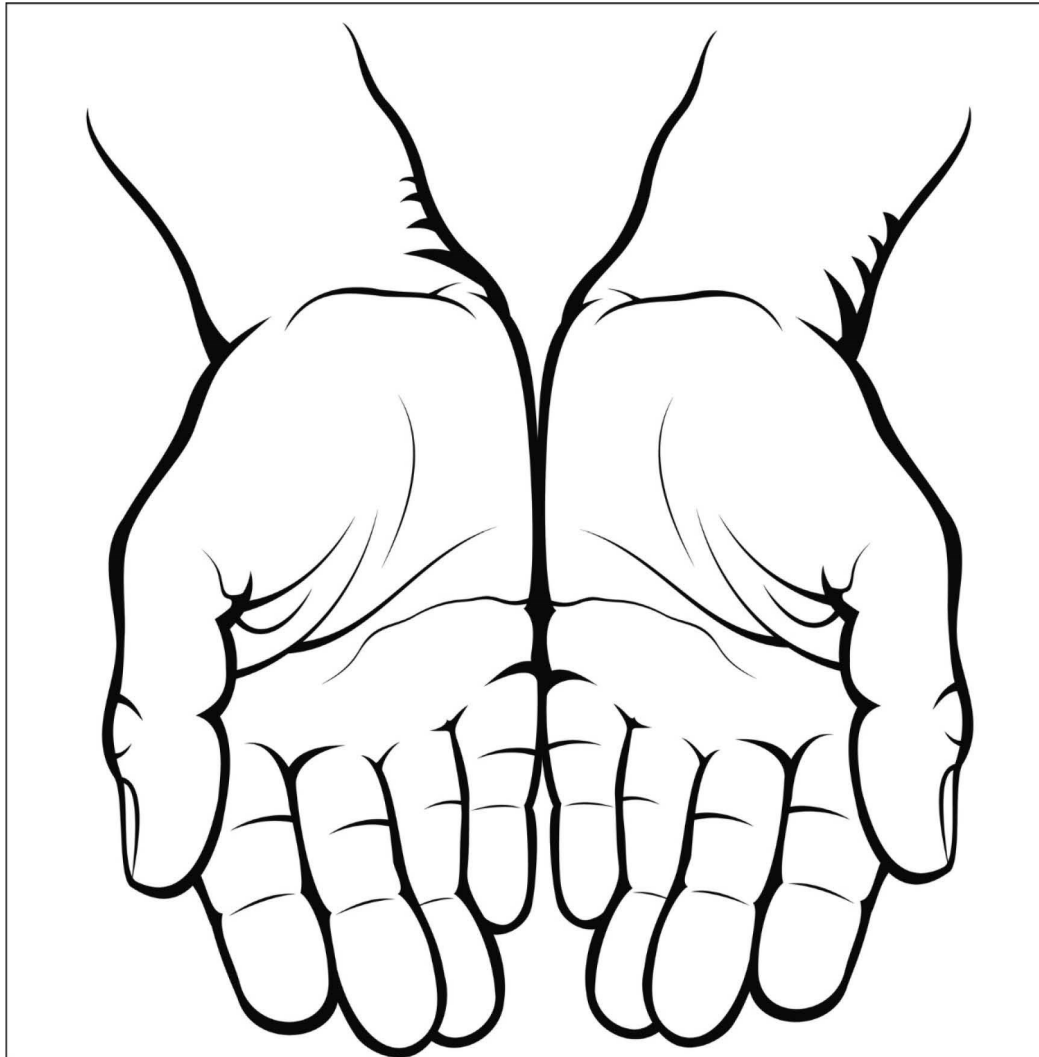


**Parents:** It can be quite easy for children to learn and enjoy the liturgy of the Church when a parent shows them how. Children rely upon routines in their lives, which are put in place by parents. Matins can become a part of the morning devotional routine at your house.





Write your prayer requests inside the hands on this page – giving them to God – and pray Luther’s Morning Prayer.



In the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. **For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul and all things.** Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

# FEED MY SHEEP

**JUNE 2023**

Total Households = 44 (111 people total)

*Food Pantry Statistics*

Adults (18-60) = 64  
Children (0-17) = 30  
Senior Citizens (61+) = 17  
Other (*Unknown*) = 0



# PASTOR'S CARE FUND

**JUNE 2023**

*These disbursements are from money designated for the Pastor's Care Fund. Your contributions bring a tremendous relief to your neighbors who are in difficult circumstances.*



Total Households = 28

Utility Help = 11  
Rent/Mortgage = 4  
Motel = 13  
Transportation = 0

# August

## Birthdays

- |   |                                       |  |
|---|---------------------------------------|--|
| 1 Lizzie Gregory<br>Verlee Scheel               | 8 Noah Leech                          | 22 Gloria Sommers                              |
| 2 Shirley Bernthal                              | 10 Shelby White                       | 23 Christopher Robeson                         |
| 3 Laurie Martin<br>Mike Nelson<br>Kurt Sij      | 12 Jennifer Haddock<br>Dorine Hand    | 24 Jesse Essner<br>Ann Gibson<br>Arwyn Pullman |
| 4 Beth Tesch                                    | 13 Mason Heilman                      | 25 James Hartmann                              |
| 6 Derek Bracht                                  | 14 Gloria Jenkins<br>Stanley Longman  | 26 Brent Grayson                               |
| 7 Jake Button<br>Melvin Kvamso<br>Arthur Wilken | 15 Reatha Bracht<br>Aaron Stottlemyer | 27 Kyle Rodgers<br>Duane Wright                |
| 8 Kaity Gibson<br>Erika Leech                   | 18 Peggy Jones                        | 28 Rose Hartwig<br>Rev. Eric Longman           |
|   | 20 Deb Wilken                         | 29 Shanen Pankrez<br>Clayton Studyvin          |
|   | 21 Millie Heyne<br>John Thompson      |  |

## Anniversaries

- |  |                              |
|--|------------------------------|
| 1 Mike & Kim Boyd                                    | 19 Steve & Peggy Jones       |
| 3 LeRoy & Jeanne Meyer                               | 20 Tommy & Joanne Byrd       |
| 14 Dave & Christy Lehenbauer<br>Charlie & Deb Wilken | 24 Walt & Linda Partsons     |
| 15 HT & Jane Means                                   | 27 Matthew & Rachel Fredrick |
|  | 29 Pat & Pam Pickett         |

# SERVING IN AUGUST 2023



|                               | <b>AUGUST 6</b><br><b>(PENTECOST 10)</b>   | <b>AUGUST 13</b><br><b>(PENTECOST 11)</b> | <b>AUGUST 20</b><br><b>(PENTECOST 12)</b> | <b>AUGUST 27</b><br><b>(PENTECOST 27)</b> |
|-------------------------------|--|---|---|---|
| <b>READERS</b>                |  |   |   |   |
| 8:00 AM                       | SABRINA ISBELL   | JOHN AUGUSTINE                            | MARY FREVERT                              | KAREN LAUNDEVILLE                         |
| 10:45 AM                      | AMY WRIGHT   | SKIP SHANE                                | LEE LANDAUER                              | REV. JOHN LINDNER                         |
| <b>GREETERS</b>               |  |   |   |   |
| 8:00 AM                       | VERN SCHMIEGELOW &<br>ELAINE LAUNDEVILLE   | JUDY BANKHEAD &<br>BETH KIKOEN            | MIKE & LISA<br>NELSON                     | DAVID & MARY<br>FREVERT                   |
| 10:45 AM                      | LEE & ELAINE<br>LANDAUER   | JOHN & KATHLEEN<br>THOMPSON               | SKIIP & TONI<br>SHANE                     | BILL & JEAN<br>GREGESICH                  |
| <b>MEDIA</b>                  |  |   |   |   |
| 8:00 AM                       | DAVID HEINTZ   | JENA EISMA                                | JOHN JENKINS                              | DONNA WINTERS                             |
| 10:45 AM                      | ZACHARY GUST   | LEVI WRIGHT                               | ZACHARY GUST                              | LEVI WRIGHT                               |
| <b>STREAMING</b>              | OWEN WINTERS   | MAC MACGOWAN                              | OWEN WINTERS                              | MAC MACGOWAN                              |
| <b>LEAD COUNTERS</b>          | MAC MACGOWAN &<br>HT MEANS   | JAMES HARTMANN &<br>JUDY JONES            | JAMES HARTMANN &<br>JUDY JONES            | JAMES HARTMANN &<br>JUDY JONES            |
| <b>LAWN CARE</b>              | TEAM 3   | TEAM 4 (EDGING)                           | TEAM 5                                    | TEAM 1                                    |
| <b>ALTAR GUILD<br/>ELDERS</b> | MARY FREVERT & MARY MAYER<br>8:00 AM – CLAYTON STUDYVIN<br>10:45 AM – SKIIP SHANE  |   |   |   |
| <b>USHERS</b>                 | 8:00 AM – TEAM E<br>(DAVE FREVERT, DEAN EISMA, KEN RADER, TOMMY BYRD, TODD KRUEMPEL)<br>10:45 AM – TEAM F<br>(DAVE LEHENBAUER, ROBERT CARTER, LEROY MEYER, BEN MILLER, JEAN GREGESICH) |   |   |   |



# August 2023

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church | Rogers, Arkansas



| Sun  | Mon                                  | Tue  | Wed   | Thu                             | Fri   | Sat       |
|--|--------------------------------------|--|---|---------------------------------|---|-----------|
|  |                                      | <b>1</b><br>2-4 PM FOOD PANTRY<br>6:30 PM ELDERS     | <b>2</b><br>12 PM NEWS & NOTES DUE<br>2-4 PM FOOD PANTRY<br>5:30 PM CONFIRMATION  | <b>3</b><br>2-4 PM FOOD PANTRY  | <b>4</b><br>2-4 PM FOOD PANTRY                | <b>5</b>  |
| <b>6 PENTECOST 10</b><br><b>(FEED MY SHEEP)</b><br>8 AM COMMUNION<br>9:30 AM EDUCATION/BELLS<br>10:45 AM COMMUNION | <b>7</b><br><b>PASTOR'S DAY OFF</b>  | <b>8</b><br>2-4 PM FOOD PANTRY<br>6:30 PM COUNCIL    | <b>9</b><br>12 PM NEWS & NOTES DUE<br>2-4 PM FOOD PANTRY<br>5:30 PM CONFIRMATION  | <b>10</b><br>2-4 PM FOOD PANTRY | <b>11</b><br>2-4 PM FOOD PANTRY<br>6 PM CARDS | <b>12</b> |
| <b>13 PENTECOST 11</b><br>8 AM WORSHIP<br>9:30 AM EDUCATION/BELLS<br>10:45 AM WORSHIP                              | <b>14</b><br><b>PASTOR'S DAY OFF</b> | <b>15</b><br>12 PM CLARION DUE<br>2-4 PM FOOD PANTRY | <b>16</b><br>12 PM NEWS & NOTES DUE<br>2-4 PM FOOD PANTRY<br>5:30 PM CONFIRMATION | <b>17</b><br>2-4 PM FOOD PANTRY | <b>18</b><br>2-4 PM FOOD PANTRY               | <b>19</b> |
| <b>20 PENTECOST 12</b><br>8 AM COMMUNION<br>9:30 AM EDUCATION/BELLS<br>10:45 AM COMMUNION                          | <b>21</b><br><b>PASTOR'S DAY OFF</b> | <b>22</b><br>2-4 PM FOOD PANTRY                      | <b>23</b><br>12 PM NEWS & NOTES DUE<br>2-4 PM FOOD PANTRY<br>5:30 PM CONFIRMATION | <b>24</b><br>2-4 PM FOOD PANTRY | <b>25</b><br>2-4 PM FOOD PANTRY               | <b>26</b> |
| <b>27 RALLY DAY!</b><br>8 AM WORSHIP<br>9:30 AM EDUCATION/BELLS<br>10:45 AM WORSHIP                                | <b>28</b><br><b>PASTOR'S DAY OFF</b> | <b>29</b><br>2-4 PM FOOD PANTRY                      | <b>30</b><br>12 PM NEWS & NOTES DUE<br>2-4 PM FOOD PANTRY<br>5:30 PM CONFIRMATION | <b>31</b><br>2-4 PM FOOD PANTRY |   |           |