

#### FROM PASTOR'S DESK



#### What Does This Mean?

<sup>6</sup> These words that I command you today shall be on your heart. <sup>7</sup> You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. Deuteronomy 6:6-7

I've been thinking a lot about the Small Catechism recently. That's probably not so surprising, given the fact that we've just launched back into Confirmation classes; the Small Catechism is a foundational component of the curriculum as we seek to teach the basics of the faith to seventh and eighth grade students who are preparing for Confirmation.

But it occurs to me that while most of you are probably familiar with the Small Catechism, you may not know how or why it came to be. So this month, I'll offer a little history lesson and an encouragement to revisit the Small Catechism. It is appropriate to do this in October, since we also celebrate the Reformation this month, giving thanks to God for the work that Martin Luther and others did to bring the Church back to the roots of our faith: Holy Scripture.

A "catechism" is a teaching aid. The name comes from the Greek word "κατήχησις" (*katechesis*), which means "to teach or instruct," almost always in theological matters. More specifically, though, the term refers to instruction "by word of mouth," and that to me is very appropriate, since **"faith comes through hearing, and hearing through the Word of God"** (Romans 10:17).

The structure of the catechism is based on a classical method of instruction. It is organized into

questions and their answers. Teachers would ask the questions, and students (also called "catechumens") would respond with the appropriate answer. Back and forth it would go, until the words and concepts took root in the student's mind and almost literally became a part of who they were.

This is the building of faith, the process of working Biblical truths into our souls so that we are never misled about who we are and are able to always fall back on the promises of God, even when the world sends us a bunch of misleading and contradictory messages.

(continued on page 2...)

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You are sinful. God is the creator of everything. Jesus Christ lived, died, and rose again to atone for your sins. The Holy Spirit has enlightened you to understand this. God invites you to bring your petitions and thanksgivings to Him. He pours out forgiveness on you through the means of grace: His Word, Baptism, and Holy Communion. These are the most basic truths of the Christian faith, and the catechism helps to instill that in our young people (and our adults, too!).

It may have been a while since you cracked open your Small Catechism. Perhaps you have fond memories of your time as a catechumen...or maybe it wasn't all that fun. Either way, there is really good stuff in there, and I encourage you to take a little stroll down memory lane and dust it off again. Try this: put your Small Catechism by your bed and read a section each night. You might be amazed at the simple little truths that you learned way back when and the comfort they offer.

Luther included this wonderful tagline at the end of the section titled *The Household Chart of Some Bible Passages:* 

Let each his lesson learn with care, and all the household well shall fare.

May be it be so for your household, too!

In HIS Service, Pr. Longman



#### Unity Sunday

We have our October Unity Sunday and Voters' Assembly scheduled for **Sunday, October 15th**. Holy Trinity Youth Group will be providing their HTY Café for lunch!

8:45 am - education 10 am - worship 11:30 am - HTY Cafe 12 pm - Voters' Assembly

#### 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.



Holy Trinity Office

(479) 636-1135 office @holytrin.org

#### Pastor Longman, Senior Pastor

elongman@holytrin.org

#### Pastor Meyer, Associate Pastor

mmeyer@holytrin.org

#### **Tabby Michaelson, Office Admin**

tabby@holytrin.org

#### Krista Malone, Office Assistant

krista@holytrin.org



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

#### HOLY TRINITY NEWS OCTOBER 2023



#### **BAPTISM**

We welcomed Alice Faith Walsh, daughter of Harold and Anna Walsh, into God's Holy Family through baptism on Sunday, September 24th!



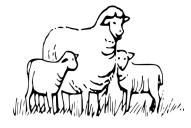
#### **PINOCHLE**

**Friday, October 13th** 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.



#### **ENDOWMENT FUND**

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church has an *Endowment Fund* which receives gifts and bequests that are invested in long-term high-quality stocks, bonds, and CD's. The interest, dividends and unrealized long-term gains of which can be used to support Christian Education, Outreach Programs, Scholarships (seminarians), capital Building and Ground improvements, Youth programs, Church Music, Technology and Building Fund(s). The income from these investments can also be used, with Voter approval to support ministry projects such as Grants for world mission projects, Mid-South District projects, Disaster Relief projects and grants to LMCS colleges and affiliated ministries' principle or the original gifts are not used to support the afore mentioned activities but only the capital gains and interest, the principle remains to continue producing additional monies to support Holy Trinity Lutheran Church growth and teaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ.



#### Calling All Men

Get ready for the 2023 SKEET shooting contest coming on **Saturday**, **October 21** at James Sij's ranch near Garfield. We will have a skeet shooting contest and a pistol contest that starts at **3 pm**. The Journeymen are sponsoring this event and will be providing food to grill around a campfire. DON'T WANT TO BE IN THE CONTEST? That's ok, just come join us for some fellowship and fun at the ranch. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board so we know how much food to bring. GOT A FRIEND who likes to shoot skeet?? BRING THEM ALONG! The Sij's ranch is located at 12568 Walnut Hill Road near Garfield. There will be a number of people meeting at church, so if you want a ride or want to follow us out there, please be at church by 2:30 pm on the 21st. We will leave promptly at 2:30.



#### **Reformation Sunday**

Reformation Day is celebrated on *October 31st* each year. We will be observing Reformation (so wear **RED**!) on **Sunday, October 29th** with a regular Sunday timeline:

8am - worship 9:30 am - education 10:45 am - worship



#### Trunk or Treat!

We will be hosting our annual Trunk or Treat on Tuesday, October 31st in the church parking lot from 6-8 pm. We are looking for trunks and for kitchen help. Look in News & Notes for more details as it gets closer. There is also a volunteer sign up sheet on the Outreach board in the Narthex.



#### **Operation Christmas Child**

Operation Christmas Child is a project of Samaritan's Purse, an international relief organization. Our mission is to provide local partners around the world with shoeboxes filled with small toys, hygiene items, and school supplies as a means of reaching out to children in their own communities with the Good News of Jesus Christ. We ship these simple gifts outside the US to children affected by war, poverty, natural disaster, famine, and disease; and to children living on Native American reservation in the United States. The Youth and Outreach Ministry teams are working together once again to support OCC. Want to help? Shopping lists with suggested gift ideas are on the Outreach board. We will also take donations and do the shopping for you...Please designate OCC on any donations you put in the offering plate. All are welcome to join the packing party which will be held in early November. All donations need to be dropped off at church **by October 31st**. Thanks for your support!



#### LINKt Youth Retreat

Our Junior Youth will be attending Camp Trinity on Petit Jean Mountain fo r the LINKt weekend **October 20-22**. This fall's retreat is called "*Love and Serve*" based on *Philippians 2:1-11*. For more information contact Pastor Meyer or visit Camp Trinity's website at www.LutheranCamp.org

#### Sunday School

Wow!!! The Sunday School Action Team is INCREDIBLY grateful to all our volunteers for helping clean out, paint, assemble, decorate and bring life back to our classrooms! If you haven't seen our newly renovated classrooms, please do so! We have some talented members!

We are eager to announce that our PreK class is back! PreK to Kindergarten children will meet in the P.D.O. room led by Leah O'Ryan! Our 1st to 4th grade students will meet in the Chapel with Valerie Trammel & Karen Kvamso. All 5th & 6th grade students will meet in the nook by classroom 6 with Heather Stottlemyer. For our older students, 7th & 8th will meet in Classroom 4 with Amy Wright and 9th to 12th will meet in the Youth Room with Valerie Gust & Abbey Griffin. If you have not yet signed your child up for class, please do so using the QR code shown here or visit



https://bit.ly/HTLCSundaySchoolSignUp!

If you are interested in being on our substitute teacher list, please contact me! Our teachers are amazing, but scheduling conflicts do arise and we would love your help!

Last, save the date for a Fall Family Fun Day at Bryan and I's home, **Sunday, October 22nd** from **12:30pm-3:30pm**. We will be serving hamburgers, hot dogs, and smore's. Please bring your favorite side dish, drink, and lawn chair! We will have hayride, outdoor games, pumpkin painting and carving. B.Y.O.P. Bring your own pumpkin! Sign up in the Narthex!

Blessings, Kati Evans kati.evans46@gmail.com







congregations and schools!





## "I thank my God in all my remembrance of you always

in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now," writes St. Paul in his letter to the Philippians (PHIL 1:3).

With this same gratitude, we thank the more than 11,000 church workers who serve our Synod with the Word and mercy of Christ. Throughout this month, congregations and schools are encouraged to show their appreciation for all church workers.

For teachers especially we give thanks, who teach God's Word to our children, dedicate countless hours to the classroom, who love the children of God they teach and who live a life of service to Christ and His church.

For all church workers, from pastors to deaconesses to directors of Christian education, parish music, family life and outreach, who teach God's Word and point us to Christ. Tell them "Thank you!" this month for all they do!

Set Apart to Serve seeks to create an intentional culture of church worker formation and recruitment in every LCMS congregation, school and entity. Visit resources lans org/set-apart-to-serve to learn more.



#### HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

# Parents' Day Out



Our three classrooms are bustling with the activity of play and humming with the sounds of engaged children this September. In the beginning of the month some of the children explored apples, noting their tastes and textures and even using them as tools for art as they make apple prints. The children are also exploring letters, using them as play objects and learning to recognize their sounds and shapes.

The children have been soaking in the last warm days of

Summer on the playground, using their mud kitchens, tires and climbing structure to create their own games.

We have welcomed new students in the Caterpillar Room (formerly Infant/Toddler) and Butterfly Room (formerly Preschool). The Caterpillar Room is really thriving and we would be happy to receive a volunteer or two to cuddle the babies!

The new room, formerly Classroom 5, is the Firefly Room. The children who spend Tuesday and Thursday here have graduated from the Butterfly Room and are enjoying age-appropriate activities with other "big kids."





The children are still enjoying Chapel Time in the Sanctuary

every Thursday. They are hearing the repeated message that God loves them and they are memorizing songs like "Jesus' Little Lamb."

Thank you all for what you are doing for our PDO children! We appreciate you!



Defeating the Goliath of Addiction

Addiction is a feral beast lurking in the shadows, eager to pounce on the unsuspecting. It's a modern-day Goliath, a giant that seems insurmountable. But there is no reason to be afraid, for just like David wielded a sling and a stone, we have weapons of our own – the Rod of God, prayer, and the fellowship of believers.

So, let's start by acknowledging that addiction is not a new phenomenon. In the pages of the Bible, we find stories of individuals taken captive by their own desires and weaknesses. Take, for instance, King Solomon, the wisest of all men. He succumbed to the allure of excess, seeking fulfillment in material wealth and earthly pleasures. But in the end, he found that these pursuits were nothing but chasing after the wind.

In our modern world, the obsessive pursuit of pleasure and equally fervent attempts to escape from pain often lead people down the treacherous path of addiction. But pastors, in particular, are called to shepherd God's flock toward the forgiveness of sin, which leads to true freedom from addiction. And it all begins with the Word of God, our fortress and refuge against the impingement of addiction.

The Word of God

The Bible is not just a collection of ancient stories; it's a living breathing testament to God's justice, grace, and mercy inspired by the Holy Spirit. It's a beacon of light for those lost in the wilderness of addiction, offering new life and hope through faith in Christ. And as David received strength from the Lord to face Goliath, we too are strengthened by God to walk with those struggling with addiction, encouraging them through God's Word and prayer to lean on the promises of God's Word for their every need of body, mind, and soul.

Therefore, we must immerse ourselves in the Bible, not as judges but as students of our great teacher, Jesus Christ, to whom every Word of Scripture testifies. In the pages of the Bible, we learn from those who were also overwhelmed by temptation that they were never abandoned by God, no matter how heinous their sin. Just as God was with David during and after his destructive affair with Bathsheba, he walks with us in our worst moments. His Word is our one consistent source of comfort, offering solace to the wounded soul.

Prayer

It doesn't end there. Prayer is also a potent weapon in peoples' struggle against addiction, our direct line to our Heavenly Father. The Bible shows countless examples of individuals crying out to God in their distress. The Psalms, in particular, are a treasure trove of raw and honest prayers from people like David, who were no strangers to suffering and addiction of various forms. Through prayer, we speak with God like children talk to their doting father, acknowledging our powerlessness and seeking God's guidance and strength. And for addicts and those in recovery who do not or will not pray, we can teach them that prayer is not just a mechanical ritual but a lifeline to the One who can life them out of the mire of addiction. And just as Jesus prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane, we too can receive strength, wisdom, and hope in our communion with God through prayer.

The Fellowship of Believers

Now, let's talk about the fellowship of believers. The early Christians gathered in homes to break bread, pray, and hear the teachings of the apostles read and preached. We, too, should invite those struggling with addiction to find refuge in a community of believers who also come to Jesus for comfort and peace. This communion is like a hospital for the wounded souls, a place where people can be brutally honest, emotionally naked, and receive fellowship from their brothers and sisters in Christ.

This is vital because isolation often reigns supreme in the prison of addiction. But it is in fellowship with other believers and those who've walked the same path that sobriety and freedom begin. Again, pastors, in particular, should encourage and nurture these bonds of fellowship. They should strive to foster an environment where individuals are encouraged to come to their pastor to confess their sin and converse about their struggles and victories, knowing that they are confessing towards absolution rather than judgment and condemnation.

The power of confession and absolution within the communion of saints cannot be overstated. Just as the Apostle Paul was open and honest about his conversion from persecutor to believer, those in recovery serve as instruments of God's grace that inspire others with their testimony about God's intervention in their lives, which brought them to sobriety, faith, and freedom. It's a testament to the redemptive power of God's Word, a living, active testimony of the Word made flesh in their lives.

We must also address the stigma surrounding addiction within so many churches. Just as the religious leaders of Jesus' time looked down upon tax collectors and sinners, we, too, must guard against self-righteousness. Addiction does not discriminate; it affects people from all walks of life. Therefore, armed with God's Word and faith, pastors and fellow believers should strive to foster an environment of forgiveness, compassion, and grace, just as Jesus did.

Yes, addiction is a formidable opponent, but it is not invincible. With the Word of God as our guide, prayer as our weapon against temptation and sin, and the fellowship of believers and those in recovery as our support, we can combat this feral beast head-on. Just as David faced Goliath armed with God's gifts of faith and courage, so too can those who struggle receive hope and healing when God turns them towards sobriety and freedom from addiction.

As the apostle reminds us, we are the hands and feet of Christ, proclaiming forgiveness and grace in the name of Jesus to those in need. For pastors, we are the shepherds whom God calls to carry the lost sheep back to the fold. And so, let us pray that our Heavenly Father never allows us to forget that and keep us ever-mindful that, in the words of the Apostle Paul, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." So, with Christ Jesus teaching, strengthening, and protecting us, we may overcome the giant of addiction and witness a new dawn of hope and restoration, given to us as a gift to the eternal glory of God in Jesus Christ, through whom our names are written in heaven.



#### **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. "Defeating the Goliath of Addiction." 1517, 6 Sept. 2023, www.1517.org/articles/defeating-the-goliathof-addiction.



#### What is the "Prayer of the Church"?

The Prayer of the Church, or the "general prayer" as it's sometimes called, is the part in the service where the pastor leads us through a series of petitions, or prayers, with



responses from the congregation. For example, after each petition the pastor may say: **"Let us pray to the Lord,"** and the congregation may respond with **"Lord, have mercy."** See if you can find the Prayer of the Church in your hymnal. Try to find the other response that the pastor and congregation might say.

### Why do we do this in the Divine Service?

Do you know anyone who needs praying for? Wouldn't you like to have the rest of the congregation praying for that person too? During the Prayer of the Church, we pray for all of the people of our congregation, particularly those who are sick and shut-in. We also pray for our missionaries, for our government, for all believers and many others. No wonder it's called the Prayer of the Church!



**Parents:** Before the Divine Service, remind your children to pay close attention to the words of the prayers. Encourage them to join in the responses with the rest of the congregation. Try using these responses in your prayers at home.



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P LET US PRAY TO THE LORD



## FEED MY SHEEP

#### August 2023

Food Pantry Statistics

Total Households = 50 (175 people total)

Adults (18-60) = 97Children (0-17) = 62Senior Citizens (61+) = 16Other (Unknown) = 0





## PASTOR'S CARE FUND August 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 = 46

Utility Help = 17 Rent/Mortgage = 13 Motel = 16 Transportation = 0



## Birthdays

- 1 Jay King Amilda Sporleder
- 2 Holland Scott
- 3 Lee Landauer Paul Mayer Donna Winters
- 4 Dorothy Button Miles Hartwig Lana Moeller
  - Tammy Rodgers
- 5 Zander Gregory
- 6 Colby Isbell Ethan Leech
- 7 Kathleen Thompson Wyatt Winters
- 8 Joyce Bauer
- 9 Lawso<mark>n</mark> Fredrick

- 9 Leah O'Ryan
  11 Mary Frevert
  Ron Sommers
  12 Melissa Blaske
  14 Joseph Burr
  Rob Dickerson
  Steve Jones
- 15 Kathy Welborn Owen Winters
- 16 Courtney Gutche
- **18 Emberly Girshner**
- 19 Noelle Carner Deb Finley Bill Gregesich
- 20 Mac MacGowan
- 21 LB Teeter
- 23 Kristin Mayer

## Anniversaries

- 1 Mathew & Tabby Michaelson
- 2 Gene & Dawn Kiesel
- 4 Skip & Toni Shane
- 5 Raphael & Wendy Uduhiri
- 7 Craig & Mary Hanson
- 9 Duane & Amy Wright
- 14 Michael & Adriann Fanning

- 16 Drew & Leslie Mayer
- 17 Dave & Wendie Ferguson
- 19 Paul & Roberta Belviy
- 22 James & Jean Womack
- 27 Josh & Chrissy Dunlap
- 29 Rich Rumpf & Marian Venenga

- 23 David Smith 24 Lukas Haddock
  - James Williams
- 25 Caitlynn Bublitz Faye Carroll Kennedy Kirby
  - Mary Mayer
- 26 Ken Grayson
- 27 Hannah Baker Bill Walker
- 28 Evan Wright
- 31 Chrissy Dunlap Lyla Grayson Kenneth Meyer Cole Ockinga Terra Pullmann

## **SERVING IN OCTOBER 2023**

	OCTOBER 1 (PENTECOST 18)	OCTOBER 8 (PENTECOST 19)	OCTOBER 15 (UNITY SUNDAY)	OCTOBER 22 (PENTECOST 21)	OCTOBER 29 (REFORMATION)
READERS					
8:00 AM	JOHN AUGUSTINE	ELAINE LAUNDERVILLE		JOHN JENKINS	MARY FREVERT
10:45 AM	WALT HEYNE	BRENT GARNER	KAREN LAUNDERVILLE	SKIP SHANE	LEE LANDAUER
GREETERS					
8:00 AM	VERN SCHMIEGELOW & ELAINE LAUNDERVILLE	SAM & KATHY WELBORN		DAVID & MARY FREVERT	DAVE & WENDIE FERGUSON
10:45 AM	JOHN & KATHLEEN THOMPSON	SKIP & TONI SHANE	MIKE & LISA NELSON	SHARON DAVIS & KATHY LAVENDER	PEGGY JONES & MAXINE REIHMAN
MEDIA					
8:00 AM	DONNA WINTERS	BETH KIKOEN		JENA EISMA	JOHN JENKINS
10:45 AM	10:45 AM ZACHARY GUST		DAVID HEINTZ	JEAN GREGESICH	ZACHARY GUST
STREAMING	OWEN WINTERS	MAC MACGOWAN	OWEN WINTERS	MAC MACGOWAN	OWEN WINTERS
LEAD COUNTERS	BILL & JEAN GREGESICH	BILL & JEAN GREGESICH	BILL & JEAN GREGESICH	FRED & SHIRLEY LEWIS	BILL & JEAN GREGESICH
LAWN CARE	TEAM 1	TEAM 2	TEAM 3	TEAM 4	TEAM 5
	ALTAR GUILD ELDERS USHERS	BETH KIKOEN & KRISTA MALONE 8:00 AM – DAVE FERGUSON 10:45 AM – DUANE WRIGHT 8:00 AM – TEAM B (James Sij, Ray Eschenburg, John Augustine, Steve Moeller) 10:45 AM – TEAM D (JIM WILLIAMS, DON BRACHT, BOB BAUER, PHIL GARLING, CHRIST PLAISANCE, GENE KIESEL)			

October 2023

#### Holy Trinity Lutheran Church | Rogers, Arkansas

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> <i>pentecost 18</i> (FEED MY SHEEP) 8 AM COMMUNION 9:30 AM EDUCATION/BELLS 10:45 AM COMMUNION	<b>2</b> PASTORS' DAY OFF	<b>3</b> 2-4 PM FOOD PANTRY 6:30 PM ELDERS	<b>4</b> 12 PM NEWS & NOTES DUE 2-4 PM FOOD PANTRY 5:30 PM CONFIRMATION	<b>5</b> 2-4 PM FOOD PANTRY	<b>6</b> 2-4 PM FOOD PANTRY	7
<b>8</b> <i>PENTECOST 19</i> <i>(FEED MY SHEEP)</i> 8 AM WORSHIP 9:30 AM EDUCATION/BELLS 10:45 AM WORSHIP	<b>9</b> PASTORS' DAY OFF	<b>10</b> 2-4 PM FOOD PANTRY 6:30 PM COUNCIL	<b>11</b> 12 PM NEWS & NOTES DUE 2-4 PM FOOD PANTRY 5:30 PM CONFIRMATION	<b>12</b> 2-4 PM FOOD PANTRY	<b>13</b> 2-4 PM FOOD PANTRY 6 PM CARDS	14
<b>15</b> <i>PENTECOST 20</i> 8 AM COMMUNION 9:30 AM EDUCATION/BELLS 10:45 AM COMMUNION 12 PM CLARION DUE	<b>16</b> PASTORS' DAY OFF	<b>17</b> 2-4 PM FOOD PANTRY	<b>18</b> 12 PM NEWS & NOTES DUE 2-4 PM FOOD PANTRY 5:45 PM CONFIRMATION	<b>19</b> 2-4 PM FOOD PANTRY	20 2-4 PM FOOD PANTRY LINKT JR YOUTH CAMP	21 LINKt JR YOUTH CAMP
<b>22</b> <i>PENTECOST 21</i> 8 AM WORSHIP 9:30 AM EDUCATION/BELLS 10:45 AM WORSHIP LINKT JUNIOR YOUTH CAMP	<b>23</b> PASTORS' DAY OFF	<b>24</b> 2-4 PM FOOD PANTRY	<b>25</b> 12 PM NEWS & NOTES DUE 2-4 PM FOOD PANTRY 5:45 PM CONFIRMATION	<b>26</b> 2-4 PM FOOD PANTRY	27 2-4 PM FOOD PANTRY	28
<b>29</b> <i>REFORMATION (OBS)</i> 8 AM WORSHIP 9:30 AM EDUCATION/BELLS 10:45 AM WORSHIP <i>Wear Redill</i>	<b>30</b> PASTORS' DAY OFF	<b>31</b> <i>REFORMATION</i> 2-4 PM FOOD PANTRY 5 PM TRUNK OR TREAT				