

CLARION

SEPTEMBER 2023

FROM PASTOR'S DESK



Just a Minute with... Pastor Mike

This story is told based on the original work of L. Eiseley's allegory called the "The Star Thrower".

A traveler was walking for miles along a white sand beach when he finally saw someone. It was a woman far off walking toward him. As he watched her, she stopped walking and rolled up her sleeves. Then she picked up a starfish and threw it into the ocean. He watched as she diligently worked at scooping up starfish and throwing one by one back into the sea.

After an extended time and curious, he asked, "What are you doing with the starfish?" The woman replied "When the tide goes out it leaves these starfish stranded all over this beach. They will dry up and die before the tide comes back --- so I am throwing them back into the sea where they can live."

The traveler then asked her, "But this beach is miles long and there are thousands upon thousands of stranded starfish, most will die before you reach them. Do you really think throwing a few starfish back into the ocean is really going to make a difference?"

The woman picked up a starfish and looked at the man and then at the starfish. She then drew back her arm and gave a mighty throw with the starfish landing in the waves. She turned to the man and said, "It makes a difference to that one." "Doing, not hearing, is what makes the difference with God." Romans 2:13b (The Message)

It's been said that if you were the only person on the face of the earth who ever sinned, God still would have sent His Son to die for you. He loves you that much!! One person makes a difference to God. He loves you, me and all people with unconditional and everlasting love. We know it as His grace!!

(continued on page 2...)

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Holy Trinity continues to carry out the mission that God has given us: to SPREAD God's grace... GROW in Christ...CARE for others. Will you join me in asking the Holy Spirit to shape and mold our hearts so we will see other people as important...as valuable...as people that matter so much to us that we are willing be caring & compassionate toward them? You and I have received the greatest expression of love the world has ever known...the love of the Father demonstrated through the Son, Jesus. Let's pass that love of the Father on to others, that they may see, know and believe His love is for them. May that all happen through you and me!

This & That...

- Stacey and I want to thank all of you for your love, encouragement, prayers, and generosity in our transition to NWA.
- Stacey will begin the school year as a long-term substitute teacher at Old High Middle School teaching Math.
- Our son Cooper (6th grade) will also be attending Old High Middle School.
- Our son Clayton (9th grade) will be attending Bentonville High School.
- Please continue to pray for God's peace to fill all of us as we establish new daily routines/ rhythms, meet new friends, navigate new learning environments, and establish a home. We continue to be blessed by God through ALL OF YOU, even though you may not realize it! Thank you...thank you...thank you.
- The closing date for the purchase of our home in NWA is August 22. The closing date for the sale of our home in Nebraska is August 18. Please pray for us in these processes also! God is good...all the time...all the time...God is good. Our home address in NWA is as follows:

The Meyer Family
6 Mayfair Lane
Bella Vista, AR 72715



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

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The church office will be **closed** on Monday, September 4, 2023 in observance of Labor Day.



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



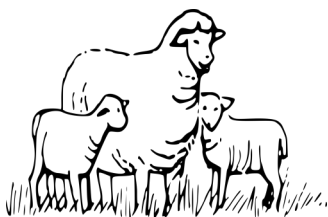
PINOCHLE

Friday, September 8th 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 aforementioned 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.



MODERN DAY HERESIES

Lutheran Witness

When you hear the word “heresy” do you think of archaic scenes of witch hunts and etchings of people burning at the stake? I do! This month’s *Lutheran Witness* includes some excellent articles on how ancient heresies are being recycled in our day. These are eye-opening!

- Conspiracy theories, disdain for public institutions, and even men competing in women’s athletics are all manifestations of the ancient false doctrines of Gnosticism.
- The dominant religion of our teens is Moralistic Therapeutic Deism. Followers of this faith believe that when good people die, they go to heaven. They also believe that God is involved in one’s life only to the degree needed to fix problems. It gives “more credence to human wisdom and rationality than to the direct revelation of God”.
- The Prosperity Gospel, also called Word Faith, is alive and thriving in churches today. More insidious than the slick prosperity preachers on TV, this doctrine teaches that you can control your future by speaking it into being through positive mental attitudes and positive confession. They are called to overcome evil by speaking good. So close, yet so far off.

Copies of these articles are available on the entry table in the narthex. Pick one up and you will be amazed at just how deceptive these re-branded heresies can be.

Board of Education

The Lutheran Witness is a monthly publication of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

P D O Parents' Day Out

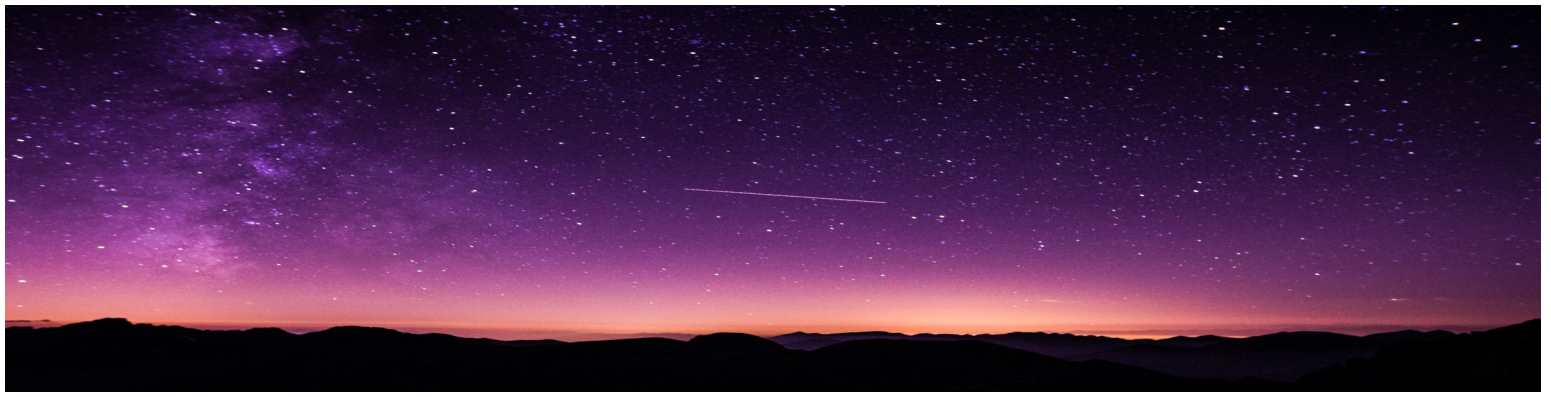
This August we have been talking about farmer's markets, gardens and making food. The children are using their new mud kitchens on the playground to play "restaurant" as they make and serve meals to "customers."

We have also been talking about how God made each of us unique and special. We read Max Lucado's children's book *You Are Special*, reflecting on this truth. We worked on self portraits in the classroom.

We would like to rename our classrooms. The teachers are brainstorming exciting new names right now. If you have any suggestions, please send them to pdo@holytrin.org

Thank you all for what you continue to do for our PDO children! We appreciate you!





How Jesus Fortifies Us Against False Prophets

In the tumultuous sea of information, opinions, and ideologies that break over us each day, we hold fast to the anchor of our faith – Jesus the true prophet.

False prophets, as always, are the crafty charlatans of our times. They come in all shapes and sizes, wearing sheep's clothing while hiding their ravenous hunger for power and deceit. They cozy up to the vulnerable, offering tantalizing lies that promise worldly gain and fleeting pleasure. They talk the talk, but their walk leads straight into the pits of despair and damnation.

These wolves in sheep's clothing seep into our culture like toxic sludge. They peddle their distorted ideologies, enticing us with promises of self-fulfillment and enlightenment. They feed on our insecurities, exploiting our deepest desires for success, happiness, and acceptance. From the corporate media to social media, they permeate every corner, whispering sweet nothings that lead us astray.

Cultural false prophets are easily recognizable, claiming to speak for, and stand in the place of, Jesus Christ. But in the churches, they're sometimes more difficult to expose because they slither in when no one is watching. These false prophets wear clerical collars, sprouting twisted interpretations of the Gospel. They twist Scripture to fit their own agendas, sowing seeds of division and confusion among the faithful. They prey on the vulnerable, leading them away from the true path of Christ and into the wilderness of heresy.

But the Bible leaves no room for equivocation on the consequences of listening to false prophets. God's Word sounds a wake-up call to all of us. In Matthew's own words, Jesus warns us that these deceivers will be cast out like withering branches and will face the fiery judgment of God. Their grand illusions will crumble like a house of cards when the truth comes knocking at their doors.

So we must be vigilant and refuse to entertain these false prophets. We must stand firm on the bedrock of God's Word and the unwavering truth of the Gospel. When we listen to the good news about Jesus Christ, it's not difficult for us to turn away from the deceivers because we find comfort and confidence in our relationship with Jesus, the God who chooses us to be in communion and fellowship with us.

With Jesus we are liberated from our childish hope in false promises and worldly cravings. Our souls are given solace in the arms of grace, where we are loved and forgiven unconditionally. Jesus, the true prophet, shows us the way to genuine fulfillment, not through empty lies, but through a relationship with the Savior of the universe.

When we walk with Christ, the burdens of this world fall away. We are no longer slaves to the shifting sands of culture, but heirs to an eternal inheritance. We are assured by the promise of God's love, knowing that we are chosen, not by our own merit, but by the boundless grace of our Lord.

And so we pray for discernment because false prophets prowl around like hungry lions, seeking to devour souls. We cling to Jesus and anchor our faith in the rock-solid foundation of his grace and mercy. In him, we find comfort and confidence, knowing that we are chosen, redeemed, and dearly loved by the One who walks with us through the valleys and leads us to the eternal feast of his presence.

Yes, we pray for discernment, because the world is a treacherous place and the false prophets lurk around every corner, ready to pounce like hungry lions on unsuspecting souls. But we have nothing to fear from them so long as we have the truth at our side – the truth that sets us free from the snares of their deceptions.

In the tumultuous sea of information, opinions, and ideologies that break over us each day, we hold fast to the anchor of our faith – Jesus, the true prophet. He is the North Star that guides us through the darkest nights, the lighthouse that steers us away from the treacherous rocks of falsehood. In him, we find comfort amidst the storms of life, because he is the One who calms the raging waters of this old, dying world and brings peace to our troubled hearts.

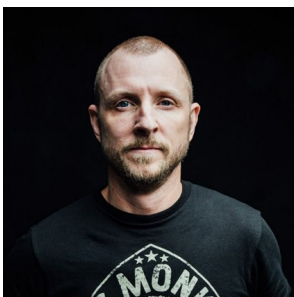
So pay attention. Be mindful of the treasure that God has given to us, which is our faith. We shouldn't let it be taken from us without a fight. Instead, ask, "Are there areas where I have been tempted to listen to the whispers of false prophets?" "Have I allowed the enticements of this world to distract me from the truth of the Gospel?" "Do I humbly examine myself and cling to the work of the Holy Spirit so that he may lead me on the path of righteousness?" "Do I naively believe that I am beyond temptation? I don't need to hear and study God's Word. I can resist and defeat false prophets on my own because I'm such a strong, good-hearted Christian?"

It's only with Jesus that we find not just comfort, but confidence. Confidence that we are chosen, not because of our own merit, but because of his abounding grace. Confidence that we are redeemed, not by our own works, but by his sacrificial love on the cross. Confidence that we are dearly loved, not by the shifting opinions of this world, but by the unchanging heart of our Savior.

And when we encounter false prophets, don't be discouraged, frustrated, or afraid. We know that the battle has already been won. Jesus, the true prophet, has conquered sin and death, and he reigns victorious. The false prophets may shout their lies from the mountaintops, but their voices are but whispers in the presence of the One who defeated sin, death, and hell for us.

So we stand tall, like soldiers of the truth, unshaken by the waves of deception. We hold fast to Jesus and never let go of his guiding hand, because in him, we find the ultimate comfort and confidence, and in him, we discover the eternal feast of His presence – a feast that satisfies the deepest hunger of our souls.

False prophets come and go, but our lives are a testament to the power of the true prophet, who chose us, redeemed us, and leads us on the path of everlasting life. Aware that false prophets will come when we least expect it, we continue to pray for the discernment and wisdom to recognize false prophets when they show up while simultaneously embracing the true prophet who will never take advantage of us, never lie to us, and never lead us astray, Jesus Christ, our Lord, and Savior.



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#.

KIDS IN THE DIVINE SERVICE

Why do we worship on Sunday?

Do you remember on what day Jesus rose from the dead? On what day did Jesus appear to His disciples on the road to Emmaus? If you guessed Sunday, you are right! The Early Church gathered on Sunday because it directed our attention to Jesus' resurrection from the dead. Many other miraculous events in the early Christian Church, such as Pentecost, happened on Sunday.



When did Christians begin gathering together for worship on Sundays?

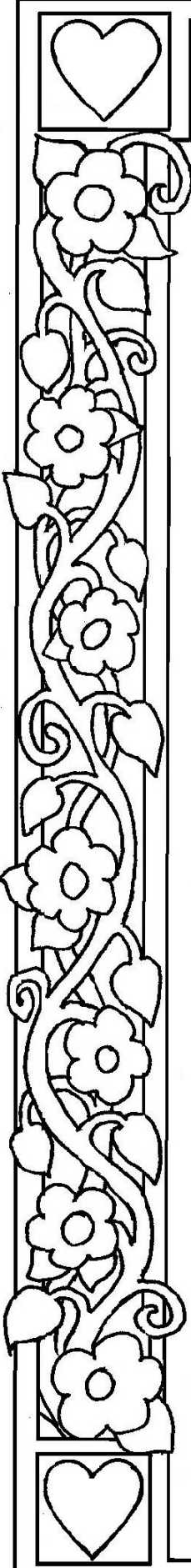
We know from the Bible that during Paul's lifetime Christians met on Sunday to hear God's Word and celebrate Holy Communion (Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 16:2). Though Christians in different regions of the world sometimes worshipped on different days, by A.D. 325 most Christians worshipped on Sunday because they considered it "the Lord's Day." Wow, what a great tradition we share with our Christian ancestors!



Parents: In the Early Church, Christians used different terms for their day of worship such as "First Day" or "Eighth Day." The label "the Lord's Day" stands out as the most significant title chosen by the Church. Direct your children to the significance in having a particular day set aside for receiving God's wonderful gifts through Word and Sacrament.

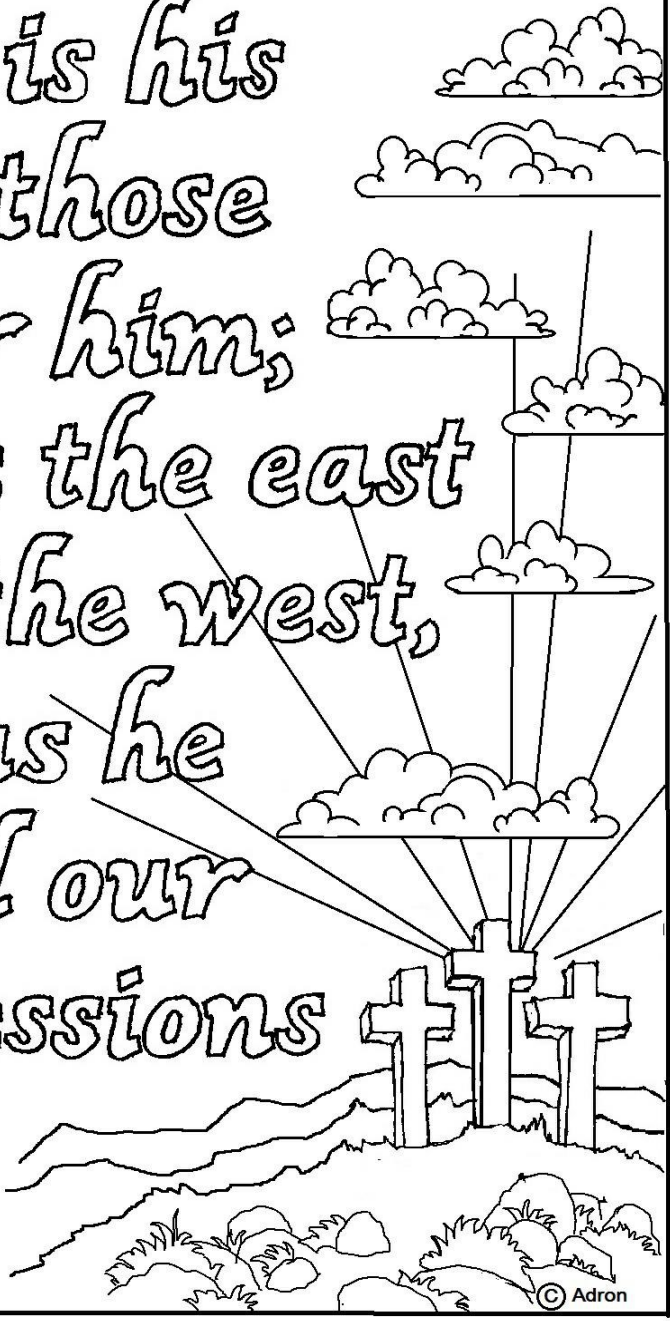


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For as high as
the heavens are
above the earth,
so great is his
love for those
who fear him;
as far as the east
is from the west,
so far has he
removed our
transgressions
from us.

Psalm 103:11-12



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FEED MY SHEEP

JULY 2023

Total Households = 38 (115 people total)

Food Pantry Statistics

Adults (18-60) = 57
Children (0-17) = 42
Senior Citizens (61+) = 15
Other (*Unknown*) = 1



PASTOR'S CARE FUND

JULY 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 = 29

Utility Help = 9
Rent/Mortgage = 2
Motel = 16
Transportation = 1



September



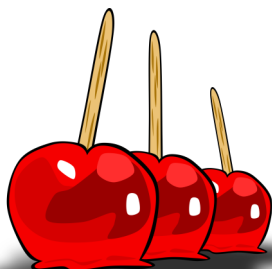
Birthdays

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| 1 Colby Adams
Jacob Byrd
Louise Shepherd | 12 Zeke Peterson
13 Faith Jones
Blair Kirby
Paul Ned | 21 Madison Finley
23 Don Budensiek
Nell Werner |
| 2 Brent Garner
Mattilyn Jones
Dawn Kiesel
Ben Miller
Reece Taylor
Raphael Uduhiri | 14 Emily Jenkins
15 Braelynn Girshner
17 Nicole Bowers
18 Cameron McCarty
Mathew Michaelson | 24 Beth Kikoen
Kristen Kvamso
26 Jena Eisma
Chelsea White |
| 5 Connor Byrd
Cherrilyn Schroeder | 19 Mike Girshner
JoAnn Girshner
Cooper Meyer | 27 Robert Carter
Julianna King |
| 6 Patricia Collins
Jameson Fredrick | 20 Bonnie Pearson
Joe Peterson
Conner Wilken | 28 Jarrod Eisma
29 Brody Conner
30 Dennis Scheel
Max Winters |
| 9 Diane Williams | | |
| 12 Josh Girshner | | |



Anniversaries

- | | |
|---|--|
| 2 Rev. HL & Dolores Bernthal
Don & Mary Mayer
Chase & Shelby White | 11 Stuart & Deb Finley
13 Roger & Bonnie Gust
15 Bob & Joyce Bauer
18 Kevin & Trisha Brockhoff
20 Lou & Millie Holtz
22 Bill & Josephine Neumann
27 Chris & Becky Jones |
| 3 LB & Ila Teeter
6 Dave & Leah O’Ryan
7 Jerry & CJ Ball
8 Myron & Linda Recob | |



SERVING IN SEPTEMBER 2023



SEPTEMBER 3
(PENTECOST 14)

SEPTEMBER 10
(PENTECOST 15)

SEPTEMBER 17
(PENTECOST 16)

SEPTEMBER 24
(PENTECOST 17)

READERS

8:00 AM

KAREN LAUNDERVILLE

JOHN JENKINS

ELAINE LAUNDERVILLE

SABRINA ISBELL

10:45 AM

WALT HEYNE

JEANNE MEYER

WALT HEYNE

SHARON DAVIS

GREETERS

8:00 AM

DAVE & WENDIE
FERGUSON

RICH RUMPF &
MARIAN VENENGA

DEAN & NANCY
EISMA

RAY ESCHENBURG &
KAREN LAUNDERVILLE

10:45 AM

SHARON DAVIS &
KATHY LAVENDER

PEGGY JONES &
MAXINE REIHMAN

BRENT & LIBBY
GARNER

LEE & ELAINE
LANDAUER

MEDIA

8:00 AM

BETH KIKOEN

DAVID HEINTZ

JENA EISMA

JOHN JENKINS

10:45 AM

JEAN GREGESICH

ZACHARY GUST

JEAN GREGESICH

STREAMING

OWEN WINTERS

MAC MACGOWAN

OWEN WINTERS

MAC MACGOWAN

LEAD COUNTERS

JAMES & JUDY
HARTMANN

FRED & SHIRLEY
LEWIS

FRED & SHIRLEY
LEWIS

FRED & SHIRLEY
LEWIS

LAWN CARE

TEAM 2 (GAS)

TEAM 3

TEAM 4

TEAM 5 (EDGING)

**ALTAR GUILD
ELDERS**

MARY FREVERT & MARY MAYER

8:00 AM – ALLEN WINTERS

10:45 AM – TED REINKER

USHERS

8:00 AM – TEAM A



(VERN SCHMIEGELOW, COLBY ISBELL, SAM WELBORN, ZACH SANDERS, LOU HOLTZ, DAVID RAFFLE)

10:45 AM – TEAM C

(FRED LEWIS, PAUL BELVIY, KEVIN BROCKHOFF, DON MAYER, GIL CAMPBELL, STEVE GONZALES)

September 2023

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church | Rogers, Arkansas

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