

THE COURIER

Sharing Christ's Love by Welcoming, Worshipping, Learning, and Serving



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Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

For Lutherans, the month of October is the month of the Reformation. Whether or not he actually nailed them to a church door, October 31 is the day when we commemorate Martin Luther's 95 Theses as the beginning of the Protestant Reformation. In 2017 we celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Lutheran church.

For the past few weeks, our Sunday worship has started to reflect Reformation themes. We've begun our worship acknowledging the God "who reforms us again and again" and we've confessed that we have "not allowed" God's grace "to set us free." In October, we'll add Reformation music to our worship, making use of the hymns and service music created by Luther and his colleagues, as Tom Hall will discuss in his article.

At our "Supper Study" on Wednesday, October 4, we will begin a seven-week class called "By Faith: Conversations with Martin Luther's Small Catechism." After a light supper, we will discuss how this summary of the Christian faith, written in 1529, continues to nourish and inform our lives as 21st -century Christians.

The ELCA has produced a textbook for this course. While you don't need the book to participate in the class, it is available for fifteen dollars to anyone who wants to purchase it.

Our Oktoberfest has been rescheduled to Sunday afternoon on October 15. Brats, buns, and beverages will be provided by the church. There is a sign-up sheet in the sanctuary so you can volunteer to bring side dishes, desserts, or condiments, or you can call the church office to do this. Please thank Lisa Napolitano and Susan Amann for their hard work in planning this event.

Even as we celebrate how God has reformed the church in the past and continues to reform the church today, there are other events in the month of October that deserve our attention. One of them is Interfaith Week, an annual event in St. Petersburg; this year, it takes place October 1-8.

Another event is the AIDS Partnership dinner that will be served by members and friends of Trinity on October 18. And between them is the annual assembly of the Florida-Bahamas Synod, where Jan Dorr, Lynne Tallon, and I will have the daunting task of voting to elect our new bishop.

(Continued on next page)



Trinity Lutheran Church

Paul Gibson—Pastor
Lynne Tallon—Deacon
Thomas E. Hall—Organist &
Director of Music
Margie Smith—Administrative
Assistant
Azur H. Abdic' - Facility
Administrator
Spring Smith—Sexton
Gayle Nelson—Missionary

Council Members

- Jan Dorr, President
- Lee Magnus, Vice President
- Gary Ruhl, Secretary
- Helen Mowrer, Treasurer
- Toni Durilla, Financial
Secretary
- Robert Burke
- Pastor Paul Gibson
- Norma Heinicke
- Anne Ruhl
- Lynne Tallon

Pastor Paul continued from page 1:

The theme of Interfaith Week 2017 is “I am Your Neighbor.” Throughout history, Christians have struggled to understand our relationship with the practitioners of other religions. In the gospel of John, Jesus says the cryptic words, “I have other sheep that do not belong to this flock,” which suggests to many that the Holy Spirit is actively working in all the religions of the world. We’ve evolved from trying to convert people to our faith to working in partnership with other faiths for the good of our neighbor and all of creation.

Trinity will host two events during Interfaith Week. At 7 p.m. on Monday, October 2, we will host a workshop about bigotry and hate speech and on Saturday, October 7, from 3 to 5 p.m., one of our parking lots will be the venue for a “Drive-Thru Blessing of Pets.”

Martin Luther didn’t have Twitter, but he did have access to the brand-new medium of printing. Alongside the many social advances ushered in by the

Reformation, its saddest legacy is how it fed anti-Semitic and anti-Muslim attitudes in the Middle Ages and the centuries that followed.

How should we respond to Luther’s words of hatred and calls for violence? And, now that social media are providing new forums in which to express racism, sexism, xenophobia, and homophobia, what is a person of faith to do?

The Monday workshop will honestly assess the hateful language that Luther aimed at “the Jew” and “the Turk” and the response of Lutheran Christians in the centuries since the Reformation, before addressing hate-speech in the 21st century and how we can restrict its power.

It is my prayer that, during the month October, we will have many opportunities to see God actively working to REFORM our lives, our faith, and our world.

Your brother in Christ,
Pastor Paul

Distribution of the new pictorial directory has been delayed because of Hurricane Irma.

The directories should be ready by mid-October.





Let's party like it's 1529!

1529: Martin Luther's Small Catechism is published.

1529: The term "protestant" is first used.

This year's Oktoberfest has been changed to Sunday, October 15 following the worship service, and will be a celebration of food and faith! Brats, hot dogs, buns and beverages will be provided. Sign up to bring your favorite German dish to share or call the office and tell us what you're bringing. Come and participate in games and activities centered around our Lutheran beginnings (Reformation Jeopardy, anyone?) as well as some old favorite contests of skill and chance.

Questions? See Lisa Johnson. Hope to see everyone there!

As a man browsed through a rare-book store, he chatted with its owner. The customer had recently thrown away a dusty old Bible he'd found in the attic of an old house he'd just bought.

"Someone named Guten-something-or-other had printed it," he mentioned offhandedly.

"Not Gutenberg?" the shop owner gasped.

"Yes, that was it," the man replied.

"You threw away one of the first books ever printed!" the owner exclaimed in dismay. "A copy recently sold at auction for half a million dollars!"

"Oh, I don't think this Bible would've been worth anything like that," the man replied. "It was scribbled all over in the margins by some guy named Martin Luther."



"Faith is a living and unshakeable confidence, a belief in the grace of God so assured that a man would die a thousand deaths for its sake."
-Martin Luther



When a train goes through a tunnel and it gets dark, you don't throw away the ticket and jump off. You sit still and trust the engineer.
—Corrie ten Boom

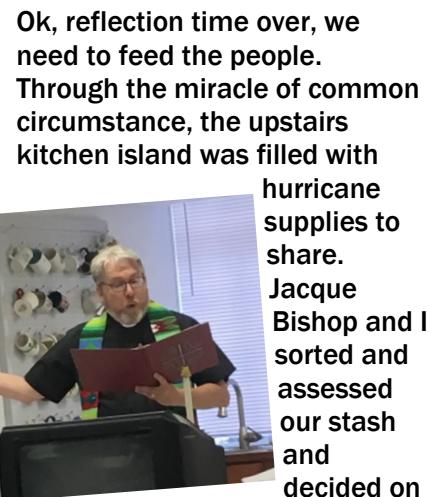
The 24 Hour Family



We were brought together by a disaster movie-worthy category-5 monster named Irma. After a week of weather channel doomsday prophecy, a small group of people gathered at the church to find shelter from the storm. After a short service led by Pastor Paul and capped off with an a capella Amazing Grace which brought more than one person to tears, we settled in for whatever lay in store. Pastor Paul asked me and Whitney to sort of be "in charge" which we agreed to, at which point I thought of myself not so much as the boss, but more of the den mother or team mom.

The first thing I noticed was how quickly we try to establish a home – a space that is ours alone. I believe that having this space instills in us a sense of security. Within the first hour, practically each person had staked their claim and boundaries were respected by all.

I surveyed the fellowship hall and saw a brilliant spectrum of humanity. People of different



ages, races, social statuses and life experiences all made equal by the force of Mother Nature. About 30 people, 3 dogs, and 3 cats, all temporarily on the exact same path at the exact same time.

Ok, reflection time over, we need to feed the people. Through the miracle of common circumstance, the upstairs kitchen island was filled with hurricane supplies to share. Jacque Bishop and I sorted and assessed our stash and decided on

a big pot of Beanie Weenies with bread and butter for lunch (in hindsight, this was probably not the best meal for a large group in a small space, but you do what you have to do, right?). In any case, the pot of food seemed very small when measured against the number of people to be fed, but everyone ate their fill and there was even a small amount leftover. Hmm, seems like I have heard this story before somewhere....

After lunch was cleaned up, we watched more hurricane coverage on Betty's tablet. Most tried to relax in some way. Blankets and pillows were pulled out for naps, a jigsaw puzzle was

poured out onto a table, and some read or listened to music. A suggestion was made to fill a trash can with water in case the system failed and we needed it to flush. Time ticked by so slowly.

Around 3 pm I thought we might need to start thinking about an evening meal, not knowing how long the power would stay on. So Jacque and I went back upstairs and put together mac and cheese with four different shapes of pasta, an 8 oz. brick of Monterey jack cheese, one mini Velveeta chunk and two packages of boxed mac and cheese sauce. As a bonus, we had some ground beef to brown and mix in as well. After this was in the pans and put into the oven to keep warm, we were discussing what canned veggies to heat up when the power went out. It was about 4:30 – much earlier than we anticipated. Jacque and I headed downstairs to the fellowship hall where we were greeted by a loud annoying electronic beeping sound. The alarm was sounding due to the power failure, and several people were gathered around the keypad trying to make it stop.



I have to pause here to give heartfelt thanks to the creators of the phone app called Zello. This is a push-to-talk app and works like a walkie-talkie. Alan Due and I had been doing hourly check-ins using this app

and it was invaluable at this time since we could not get the alarm to stop. When I reached out to Alan, the alarm company was already calling Pastor Paul, and it just so happened that Tom was standing right there who had a key to the office. All of these things rolled into a perfect five minutes so I could get instructions on silencing the alarm and what to do if it went off again.

Calm restored...more waiting.

Someone begins to get really scared...hugs and assurances that "God's got this".

Getting hot in the fellowship hall....more waiting.

Served mac and cheese....more waiting.

As the evening wore on, it became clear that we would not be subject to the worst of the predictions, and as the center of the storm passed us it would be a low cat-2 or a cat-1. A cautious relief began to run through our little family. A group went upstairs where it was much cooler. I passed around a package of wet wipes for a little bit of freshening up while Brendan and Whitney played chess, Alan Soli read the Sunday paper, some had snacks, most watched the storm out of the huge windows which we probably shouldn't have been standing next to, but we did anyway. When it got too dark to see, we went back to the hall. Whitney's flashlight obsession finally paid off as we had

enough stand-up lantern-type lights to fill the room. After one more round of Bay News 9 updates, it was time to find a place to try to get some sleep.



Whitney and I slept on the floor in the office so I could continue to shut off the alarm each

time it went off warning us that there was no power.

There were people spread out all over the second floor from the sanctuary to the hallway near the back staircase. As people drifted off into fitful sleep, the wind screamed outside our fortress of safety. Each time I woke up during the night (which was many) I questioned to myself if it was over only to be answered from outside with a gusty, screeching "not yet!"

Morning. Finally. Quiet outside now.

People began stirring around 5:30. I risked opening the door to let some much needed air into the room. It was the most glorious soft breeze I have ever felt. As more people awoke, happy "we made it" grins lit up our gloomy room. We were in it together, and together survived a truly nerve-wracking experience.

One last sociological observation; the only time tempers flared (including mine, I regretfully admit) was when the curfew was lifted

and we prepared to re-enter the real world. Interesting.

As we left each other to return to our pre-Irma lives, some hugged and promised to try to see each other again. Some quietly disappeared into the now peaceful day. Hopefully some will return to our church on Sunday. Time will tell.

How could all of these radically different people come together to form a perfect 24 hour community of sharing and caring?

As Bob Dylan says, the answer is blowin' in the wind.



- Lisa Johnson





From the MUSIC DIRECTOR

twentieth century and on into the twenty-first however, the tune *Vineyard Haven* has often been used with this text. We will sing *Vineyard Haven* on October 15; it is found in the ELW at number 874. Richard Dirksen (1921-2003) wrote *Vineyard Haven* for the installation of John M. Allin as the presiding bishop of the Episcopal Church. It was sung for the first time in Washington Cathedral at the installation on 11 June 1974. The tune has been compared favorably with Vaughn Williams' *Sine Nomine* and Abbot's *Leigh*. Raymond Glover has called *Vineyard Haven* "a stirring tune, modal in nature and folks-like in character." Paul Westermeyer commented, "It is clearly a compelling twentieth-century tune that bears the authenticity of our period and is not an imitation of anything else. Though its sweep has a nineteenth-century underlay, it brings with it contemporary tonal ambiguities. Written in a C minor frame it plays with both a flatted Phrygian second degree and a sharped fifth Dorian one".

In celebration of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation we will be using four pieces of service music in the choral idiom provided or suggested by Martin Luther. The Hymn of Praise will be *All Glory be to God on High*, tune name *Allein Gott in der Hoh*, found at ELW 410. The text and melody are attributed to Nikolaus Decius (1485-1546), a German monk, hymn text writer, and composer. The text was intended as a German version of the Gloria of the ordinary of the mass. Decius wrote three stanzas, probably in 1523, and a fourth was added, most likely by Joachim Sluter (1490-1532). The tune is adapted from a tenth-century Easter chant for the Gloria text, beginning at the part of the chant accompanying the words "et in terra pax" ("and on Earth, peace"). Various chorale preludes on the tune have been written for organ, including ten by J.S. Bach, who also used the tune in cantatas 85, 104, 112, and 128. Typical of many Lutheran chorales, *Allein Gott* is in bar form (AAB).

The Agnus Dei (Lamb of God) will be *Lamb of God, Pure and Sinless*, tune: *O Lamm Gottes, unschuldig*, ELW 357. As with *All Glory be*, the text and tune were adapted by Nikolaus Decius. The text is a German adaptation of

On October 15, the nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost, the hymn of the day will be *Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart* with the familiar text by Edward H. Plumptre (1821-1891). Often, this text is paired with the tune *Marion*. During the last quarter of the

the *Agnus Dei* of the mass. In this case, the tune is adapted from a plainsong in Mass 9 "Cum jubilo" for the feast of the blessed virgin. J.S. Bach used the tune in the opening movement of the *St. Matthew Passion*.

Both of the pieces discussed above are familiar at Trinity, as they have been used as service music previously. They will be introduced on October 1. The following Sunday, October 8, we will introduce two less-familiar pieces: For the Kyrie, we will sing *Kyrie, God Father*, tune *Kyrie, Gott Vater*, ELW 409. The text is an adaptation of the nine-fold Kyrie; the authorship is uncertain. The tune is adapted from the plainsong *Kyrie, fons bonatatis*, which dates from early medieval times, and has been used in many applications ever since.

The creed will be *We all Believe in One True God*, tune *Wir Glauben All*, ELW 411. The single stanza medieval hymn based on the creed, is found with Latin and German texts in a Breslau manuscript from 1417. Martin Luther expanded it to three stanzas, based on the three articles of the Nicene Creed. The tune is adapted by Luther from the plainsong *Credo in unum Deum*.

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750) wrote a collection of organ settings of hymns used by Martin Luther as service music or for instructional purposes, which comprise the bulk of his collection *Klavierübung III* (often referred to in English as the *Catechism Hymns*). Bach set each tune twice; once in a setting for keyboard(s) and pedal, and once in a setting for keyboard(s) only. On Reformation Sunday, October 29,

the setting with pedal for *Kyrie, God Father* will be played as the opening voluntary and *We All Believe* will be played as the closing voluntary. A setting by J.S. Bach of the *Lamb of God* from the collection known as *Eighteen Chorales* will be played on October 1. As this piece sets each of the three stanzas individually, stanzas one and two will be played as the opening voluntary, and stanza three as the closing voluntary.



The choral music for Reformation will include three works. The first is *Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice* by Benedict Ducis (1480-1544), which will be sung near the beginning of the service. Born in Bruges, Ducis was a Flemish musician, the claims of certain German historians notwithstanding. He studied with Josquin Des Pres and was organist in the Lady Chapel at the Cathedral in Antwerp. *Dear Christians* is a setting of a hymn by Martin Luther.

The choral Gospel Acclamation will be *O God, in Thy True Word* by Johann Walther (1496-1570). Not to be confused with the 18th-century Johann Gottfried Walther, this Johann Walther was a friend and musical

adviser of Martin Luther. He was born in Cola, Thuringia. In 1525 he began serving as Kappelmeister to the Elector of Saxony. Luther invited him to Wittenberg to collaborate in the creation of the German Mass. In addition to motets and sacred part-songs, he composed and arranged many chorales.

Also included in the service is the motet *Lord, Keep Us Steadfast* by Dietrich Buxtehude (1637-1707). Buxtehude is considered one of the most important composers in Germany of the mid-Baroque, and perhaps the most influential Lutheran composer between Schutz and Bach. Buxtehude wrote for in a variety of idioms. His organ works form an

important part of the standard repertoire, and are written in the north German *Stylus Fantasticus* (Fantastic Style). He also wrote a wide variety of sacred vocal music, as well as music in secular forms. He was a major influence on composers of the succeeding generation including J. S. Bach and Telemann. The motet *Lord, Keep us Steadfast* is based on the tune and text of the familiar chorale, found at ELW 517. The choir and organ will be joined for this piece by violinist Linda Hall and flutist Barbara Prescott. The presence of these musicians is made possible by the members and friends of Trinity who have contributed to the Special Music fund.

Tom Hall
Organist and Director of Music

A MIGHTY FORTRESS

“A Mighty Fortress,” the hymn written by Martin Luther in 1529, is powerful in English but even better in its original German. Historian Michael Streich notes that Luther compares God not only to a fortress but to a completely secure stronghold, or *Feste Burg*.

“A burg was a fortified town,” Streich says. “When invaders approached, the surrounding populace fled to the safety of the walls”—sometimes to layers of walls within walls. Luther’s hymn compares God to the most powerful of all burgs, with eternally unbreakable walls.

When we need a place of refuge, God offers his Mighty Fortress, his *Feste Burg*. Within this refuge, with our value based on our relationship to God rather than on earthly achievements, we’ll never be put to shame. Inside this fortified town, the God who desires an eternal relationship with us delivers, rescues and saves us.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God". The title is at the top, followed by the author's name, Martin Luther, and the translator, F. H. Hedge. The score consists of four staves of music in common time, treble clef, and G major. The lyrics are printed below each staff. The first stanza reads:

1. A mighty fortress is our God, A bulwark never fail-ing;
 2. Did we in our own strength confide, Our striv-ing would be lost - ing;
 3. And tho' this world, with dev-ils filled, Should threaten to un-do us;
 4. That word a - bove all earthly pow'rs—No thanks to them—a-bid eth.

The second stanza continues:

Our help-er He, a - tal'd the flood Of mor-tal ills pre-vail - ing.
 Were not the right Man on our side, The Man of God's own choos - ing.
 We will not fear, for God hath willed His truth to tri-umph through us.
 The Spir - it and the gifts are ours Thro' Him who with us sid - eth.

The third stanza begins:

For still our an-cient foe Doth seek to work us woe; His crafts and pow'r are
 Dost ask who that be? Christ Je-sus, it is He; Lord Sebaoth is His
 The prince of darkness grim—We tremble not for him; His rage we can en-
 Let goods and kin-dred go, This mor-tal life al - eth: The bod - y they may

The fourth stanza concludes:

great, And, armed with cru-el hate, On earth is not his e - qual.
 name. From age to age the same, And He must win the bat - tie.
 dure, For lo! his doom is sure, One lit - te word shall fell him.
 kill; God's truth a - bid - eth still, His king-dom is for - ev - er.



Feed My Sheep October Update



300 people were served during the month of September

Our food pantry continues to serve those in our community with gusto, even "Irma" only stopped our work for one day. We broke our serving record the week before "Irma" with a total of 112 folks receiving food and/or clothing.

There were several Guardian Angel encounters this past month. A friend of Bob Burke inquired how he and Trinity fared during "Irma" and sent a donation to

be used as needed, so razors, soap, and potted meat were purchased. The

Friday before "Irma" during our serving hours, a woman brought multiple bags of food and snacks but gave no name-just another Angel who knew we needed help. This along with donations from our Trinity family, Paradise



Lutheran, Peterborough, Lutheran Residence, and the St. Petersburg Free Clinic, ensured that all who came received food.

The fund-raiser on Monday, November 27, 2017, at Hamburger Mary's Drag Queen Bingo is moving along. We will need at least 100 guests in attendance. We must provide 10 gifts (value of \$25 or more), and have workers to go about and sell 50/50 raffle tickets before and during the bingo. Flyers have been given to the pastors of our sister congregations to advertise the event. The information will be put on Trinity's Facebook page and Trinity's website. Spread the word, invite friends and

family, call Hamburger Mary's (727-851-9386) and make a reservation for Monday, November 27 for the Trinity Lutheran Church fund raiser. Food and fellowship starting at 6 pm, bingo begins at 7:30 pm. See you there (this may not be appropriate for teenagers and children).



Fundraiser

There have been requests for deodorant, shampoo (trial size), and laundry soap (individual packets or pods), if you can donate any of these items bring them to church on any Sunday, to the pantry on Tuesdays or Fridays between 10 am to noon, or to the church office Monday-Thursday between 9 am and 3pm.

God's blessings,

Alan Due

and Lynne Tallon





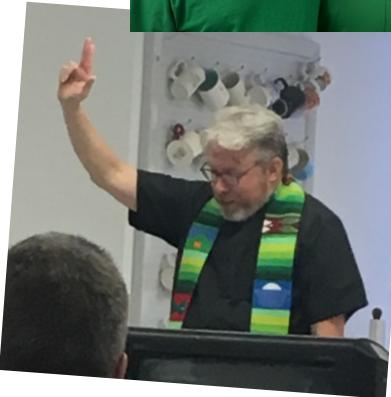
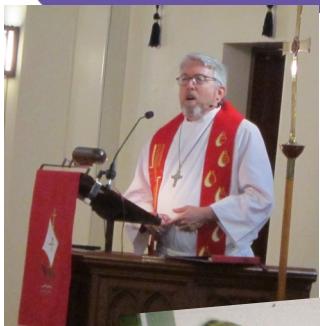
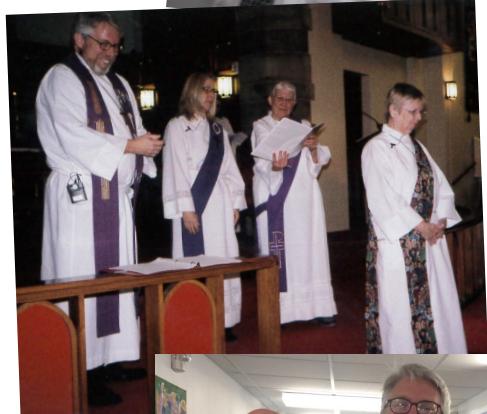
PASTOR APPRECIATION MONTH

The month of October is celebrated as Pastor Appreciation Month. Given the reluctance of many pastors to call attention to themselves, it's not likely that they will mention anything about being appreciated.

Were someone to ask a pastor, however, what might be done to show appreciation to him, the answer would likely be, "Pray for me."

The Apostle Paul never asked for anything for himself except that others pray for him. To the church at Rome, he wrote, "I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to join me in earnest prayer to God on my behalf, that I may be rescued from the unbelievers in Judea, and that my ministry to Jerusalem may be acceptable to the saints, so that by God's will I may come to you with joy and be refreshed in your company" (Romans 15:30-32, NRSV).

Encourage our pastor by assuring him of your prayers and love.



However, I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only AIM is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the good news of God's grace.
Acts 20:24



10/4 Shirley Carter
 10/4 Lynne Tallon
 10/6 Esther Marshick
 10/11 Philip Rearick
 10/23 Carol Bertoluzzi
 10/23 Monaye Kearse
 10/27 Michael Soli
 10/28 Robert Burke



10/20/1978 Craig & Helen Mowrer (39)



OCTOBER SERVERS

(Note openings for flowers and fellowship)

	October 1	October 8	October 15	October 22	October 29
Assisting Ministers	Sean Reynolds & Matthew Reitz	Lynne Tallon & Alan Soli	Matthew Reitz	Alan Due	Karen Toth
Acolyte	Sean Reynolds	Alan Soli	Matthew Reitz	Alan Due	Brendan Hall
Lector	Mishelle Richards	Sean Reynolds	Pastor Tom Snapp	Amanda Moffitt	Anne Ruhl
Greeters	Karen Toth & Bill Diefel	Jan Dorr & Barbara Macomb	Carol Bertoluzzi & Mishelle Richards	Lynne Tallon & Amanda Moffitt	Lisa Johnson & Charlene Diefel
Ushers	Bill Diefel, Charlene Diefel, Rebecca Reitz, Mishelle Richards, Karen Toth	Jan Dorr, Barbara Macomb, Rebecca Reitz, Sean Reynolds, Karen Toth	Lisa Johnson, Barbara Macomb, Amanda Moffitt, Rebecca Reitz, Mishelle Richards	Bill Diefel, Jan Dorr, Amanda Moffitt, Rebecca Reitz, Sean Reynolds	Charlene Diefel, Lisa Johnson, Helen Mowrer, Matthew Reitz, Rebecca Reitz
Flowers	Charlene Diefel	Band of Angels	Lisa Johnson & Betty Napolitano		Karen Toth
Fellowship					Birthday Sunday



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8:30 am Choir 9 am Bible study 10 am Worship 11:30 am Core Team	2 7 pm Interfaith workshop	3 10 am Food Pantry	4 8:15 am Men's breakfast 9:30 am Sew n' Sews 6 pm Supper Study	5	6 10 am Food Pantry	7 8 am Loaves & Fishes breakfast 1 pm Reconciling Works 3-5 pm Blessing of Pets
8 8:30 am Choir 9 am Bible study 10 am Worship 11:30 am Oktoberfest	9 Columbus Day	10 10 am Food Pantry	11 8:15 am Men's breakfast 9:30 am Sew n' Sews 6 pm Supper Study	12	13 10 am Food Pantry	14 8 am Loaves & Fishes breakfast 9 am Congregation breakfast
15 8:30 am Choir 9 am Bible study 10 am Worship	16 6 pm Council	17 10 am Food Pantry	18 8:15 am Men's breakfast 9:30 am Sew n' Sews 6 pm Supper Study	19	20 10 am Food Pantry	21 8 am Loaves & Fishes breakfast
22 8:30 am Choir 9 am Bible study 10 am Worship	23 Newsletter Deadline	24 10 am Food Pantry	25 8:15 am Men's breakfast 9:30 am Sew n' Sews 6 pm Supper Study	26	27 10 am Food Pantry	28 8 am Loaves & Fishes breakfast
29 Reformation Sunday 8:30 am Choir 9 am Bible study 10 am Worship	30	31 Reformation Day 10 am Food Pantry Halloween			Church office hours: Monday - Thursday 9 am - 3 pm	