

# **Lebanon Lutheran Church August 2023 Newsletter**

*Worship Service 9:00 am*

*Sunday School 11:00 am*

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*Lebanon Church VA 22641*

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# **NALC**

North American Lutheran Church



# *A Message*

## *From The Pastor*

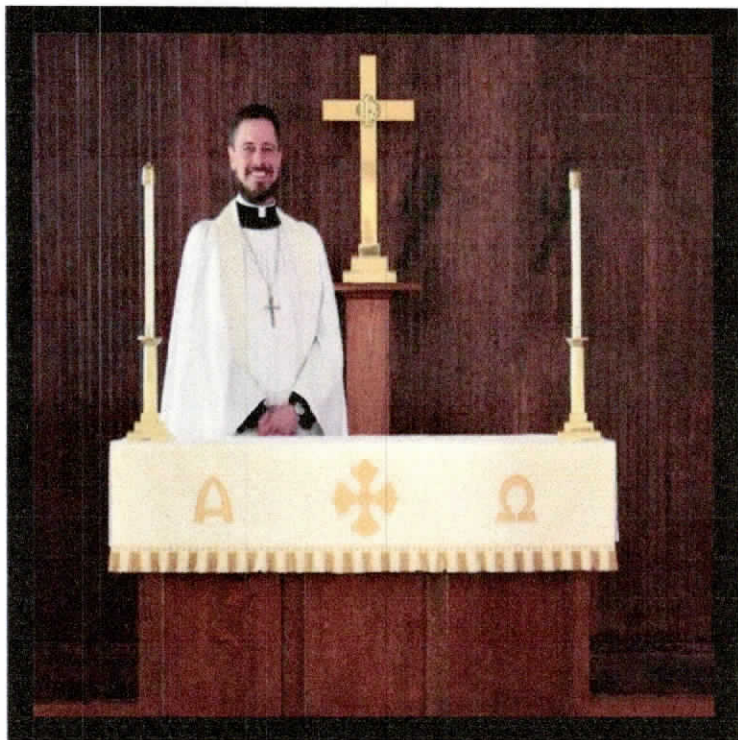
Hebrews 2:1-4 (ESV)

1 Therefore we must pay **much closer attention** to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it.

2 For since the message declared by angels proved to be reliable, and every transgression or disobedience received a just retribution,

3 how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? It was declared at first by the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who heard,

4 while God also bore witness by signs and wonders and various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will.



Greetings Lebanon and friends,

We are now in the dog days of summer... I know that many of us are looking forward to, embarking on, or coming back from vacation, or if not, just trying to keep cool during the heatwave. Hopefully this article will not overtax your attention!

We've been working hard, no doubt, in our daily lives and many of us at church too. The 175<sup>th</sup> is coming soon and we're tidying up loose ends and preparing for the big day. I'm very grateful to the Anniversary Committee and all who have contributed and put forth the needed effort. God bless you for that. We should all remember that service to the church is good and godly, and that our Lord regards it well, especially when it is performed in faith and in thanksgiving for God's innumerable blessings.

As I sit in the office, giving thanks to God for the inventor of air-conditioning, I'm also thinking about *attention*, how necessary it is for appreciating the wonderful works of God – spiritual and temporal. I have already mentioned (in one of my sermons) how dogs can put many of us to shame when it comes to having laser-focused attention, at least insofar as it concerns food. We live in an age that seems tailored to diminishing our ability to keep our attention focused on any particular thing for very long. Big, bright, shiny, glamorous things are always competing for our attention. The internet is a veritable warzone when it comes to focusing on any particular thing – just try to read an article on most websites, or try to follow an online recipe – a horde of blinking boxes and

banners call our attention to this or that advertisement, away from the thing that brought us to the page to begin with! Ever try to read the morning news on your phone only to get captured by several other things, emerging sometimes hours later from a kind of digital fog, no longer even remembering what you've been reading about? In this span of time, one may have missed a phone call from a dear friend, a beautiful sunrise, the subtle play of light stretching across the floor of the living room, or any number of beautiful and more edifying things.

It is a problem. It seems apparent that we should guard our attention from all those forces that seek to capture it... if for no other reason than that only in this way will we make much progress toward any of our goals.

If one grants this regarding the mundane daily stuff, *how much more* should we guard our attention when it comes to necessary and saving *spiritual* realities?

The author of Hebrews exhorts the church to consider this question in the passage above. In the previous chapter, he argues that we do indeed have a GREAT SALVATION in Jesus Christ; superior to all created things, even higher the blessed angels of God, and even higher, he will come to argue, than the Mosaic Law. God has provided it, but if we are distracted by lesser things, we are prevented from entering into it, making use of it, applying it, abiding in it. In fact, the author will argue that we can *drift away* from it. Perish the thought!

We, he says, should *pay much closer attention*...

This is difficult for us, of course. The world, the devil, and our own sinful flesh would tempt us to seek the path of least resistance. Just go with what comes naturally, they say. In reply, the Scriptures say, "No! Take the more difficult and more blessed way!" Cultivate your ability to pay attention to the things that matter, and especially the thing that ultimately matters - salvation in Jesus Christ.

There are some things we can do to begin the discipline of cultivating attention:

- *Put down the phone.* At least limit the time that you allow yourself to gaze at the screen. Most smartphones have apps that can be used to do this.
- *Take time to sit and think.* I know we are busy, but simply sitting and remaining in one place for a bit is an antidote to being harried and distracted. Sit and let your mind notice its own contents, that is, reflect. Notice what comes to mind. How difficult is it to simply sit and notice your own thoughts? This is an indication of the degree to which one has the capacity for both thinking and attention.

- *Better yet, sit and pray.* Thinking is good and isn't opposed to prayer, but thinking alone isn't going to develop your ability to enter into the peace of God. Perhaps a few simple prayers said repeatedly could serve as a means to slow the mind so that it may intentionally acknowledge His presence.
- *Pursue contemplation.* This isn't just something done by ancient saints or spiritually adept people, it's something we can all do by God's grace. Once you have slowed down, brought your attention to God and His presence, perhaps then offering praise and petitions, then move to meditate upon one of God's attributes: His love, His perfection, His mercy, His omnipotence, etc. Or, take up and read...
- *"Chew" on the Scriptures.* Take up and read! If you use a schedule for reading through the Holy Scriptures, slowly read and reflect on the reading for the day. If you don't use a schedule, turn to one of the Psalms, or one of your favorite passages, and *slowly* turn it over and over in your mind. Let it seep into you. "Chew on the Scriptures like a cow chewing its cud", as Johann Gerhard directs. What is God trying to tell you? What do you need to do or not do? What does He promise you in these divine Words? Sit with the text and abide in it.
- *Form an intention.* Once you have done all of this, determine what you may do to show your appreciation for the Word of God that He speaks to you. Once you have formed an intention, seek out ways to make good on it according to your vocation and calling. How can you honor God in your daily life? What specific thing or things can you do to fulfill this intention?

This process isn't automatic, at least not at first, and it will take effort. But when you slow down and begin to devote your attention to God, blessings of one sort or another will follow. This is a discipline, and discipline means work. It may be slow-going and arduous for a time, but you will eventually begin to appreciate God's work in you. At the very least, your time certainly won't be wasted – you won't be lost in the fog of the world's distractions.

So, get a cold glass of tea, take a breath, and know that you are God's beloved child, as your baptism tells you! Don't run around in circles and beat the air, but run the race that God has set before you.

Prayerfully,

Pastor Porter



# Events at Lebanon

Do you or someone you know need a ride to Church?

Please contact Ann Deming  
(540)869-5795 Leave Mssg.

## *Wednesday's*

8:15 AM *Matins*

10:00 AM *Individual Confession & Absolution*

1:30 PM *Communion*

*(There will be no 5:30 Vesper Service)*

## *August Birthday's*

6<sup>th</sup> *Libby Smoot*

17<sup>th</sup> *Bridget Diehl*

*Women's Meeting*  
*Thursday, August 24<sup>th</sup>*  
*@ 7:00 PM*

*Men's Prayer Breakfast*  
*Saturday, August 12<sup>th</sup>*  
*8:00 AM @*  
*Queen Street Diner*

*Church Service*  
*Changes for*  
*July and August*

*\*Divine Worship*  
*Service @ 9:00*

*\*Sunday School*  
*@ 11:00*

*(We will resume regular church service*  
*schedule on Sunday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>)*

## *August Anniversaries*

8<sup>th</sup> *Jonathan & Helen*  
*Baker*

11<sup>th</sup> *Robbie & Lisa*  
*Parks*

Sunday School Class led by  
Rev. J.D. is at 11:00 Sunday  
for July & August

## **Christian Education**

Children's/Elementary  
Sunday School Class led by  
Leslie Heird and Dorothy  
Harriman is on summer break  
and will resume in September

## *Church Anniversary* *Planning Meeting*

*\*August 6<sup>th</sup> brief meeting*  
*after worship service and*  
*\*August 27<sup>th</sup> time TBD*

## *Choir Practice*

*Choir will practice*  
*Thursday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>*  
*and Thursday, August*  
*17<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00 PM*

*\*See Evelyn if interested in*  
*joining the Choir*

## *Flowers For Sunday* *Morning Worship*

*If you would like to provide*  
*flowers, please see Dorothy*  
*Harriman (540)409-6470*



**We are celebrating 175 Years of  
Bearing Witness to Christ!**

Sunday, September 24, 2023

10 am Divine Service of Holy Communion

Luncheon Follows at 12:30 pm\*

The Community is welcome to join us!

**Lebanon Lutheran Church**

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Check our Facebook Page for additional Anniversary Events!

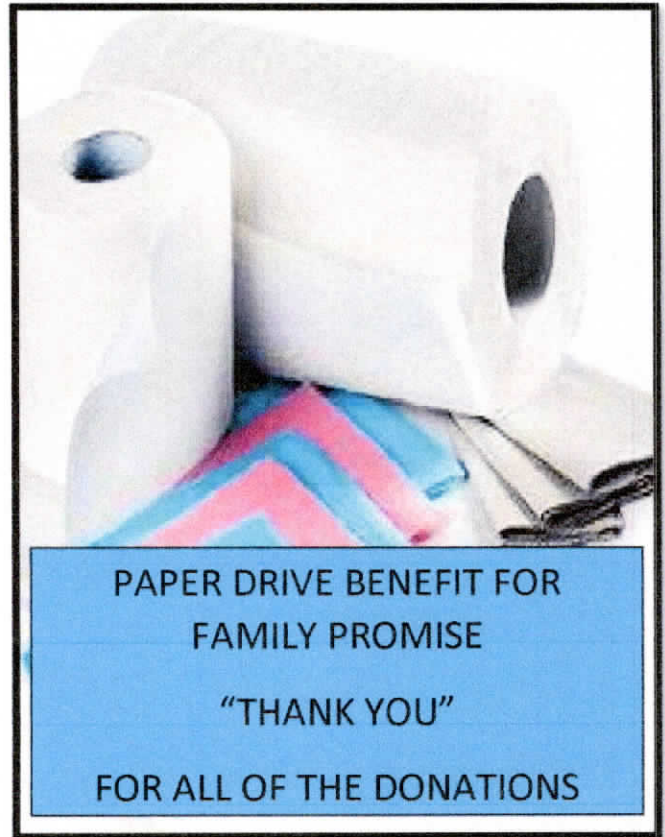
**\*RSVP Required for Luncheon no later than August 31st**



## *Life at Lebanon*



We received and we welcome into membership Jeff & Bridget Diehl on July 2<sup>nd</sup> and we look forward to worshipping with them.



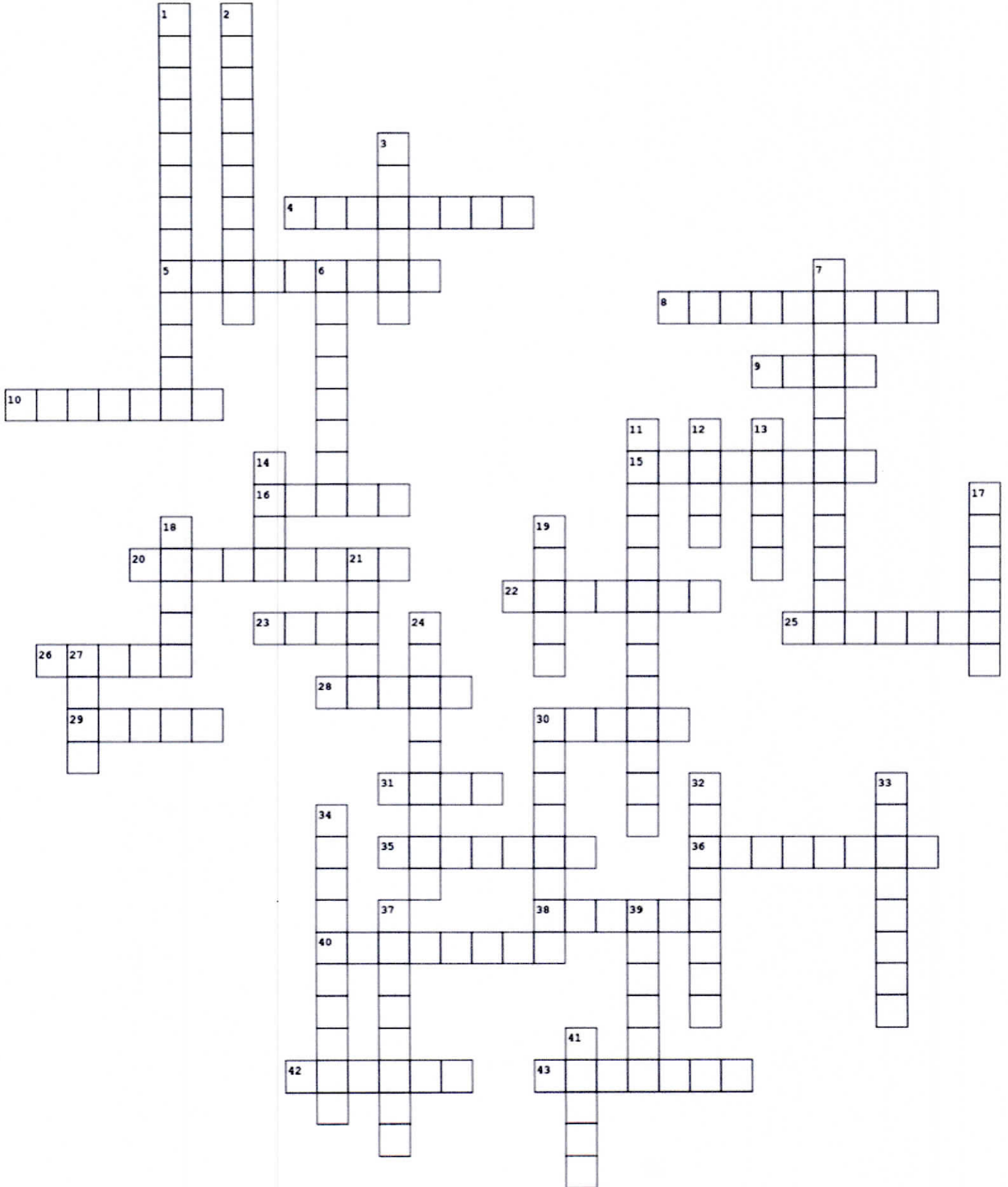
PAPER DRIVE BENEFIT FOR  
FAMILY PROMISE  
"THANK YOU"  
FOR ALL OF THE DONATIONS

Thank you to everyone who donated paper products for the Paper Drive to benefit Family Promise, they were very appreciative.



**Installed the Banner in front of the church as Lebanon Lutheran Church is celebrating its 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on September 24<sup>th</sup> with Church Service at 10:00 AM and a Luncheon at 12:30 PM at Lebanon Church Community Center catered by Rutz's BBQ. (Please RSVP by 8/31/23 for luncheon)**

# 1 Corinthians Chapters 12-16





## 1 Corinthians Chapters 12-16

### Across

4. "For in one Spirit we were all \_\_\_\_\_ into one body" (12)
5. His household was the first converts in Achaia? (16)
8. "For some have no \_\_\_\_\_ of God." (15)
9. Last of all Jesus appeared to him? (15)
10. These will cease? (13)
15. God appointed them first in the church? (12)
16. All things in church should be done decently and in what? (14)
20. Paul will stay in Ephesus until this time of the church? (16)
22. The one who speaks in a tongue builds up who? (14)
23. "always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in \_\_\_\_\_." (15)
25. "Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, \_\_\_\_\_ all things." (13)
26. "So now \_\_\_\_\_, hope, and love abide, but the greatest of these is love." (13)
28. "For God is not a God of confusion but of \_\_\_\_\_." (14)
29. "For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made \_\_\_\_\_." (15)
30. Love rejoices with this? (13)
31. "no one can say 'Jesus is Lord' except in the \_\_\_\_\_ Spirit." (12)
35. Paul says who is doing the work of the Lord, as he is? (16)
36. "Nevertheless, in church I would rather speak five words with my mind in order to \_\_\_\_\_ others, than ten thousand words in a tongue." (14)
38. In accordance with the scriptures on the third day Christ was \_\_\_\_\_. (15)
40. They are appointed by God second in the church? (12)
42. Christ appeared to him and then the twelve? (15)
43. "But thanks be to God, who gives us the \_\_\_\_\_ through our Lord Jesus Christ." (15)

### Down

1. "the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are \_\_\_\_\_," (12)
2. The one who does this builds up the church? (14)
3. Do not be led this way to mute idols? (12)
6. If you speak in the Spirit of God you cannot say "Jesus is \_\_\_\_\_!" (12)
7. "So is it with the \_\_\_\_\_ of the dead." (15)
11. "To each is given the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Spirit for the common good." (12)
12. "As it is there are many parts, yet one \_\_\_\_\_." (12)
13. "Be watchful, \_\_\_\_\_ firm in the faith, act like men, be strong." (16)
14. If one speaks in tongues of men or angels but do not have this, they are a noisy gong or clanging cymbal? (13)
17. I will sing this with my spirit but also my mind. (14)
18. This is swallowed up in victory? (15)
19. "The \_\_\_\_\_ of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law." (15)
21. "If the whole body were and eye, where would be the \_\_\_\_\_ of hearing?" (12)
24. Paul plans to visit the Corinthians after he passed through where? (16)
27. "the last \_\_\_\_\_ became a life-giving spirit." (15)
30. They are appointed by God third in the church? (12)
32. Do not be like these, in your thinking? (14)
33. If anyone has no love for the Lord, let him be \_\_\_\_\_." (16)
34. "Christ died for our sins in accordance with the \_\_\_\_\_," (15)
37. "If one member suffers, all suffer \_\_\_\_\_;" (12)
39. If one speaks in tongues but there is no one in church to interpret then the one who speaks in tongues should remain this way? (14)
41. People are given these by the Spirit, but we don't all receive the same ones? (12)

All Questions are Formed from the ESV Bible.

Chapters are in Parenthesis.







# Lebanon Lutheran Church



◀ Jul 2023		August 2023					Sep 2023 ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
		1	2 8:15 Matins	3 7:00 Choir Practice	4	5	
6 9:00 Divine Service *Brief Anniversary Meeting After Worship 11:00 Sunday School  *Trinity 9	7	8	9 8:15 Matins	10	11	12 8:00 Men's Prayer Breakfast @ Queen Street Diner 9:00 Cleaning Day @ Church	
13 9:00 Divine Service 11:00 Sunday School  *Trinity 10	14 10:00 Acts Bible Study	15 10:00 Greenfield Reflections Service 11:00 Greenfield Service	16 8:15 Matins 10:00 Individ. Confession 1:30 Communion Service 7:00 Worship/Music Meeting	17 7:00 Choir Practice	18	19	
20 9:00 Divine Service 11:00 Sunday School  *Trinity 11	21 10:00 Acts Bible Study	22 10:00 Greenfield Reflections Service 11:00 Greenfield Service	23 8:15 Matins 10:00 Individ. Confession 1:30 Communion Service	24 7:00 Women's Meeting	25	26	
27 9:00 Divine Service 11:00 Sunday School *Anniversary Meeting Time To Be Announced  *Trinity 12	28 10:00 Acts Bible Study	29 10:00 Greenfield Reflections Service 11:00 Greenfield Service	30 8:15 Matins 10:00 Individ. Confession 1:30 Communion Service 6:30 Pastor @ H-burg Lutheran Church of Valley	31	<p><b>Note: Pastor is on vacation July 31<sup>st</sup> through August 4<sup>th</sup></b></p> <p><b>*Pastor is at the NALC National Convocation in Oklahoma on August 7<sup>th</sup> through August 11<sup>th</sup></b></p>		