



TLC Grapevine

September 2026

www.trinitybemidji.org

A Publication of Trinity Lutheran Church, Bemidji, Minnesota (218) 444-4441

Worship Service

9:00 am, Sunday
6:30 pm, Wednesday
(During Lent & Advent)

Sunday School (Sept - May)

10:30 am - 11:30 am

Weekly Bible Study

Wednesday 1 - 4 pm

Sunday 10:30 am

Confirmation (Sept - May)

Wednesday 4:15 pm



trinity3@paulbunyan.net

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SEPTEMBER

Delegates debate, worship, receive Gospel comfort

August 17, 2026 / Reporter / By Cheryl Magness

During the 69th Regular Convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS), held July 18–23 in Phoenix, the Rev. Jared Melius, ordained voting delegate from the LCMS Rocky Mountain District, was asked what he loves about the LCMS. His answer likely speaks for many who were at this year's convention: "I love that no matter what kinds of conflicts ... we might have ... the people here, whatever their positions on our issues might be, love the Lord Jesus and particularly love the Lord's Gospel, which grants unto us the comfort of the forgiveness of our sins."

That message of Gospel forgiveness was apparent in ways big and small as more than 1,300 delegates — and hundreds more guests, both national and international — descended on downtown Phoenix for a week in July under the theme "Christ Is Risen Indeed." They came prepared to walk (from hotel to convention center and back again, over and over); to perspire (which they did, but due to milder-than-expected weather and a couple of powerful rainstorms owing to Arizona's "monsoon" season, not as much as you might think); to sit, and sit, and sit some more; to receive the gifts of Word and Sacrament; to exchange handshakes, hugs and hellos; to revisit old memories and make new ones; to sing; to pray; and to give thanks for the Lord's blessing and provision for His church.

But most of all they came to do the task appointed for them: to hear about the Synod's work over the past triennium and to discuss and determine the direction of that work for the next triennium. And work they did, electing 78 officers, board and commission members and adopting more than 100 resolutions on issues ranging from pastoral formation to church fellowship to structure and administration.

(Find full coverage at reporter.lcms.org/convention, read Today's Business and convention minutes at lcms.org/convention/national, and view the convention livestream at lcms.org/convention/livestream.)

Preaching for Matins on July 23, the convention's final day, the Rev. Dr. Alonso Espinosa, LCMS third vice-president-elect, reminded convention-goers that, while their work is necessary and important, there is something far more important: "This new life empowered by Christ's resurrection does not come from Synod resolutions, congregation and school budgets in the black, peace in the parish — though we give thanks for that if we know it — nor any other state or condition in our lives.

"The only thing that causes us to stand are the mysteries of God. And these mysteries of God are bound up in the Lord Jesus Christ — in all that Christ has done, in all that Christ is doing and in all that Christ will do to save us from sin, death and the power of the devil. The mysteries of Christ give us Christ, who is risen indeed."

After the final bang of the gavel officially closing the 2026 LCMS convention, delegates sang Christ's comfort one more time before departing for home: "Come, holy Fire, comfort true, Grant us the will Your work to do And in Your service to abide; Let trials turn us not aside. Lord, by Your pow'r prepare each heart, And to our weakness strength impart That bravely here we may contend, Through life and death to You, our Lord, ascend. Alleluia, alleluia!" (*Lutheran Service Book* 497:3).

Group Meetings

❖ Ladies Guild

Ladies Guild will meet on Thursday, September 3rd at 1:00 pm at the Church.

❖ Men of Trinity

Will meet on Monday, September 21st at 5:30 pm at the Church.

❖ Hannah Circle

Will meet on Thursday, September 10th at 1:00 pm at the Church.

❖ Altar Circle

Will meet on Monday September 21st at 1:00 pm at the Church.

❖ Eunice Circle

Will meet on Tuesday, September 15th at 9:30 am at the Church.

❖ Christian Singles

The Christian Singles will meet for lunch on Sunday, September 13th.

❖ Happy Quilters

The "Happy Quilters" meet on the 3rd & 4th Thursdays of each month at 9:00am at the church.



CHURCH OFFICERS

President: Randy Yarbrough - 218-766-0695
Council Secretary: Amy Koebke - 218-586-3319
Financial Secretary - Becky Theis - 218-368-6916
Treasurer: Rodney Olson - 218-689-2508

ELDERS

Rod Wentzel - 218-751-6119
Scott Wilson - 701-238-7557
Mike Lohse - 218-556-5802
Eric Lee - 218-966-1023
Kevin Ellis - 218-508-1487

CHURCH BOARDS

TRUSTEES

Mark Tisler - 701-640-3447
Dave Krueger - 218-766-5053
James Quint - 218-556-4406

BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP

Bonnie Wentzel - 218-751-6119
Larry Eichstadt - 218-751-0659
Heather Ellis - 218-766-3079

BOARD OF MISSIONS

VACANCY
Steve Krueger - 218-751-3794
Margaret Richer - 218-333-3607

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Ben Lang - 218-340-3672
Janet Wilson - 218-533-3019

YOUTH BOARD

Dede Kubitz - 218-280-8526
VACANCY
Katie Lang - 605-484-1459

What God Says vs. How We Feel



So how do you receive God's Word, as He says or by how you feel?

A theologian named Schleiermacher erroneously taught we are free to accept or reject what God's says based on how we feel, especially when culture demands that we change how we once felt in the past.

Thus, those who champion his ideas, teach, albeit falsely that we are free to reinterpret God's Word endlessly even though God warns not to add or subtract from His unchanging Word.

Do you, then, follow those who want us to religiously change the meaning of God's Word based on how we feel even though St. Paul warns us about our fallen nature, "The carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be." (Rom. 8:7)

This of course answers why many 'feel' we have the right to deny what God's Word says, particularly when He condemns our sinful choices. But when we reject what God says about our sin, we undermine the Gospel's 'good news' that Jesus came to save us from it.

So, when men 'feel' free to pick and choose when God's Word has authority over them, they in essence are demanding that God accept what they feel is 'good' as long as we feel 'love'. In effect they believe our human feelings are the same as God's when they are not.

Take for example the man who recently claimed God never condemns LGBTQ love as sinful in His Word, but rather embraces it. He argues that since the Holy Spirit has enlightened man and speaks of making things new God wants us to continually find new expressions of love, even in such lifestyle choices as he quotes this verse, "whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love."

So let's examine his words. First, he said, God never condemns his lifestyle even though God plainly does in (Rom. 1:24-32). Second, he misconstrues the meaning of the new life we have in Christ as one of turning away from sin to be that Christ accepts any life choice as long as it is lived in 'love'. In this he denies the Gospel that God's love toward man was to send His Son Jesus to die on His cross to redeem us from our sin, and not on account of our love.

As new creations in Christ, therefore, true love toward God and man is to keep God's Word regardless of the culture and how we feel by refraining from all sinful behaviors that His Word condemns. In his feelings of love, however, he rejects God's grace that promises that when we fall into a sin like homosexuality or for that matter any sin, we are to turn in repentance to receive the forgiveness Jesus purchased on His cross. And finally, to be loving and feel' culturally in tune, he redefines God's revealed masculine nature as expressed in the Father, Son and Holy Spirit to be feminine using the pronoun 'her'.

So ask, is it wise to place our feelings above God's Word for the purpose of justifying our sinful behaviors under the guise of love or to redefine God? Should we let our ever changing feelings and culture redefine Jesus' Gospel of grace?

The Apostle Paul wrote to warn us of this danger, "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine but, after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itchy ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned to fables (2 Tim. 4:3-4)

For this reason, I am concerned about anyone falling into the trap that says God's Word has no authority over us as long as our actions are predicated upon feelings of love. Why, because "if all we need is love," human love as the Beatles meant, what need of we of Jesus' love from His Cross that redeemed us from our sin.

So my encouragement is, humbly receive God's Word with all of its authority, both His Law that condemns all our sinful behaviors and His Gospel that teaches us to repent of our sins that we might receive Christ's true love. His love from the cross that makes sinners like us acceptable in God's eyes through the forgiveness of our sins and not on account of how we feel about them.

~ God's blessings! Rev. Les Uhrinak



Be A LERT,

I haven't written for a while. That does not mean LERT has been idle. Over the past months we have led LERT trainings and chainsaw trainings. Having the privilege to be a chainsaw trainer, I had the opportunity to lead a training for the North Dakota District in May. The District relief trailer is being readied for use and should be available in August. And a note to add, the District grapple is available for use, just call me (763-370-3441) to pick it up.

It seems time goes way too fast, but just to let everyone know our LERT teams have not been idle, so far this year we have led two LERT basic trainings, and a chainsaw training. We also have deployed to North Carolina in March, worked at LIC both and LERT trained and chainsaw teams in May, chainsaw and team in Zimmerman, and chainsaw and LERT trained in Detroit Lakes after the tornado July 6. Note: The included pictures are of both LIC and DL work.

We don't always think about the benefits of LERT and how important to have teams of both LERT trained and chainsaw trained until a need arises in our neighborhood. This is the case right now in Detroit Lakes, as was last summer in northern MN when Itasca Park and Bemidji were hit with major damaging storms. As you read about these accounts, I pray that you both desire to be those hands that cling to the cross and reach out to others with help. Indeed this is your invitation to contact me or pastor John Beck and we will happily set up a training for either basic LERT or chainsaw.

May our Lord bless your caring ministry to others, in His name,
Pastor Gary Rehborg, DDRC, MNN

Activity Page



A sweet reminder that God is always growing something new, no matter the season. As summer winds down and a new school year begins, remember He is at work in your life, helping you grow in faith, kindness and courage. With His help, you can grow in wisdom, build friendships and shine His love wherever you go.

What you need:

- 2 cups milk
- 1 (4-serving) box chocolate instant pudding mix
- 1 (8 oz.) tub whipped topping, thawed
- 1 (16 oz.) package Oreo cookies, crushed
- 8 (9 oz.) clear plastic cups
- Gummy worms or frogs (optional)



What you do:

1. In a large bowl, whisk together milk and pudding mix for 2 minutes. Let stand for 5 minutes until thickened.
2. Gently fold in the whipped topping.
3. Add a layer of crushed cookies to the bottom of each cup.
4. Spoon pudding mixture on top, filling the cups about $\frac{3}{4}$ full.
5. Sprinkle more crushed cookies on top to look like "dirt."
6. Add gummy worms or frogs for fun.
7. Chill until ready to serve, or enjoy right away.

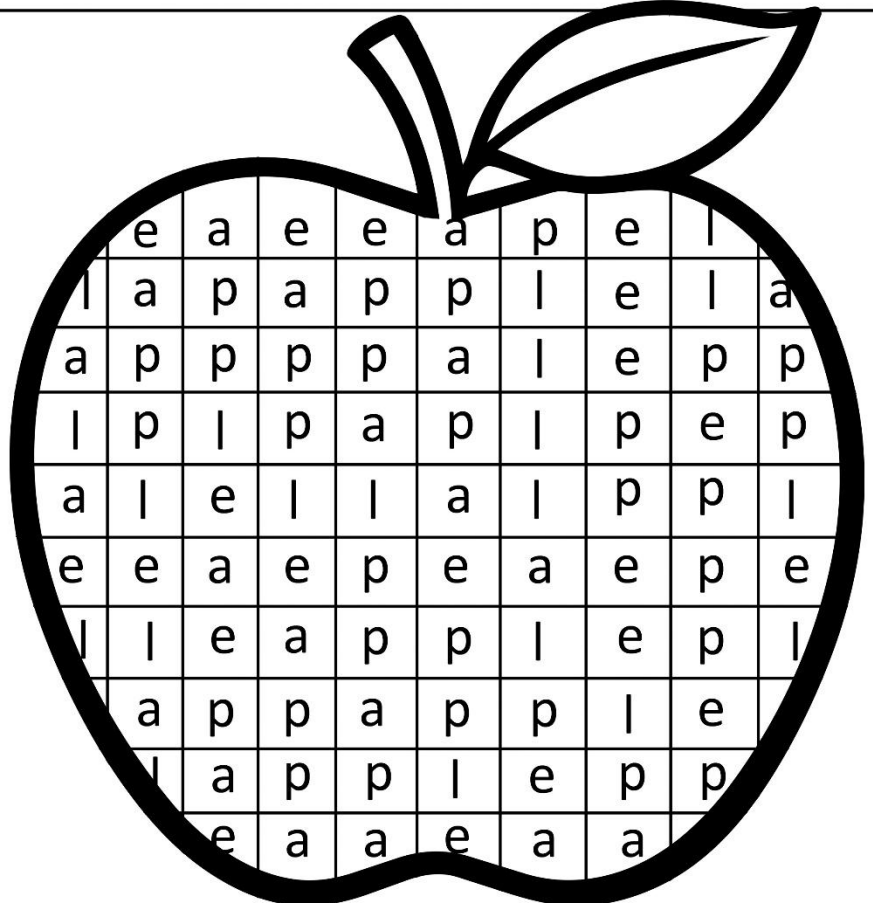
See, I am doing a new thing!
Now it springs up; do you not
perceive it? — Isaiah 43:19 (NIV)



Apple of Your Eye

"Apple of your eye" means something very special that you protect. As school starts again, remember what God says in Proverbs 7:2 (NIV): "Keep my commands and you will live; guard my teachings as the apple of your eye."

Can you find the word "apple" 12 times in the puzzle?
Look up, down, across, and even backward!





News & Announcements



The Women's Bible Study groups will begin again in September.

Hannah Circle will meet September 10th at 1:00 pm. Their Bible Study will be from the Lutheran Witness.

Eunice Circle will meet September 15th at 9:30 am. The Eunice Circle will continue their Bible Study for 1, 2, 3 John.



Updates to the Prayer Chain

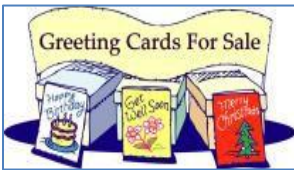
The **NEW EMAIL** for the Prayer Chain is: TLCPrayerChain@yahoo.com

To contact the Prayer Chain by phone, you can call Heather Ellis at 218-766-3079.

**The Portals of Prayer for
July – September 2026
Are available in the Basket
In the back of the Sanctuary.**



Greeting Cards for Sale!



The Ladies Guild has refreshed the selection of Greeting cards for sale in the Narthex. Please come and take a look. Single cards and boxes are priced as marked. Check or Cash. You can leave the payment in the container provided. Make checks payable to Trinity Ladies Guild.



The Council requests that everyone help in God's House by: Cleaning up after yourselves; Turning off ALL lights (except the office hallway), Locking ALL

the doors before leaving the church on Sundays and anytime that you have used the building. Thank you!



Do you enjoy making music? If you can count, we can teach you to play hand bells. We meet on Tuesday nights at 6PM. Please call Debbie at 218-766-5325. Our first meeting will be on Sept. 8th. Come and join the bell choir to Ring Praises to the Lord.

Lutheran Island Camp Upcoming Events



Church Workers' Wives September 24th - 26th

Come away for a weekend of rest and renewal centered in God's Word. Gather with other pastors' wives for Bible study, prayer, meaningful fellowship, and time to encourage one another in the unique vocation of supporting Christ's Church. Enjoy delicious meals, peaceful moments in God's creation, and optional activities like kayaking, campfires, and lakeside walks. Return home refreshed by Christ's promises and strengthened for the work He has entrusted to your family.

Register online or call the office at 218/583-2905 if you would like assistance with registration.

Parent Child Horse Weekends September 11-13th, 2026 September 18-20th, 2026

The horses are still here, the trails are even more beautiful, and camp isn't over yet! Join us for Fall Parent & Child Horse Camp and experience the best of Lutheran Island Camp in a whole new season. Ride together through colorful autumn woods, gather around the campfire, grow together in God's Word, and enjoy the peaceful pace of fall while making memories that will last a lifetime.

The weekend follows a schedule similar to our popular summer horse camps, giving families the opportunity to enjoy horseback riding, horsemanship instruction, trail rides, chapel, campfires, games, and plenty of time to simply be together. Whether you're returning because you can't get enough of horse camp or experiencing it for the first time, this weekend is a wonderful way to share the joy of camp with your child.

Children must be at least 8 years old to participate.

SEPTEMBER STEWARDSHIP

Stewardship in the First Commandment

"The greatest gift that Martin Luther gave to us was his Small Catechism. The word "enchiridion" is part of the original title of this work. This is the Greek word for "handbook." The Small Catechism is a handbook of the Bible. All the basic knowledge that a Christian needs to understand the faith and live a godly life has been taken from the Bible and distilled into this beautiful little book of Christian piety.

Luther starts with the Ten Commandments.

The First Commandment:

You shall have no other gods.

What does this mean? We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things. (SC I)

We have a God above us. He is the Lord God and we are not. He is Almighty and in control. He is righteous and good. And therefore, we should fear Him.

This God is also our heavenly Father. He wants us to be saved. He does not want us to suffer His just wrath. He has provided salvation for us in His Son, Jesus Christ. And therefore, we should love Him.

Our heavenly Father will never leave us nor forsake us. He has promised as much — and the Bible shows us that He always keeps His promises. So, we should trust Him.

In the Large Catechism, Luther explains how money and possessions form one of the greatest temptations against the First Commandment:

This I must unfold somewhat more plainly, that it may be understood and perceived by ordinary examples of the contrary. Many a one thinks that he has God and everything in abundance when he has money and possessions; he trusts in them and boasts of them with such firmness and assurance as to care for no one. Lo, such a man also has a god, Mammon by name, i.e., money and possessions, on which he sets all his heart, and which is also the most common idol on earth. He who has money and possessions feels secure, and is joyful and undismayed as though he were sitting in the midst of Paradise. On the other hand, he who has none doubts and is despondent, as though he knew of no God. For very few are to be found who are of good cheer, and who neither mourn nor complain if they have not Mammon. This [care and desire for money] sticks and clings to our nature, even to the grave. (LC I 5–9)

These words of Dr. Luther should call us to repentance; sometimes, we live and act like we don't have a Father in heaven. We seek our comfort and peace outside of His gracious promises. But we do have a Father in heaven. He does love us. All His promises are true. And the Lord will surely provide. If that is our belief, then our outward lives will reflect this belief in our acts of generosity and mercy. We will see money and possessions not as gods but rather as tools for doing God's work.).



Monthly Receipts/Expenses

General Fund Deposits	\$24,952.66
Interest Receipts	\$11.11
Adjustments	
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$ 24,963.77

TOTAL BUDGETED EXPENSES	\$18,279.03
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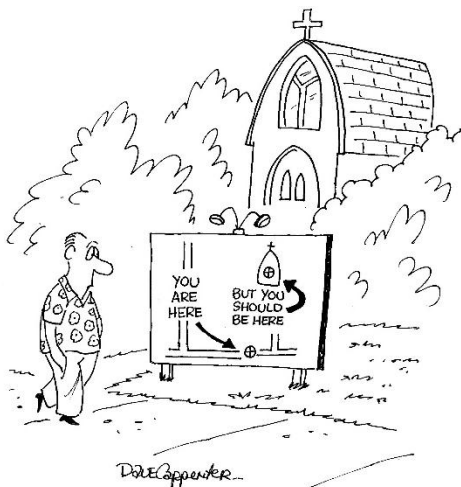
	Monthly +/-
OVERAGE/SHORTAGE	+\$ 6,684.74

September Birthdays and Anniversaries at Trinity Lutheran Church

2	Kermit Anderson	17	<i>Kevin & Heather Ellis (32)</i>
3	Kevin Ellis, Guy Wold	19	Tara Moeller, Roberta Otting
4	Wayne Thorson	20	Carolyn Eichstadt
6	Linda Wold	21	Gretchen Wentzel
7	Ryker Eichstadt, James Quint	23	Sarah Hartshorn
9	Katie Lang	25	Tom Dressen <i>Andy & Sarah Branham (27)</i> <i>Larry & Pam Eichstadt (44)</i>
10	<i>Ian & Rachel Vander Hoven (4)</i>		
11	Theresa Hartshorn <i>Dale & Tara Moeller (33)</i>		
12	Hunter Bowley		
15	Karen Hanson		



A DOSE of HUMOR



Altar Flower Volunteers Needed!!



Sign up to sponsor the Altar Flowers for a Sunday, Cost is \$30. If you are interested, contact the Church Office.

Address/Phone



If your address and/or phone number changes, please let the church office know so your information will be correct in the church database.
Thank you



LARGE PRINT bulletins are available for those that have difficulty with the regular bulletin. If you would benefit from having one of these bulletins, please ask an usher for a copy.

If you are interested in being a Greeter or an Usher, please speak with one of the Elders.



WHEN YOU LEAVE GOD'S HOUSE, please turn out ALL the lights (except in the office hallway) and please check that ALL the entrance doors are LOCKED, even if you didn't unlock them.

Portals of Prayer are in the basket at the back of the sanctuary.



Check out our website:
TrinityBemidji.org



ALTAR GUILD

The season after Pentecost begins with Holy Trinity Sunday and continues through the last Sunday of the church year in November. The paraments are green, the color of life, refreshment and regeneration. Throughout this season, the focus is on the Lord's teaching and how it is applied in the life of the Church.



A "Gluten Free" option is available for communion. If you would like to take advantage of this option, please speak with Pastor or Elders.

BEMIDJI AREA FOOD SHELF

Trinity, along with United Methodist Church volunteers the 3rd Monday of each month at the Food Shelf. Nine people are needed from 12:00pm – 3:30pm. The Food Shelf would not function without all of the volunteers that give of their time. Thank you for all you do to help make the Food Shelf run smoothly. ~ June Roxstrom



Please check the covered bulletin boards in the Entrance Hall for Letters, Events, Concerts, Meals, Fundraisers, Local Activities and News. Calendars and community resources are on the bulletin boards in the hallway.

Read Through The Bible In A Year - September

1	1 Chronicles 29:10-13 Job 31-33	9	Psalm 93 Proverbs 14-16	17	Psalm 101 Ecclesiastes 7-9	25	Psalm 109 Jeremiah 13-15
2	Psalm 86 Job 34-36	10	Psalm 94 Proverbs 17-19	18	Psalm 102 Ecclesiastes 10-12	26	Psalm 110 Jeremiah 16-18
3	Psalm 87 Job 37-39	11	Psalm 95 Proverbs 20-22	19	Psalm 103 Song of Solomon 1-4	27	Psalm 111 Jeremiah 19-22
4	Psalm 88 Job 40-42	12	Psalm 96 Proverbs 23-25	20	Psalm 104 Song of Solomon 5-8	28	Psalm 112 Jeremiah 23-25
5	Psalm 89 Proverbs 1-3	13	Psalm 97 Proverbs 26-28	21	Psalm 105 Jeremiah 1-3	29	Psalm 113 Jeremiah 26-28
6	Psalm 90 Proverbs 4-7	14	Psalm 98 Proverbs 29-31	22	Psalm 106 Jeremiah 4-6	30	1 Chronicles 29:10-13 Jeremiah 29-31
7	Psalm 91 Proverbs 8-10	15	Psalm 99 Ecclesiastes 1-3	23	Psalm 107 Jeremiah 7-9	31	
8	Psalm 92 Proverbs 11-13	16	Psalm 100 Ecclesiastes 4-6	24	Psalm 108 Jeremiah 10-12		

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM Bible Study	3 1:00 PM Ladies Guild 5:30 PM Board of Elders	4	5
6 9:00 AM Worship w/Communion 10:30 AM Bible Study <i>ACF Serves</i>	7 	8 6:00 PM Bell Choir	9 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM Bible Study 4:15 PM Confirmation	10 1:00 PM Hannah Circle	11	12
13 9:00 AM Worship w/Communion 10:30 AM Bible Study 11:30 AM Christian Singles <i>Youth Groups Serve</i>	14	15 9:30 AM Eunice Circle 6:00 PM Bell Choir	16 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM Bible Study 4:15 PM Confirmation	17 9:00 AM "Happy Quilters" 6:00 PM Church Boards 7:00 PM Church Council	18	19
20 9:00 AM Worship w/Communion 10:30 AM Bible Study	21 1:00 PM Altar Circle 5:30 PM Men of Trinity	22 6:00 PM Bell Choir	23 No Bible Study or Confirmation	24 9:00 AM "Happy Quilters"	25	26
Pastor will be gone						
<i>Men Serve</i>						
27 9:00 AM Worship w/Communion 10:30 AM Bible Study <i>Ladies Guild Serves</i>	28	29 6:00 PM Bell Choir	30 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM Bible Study 4:15 PM Confirmation			