Evangelical Lutheran Church ECHOES NEWSLETTER

Parkview & Lycoming Avenue | Abington, Pennsylvania 19001 | Tel: 215.659.2642

September, 2019

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Pastors

The Rev. Dr. Michael G. Tavella The Rev. N. Amanda Grimmer

Staff

The Rev. Dr. Dan Selbo,
Bishop of the North American
Lutheran Church
Mrs. Jacqueline Smith, B. Mus.
M. Mus., Director of Music
Mrs. Deborah Mumford,
Parish Secretary

Worship Services

Saturday at 5 pm Sunday at 9 am (Sunday Church School at 10:30 am)

Holy Communion

Saturday evening, Sunday morning & Festival Days

Deadline for submission of material for the Echoes Newsletter is 9 am the 15th of each month

From the Pastors

Dear Parish Family,
An excerpt from The Templeton Project blog:
The Biblical Foundation - Apology

In English the word *apology* most often means an expression of regret or sorrow for one's lapse in behavior in word or action; but, it can also be used according to its meaning in ancient Greek, which is a defense of a point of view, opinion, idea, philosophy, religious belief, etc. In the New Testament the word is used in this latter sense in both its nominal and verbal forms.

Apology is used most often in Luke - Acts and Paul. The verbal form appears two times in Luke, six times in the Book of Acts, and once in Romans and 2 Corinthians. In Luke 12:11 Jesus counsels the disciples, "And when they bring you before synagogues and the rulers and authorities, do not be anxious about how you defend yourself or what you should say, for the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say." (Luke 12:11-12 ESV) The parallel passage in Matthew does not utilize the verb apologeomai, defend oneself, as does Luke. The same is true when comparing Luke 21:14 with parallels in Matthew and Mark. Here again, only Luke employs the verbal form of apology while Matthew and Mark use a verb meaning to speak.

Luke 12: 11 pertains to the witness of the disciples at a time of persecution. The Greek verb, apologeomai, in the English Standard Version of Luke 21:14 is translated "to answer." The whole verse reads, "Settle it therefore in your minds not to meditate beforehand how to answer, for I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which none of your adversaries will be able to withstand or contradict." (Luke 21: 14 ESV) In persecution the disciple has the opportunity to witness to the Gospel. Both passages in Luke where apologeomai is used refer to persecution and martyrdom of Jesus' disciples. The meaning in both contexts is the same. The Christian replies to the charges of the opponent and, at the same time, testifies to the Gospel of Christ.

In Acts the verb is used six times. Paul makes his defense before Felix in Acts 24; before Festus in Acts 25; and before Agrippa in Acts 26.

Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

Mission Statement

Holy Trinity Evangelical
Lutheran Church is a
congregation of people of God,
bound together in love for the
purpose of glorifying God in
worship and in fulfilling His will
through spreading the Gospel of
salvation in Jesus Christ to all
humankind.



The Altar Flowers have been presented to the Glory of God by the people of Holy Trinity. Altar Flowers must be ordered no later than the Tuesday afternoon preceding the Sunday they are presented. They may be ordered through the Church Office (215-659-2642). You may pay by placing \$20.00 in a small white pew envelope checked,

From the Pastors

Continued from pg. 1

Luke does not use the noun apologia but Acts, written by Luke, does. In Acts the word is used two times toward the end of the book, as is the case with the verbs. The word refers to Paul's defense of his ministry in public. In Acts 22 Paul must defend himself against the Jews' false accusation that he was teaching against the Law and bringing Gentiles into the Temple. In Acts 25 Paul makes his case before Festus, Agrippa, and Bernice.

In Acts 22 Paul gives an account of his conversion. Paul's defense also served as opportunities to witness to Christ. He insisted that he was not preaching against His people, the Law, or the government. In Acts 26 Paul gives yet another account of his conversion.

Both verb and noun refer to Paul's defense in various contexts that were of a juridical nature. He defends himself against false charges, gives account of his conversion, and witnesses to Christ. The crowd opposed to the Apostle interpreted his defense with loud threats against his person. The government officials listen more sympathetically.

The next article will consider Paul's use of apology in Philippians and then in 1 Peter, its only use outside of Luke-Acts and the Pauline correspondence.

In Christ, The Rev. Dr. Michael G. Tavella The Rev. N. Amanda Grimmer



BELIEVERS ARMED AND DANGEROUS

Healing Prayer **Ministry**

After the 9:00 AM Sunday Service, trained members of the Healing Prayer Team are available in the Chapel of the Good Shepherd to meet with you for healing prayer. Prayers are offered for your physical, emotional, and spiritual health.

Women's Prayer Group

The Holy Trinity Women's Prayer Group is scheduled to begin again Monday, September 16th and will continue to meet

the 3rd Monday

of each month. We gather at **7:30 p.m.** in the room over Rosemary Hinkle's garage. (See church directory for phone # and address) This space offers privacy. Coffee, tea, and dessert are served! Every woman is welcome, please come as you are able.

Questions contact Rosemary @ RosemaryHinkle@comcast.net

2019 Schedule

Sept. 16,

Oct. 21

Nov. 18

Dec dates TBD

Prayer List

One of the beautiful aspects of Christian Fellowship is that we can share one another's concerns through prayer.

Please pray for the following individuals & their families: (we cannot add last names) The families of the members Holy Trinity together with those they love, including: Abby, Adelaide, Al, Albert, Aleksandr, Alex, Alexsei, Alicia, Allyson, Alvin, Amanda, Amy, Andy, Angela, Anita, Ann, Annora, Anthony, Antonette, April, Arnie, Arthur, Arye, Audra, Barb, Barbara, Barbara Jo, Ben, Bernadine, Beth, Betty Lou, Bill, Bob, Bonnie, Brayden, Brianna, Brother Kan, Brother Yi, Bruce, Caleb, Carol, Caroline, Chris, Christopher, Chuck, Cindy, Claire, Colleen, Colette, Dale, Daliliah, Dallas, Dan, Daniel, Dan-Ning, Dave, David, Deb, Debbie, Deborah, Denis, Derek, Devin, Diane, Dick, Donna, Don, Dottie, Doug, Drew, Dylan, Edmund, Edward, Ekaterina, Elaine, Eda, Ella, Emely, Emily, Eric, Erica, Erik, Florance, Francesca, Frank, Gail, Gene, George, Glenn, Gloria, Grayson, Greg, Hannah, Harold, Harry, Heather, Heide, Heidi, Helen, Hilma, Howard, Hunter, Ingrid, Irina, Isabel, Ivy, Jackson, Jake, James, Jana, Janet, Jason, Jean, Jeanne, Jeannette, Jen, Jenn, Jennifer, Jenny, Jhansi, Jim, Joan, Joanie, Joe, John, Johnny, Joseph, Josh, Joyce, Julia, Julie, Juwan, Karen, Kate, Katie, Kathleen, Kayla, Ken, Kelly, Kerry, Kevin, Kim, Kyle, Larry, Larsen, Laura, Lauren, Lauryn, Levi, Lewis, Leo, Lex, Linda, Lisa, Logan, Lorna, Lorraine, Louise, Lynn, Maggie, Marge, Marina, Marion, Mark, Marsha, Martha, Maryjane, Mason, Matthew, Matt, Mayet, Megan, Melissa, Melody, Michael, Michele, Michelle, Mickie, Nancy, Nannette, Neena, Noel, Noreen, Otis, Pam, Pat, Patsy, Peg, Peggy, Peter, Pierce, Rachael, Rachel, Ray, Renee, Rho, Rhonda, Richard, Rick, Ricky, Rita, Robert, Robbin, Robin, Roger, Rose, Russell, Ruth Anne, Ruth, Ryan, Sam, Samantha, Sandy, Scott, Sharon, Sheila, Sherri, Stephen, Steve, Sue, Suzanne, Sylvia, Tanisha, Tara, Thelma, Tiffani, Tiffany, Tom, Tony, Tricia, Trudy, Tyler, Valentina, Vicki, Walter, Wanda, Warren, Wayne, William, Woodie, Xavier, Yasmin, Zac.

Please pray for the following families: All of the families of Holy Trinity, together with those they love and pray for; especially we pray for the: Ammon, Baltera, Bamberger, Bednarczyk, Bell, Bell-Powell, Berger, Berman, Borgia, Boyer, Bricker, Brown, Caldwell, Cassidy, Chan, Clarke, Corker, Corwell, Danskin, Del Rio, Dieterly, Donahue, Douglas, Drobish, Elsey, Engelbert, Erb, Etlen, Fisher, Frame, Freedman, Frezza, Ganther, Guenzel, Hayson, Heller, Hendricks, Hoyle, Hummel, Joseph, Kan, Leary, Leventhal, Lewis, Matkowski, McCann, McFadden, McGovern, Meixel, Milarch, Minges, Moorman, Moyer, Mumford, Myers, Naylor, Nilsen, Novak, Payne, Powell, Quaker, Reid, Renner, Rhinebeck, Richetta, Robinson, Rogers, Ruth, Schied, Sears, Smyser, Spangler, Suhr, Sullivan, Swift, Tasher, Tredinnick, Videtto, Williams, Wilson, Yakscoe, Yi, Young, Zarolli, Zieger, Zimmermann.

Please pray for the following petitions:

That God would bless and protect all members of Holy Trinity, together with those they love and pray for. That God would guide each of us to grow in grace & that He would please send workers into the Harvest. For all who are chronically ill and/or shut-in. For all who are fighting addiction to drugs and alcohol. For the sick and the grieving.

For all congregations of the NALC.

For all travelers and for the dying.

For the military and their families.

For all Native Americans living on U.S. reservations.

For refugees and immigrants.

The unemployed, the underemployed & the uninsured, especially those in our own families.

All Caregivers, rescue workers, doctors, nurses, firefighters, EMTs,

For the members of the Mekane Yesus Lutheran Church in Ethiopia, and for the Nifas Silk Congregation. For our sister congregations: Nifas Silk in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and First Lutheran in Kirkland Illinois. For all Christians who are being persecuted for the faith throughout the world.

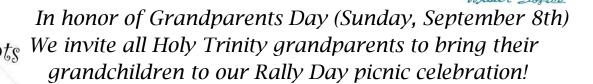
For victims of rains, wildfires, earthquakes, hurricanes; for favorable weather & an abundance of crops. For all in financial difficulty that they may be totally restored.

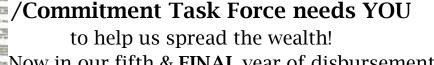
Rally Day '19 All Are Invited!!

Sunday, September 8, 2019 @10:30 AM Picnic on the lawn immediately following worship

HOT DOGS CHIPS DRINKS

DESSERT (COMPLIMENTS OF THE MR. SOFTEE TRUCK)





Now in our fifth & **FINAL** year of disbursements from a very generous bequest

we are once again asking for your input.

If you know of an eligible charity organization Fill out the form on page 5 - 6

All requests must be received in the church office

by Rally Day, Sunday September 8th

Everyone must resubmit their previous requests if they wish to be considered for a disbursement this year.

The Task Force will render its decisions on Sunday, September 15 Forms are also available in the Narthex or church office.

"Jesus said; it is more blessed to give than to receive."

Acts 20:35

Form to Request Funds from Holy Trinity's Mission Commitment Task Force

The Three Criteria that must be met for a fund request to be considered by Council and the MC Task Force:

- A) The fund request must be for a Christian organization (church or parachurch)
- B) The Christian organization must be a 501(c)3 tax exempt
- C) The Christian organization must be either listed on Charity Navigator or be a local Christian organization that Holy Trinity has supported in the past.

Application for Funds from the Mission Commitment Task Force:

- 1) Name(s) of Individual(s) and contact info (email address preferred) submitting this form:
- 2) What is the name and address of the church or para-church (Christian) organization?
- 3) What is your relationship/history with this organization?
- 4) Amount I am requesting: (maximum of \$1,000 annually)
- a) Is this a one-time request or an ongoing request? (Circle one)
- b) All ongoing requests are good for two years contingent upon annual review

		(Co	ntinue	ed froi	m fir	rst page)
5) a)	How many stars does Charity Navigator give this charity? Circle one	0	1	2	3	4
b) suppo	If not listed on Charity Navigator, is this an organization that orted in the past? Circle one YES	at Ho	oly Tri NO	nity		has
c)	If you answered no to 5b, is this a local charity? Circle one	3	ÆS	NO		
6) We	bsite address where Task Force can go to find out more abou	t thi	s orga	nizati	on:	
7) Bri	ef description of what this organization is and the work that	they	do:	8.	ì	
						*



Congratulations and Welcome to God's World Josephine Grace Affleck, July 8th

Weight: 6 lbs., 3 oz. Height: 20 1/4"
To parents, Brian & Jillian Affleck

And first time grandparents

Mark & Terry Affleck



Congratulations and Welcome to God's World

Caden Paul Sílva, July 8th

Weight: 6 lbs., 10 oz. Height: 19 3/4"
To parents, Paul & Paige Silva
& big sister Zadie Rose
And grandparents Alan & Rosemary Hinkle



Memorials received



Anne Ganther
Sandra Powell
Tina Bednarczyk
Patricia Lopez

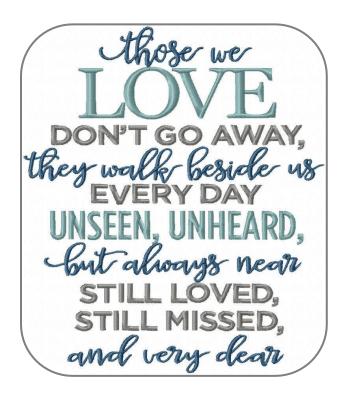


Our Christian Sympathy to

To Marc, Maryann, Stephen Leventhal and family on the death of Maryann's mother, **Patricia Lopez, July 3, 2019**Beloved mother, grandmother, & great-grandmother.

To Martin, Marilynn, Eleanor Murphy and family on the death of Marilynn's father, **Albert Otis, August 9, 2019**Beloved husband, father & grandfather.

Psalm 112:6
"For the righteous will never be moved; they will be remembered forever."



Join the Conversation!

We want to hear from you! Pastor Mandy has a blog on which she posts regularly. This blog is embedded right in our website at www.holytrinity.net. Your feedback is wanted! Please come on in and check us out. At the bottom of each blog there is space for your comments. Let us hear from you.

Treasurer's Report

July 31, 2019 (For the Year 2019)

	Holy Trinity Ministries	Wider Church
Year to date received for current income	\$ 233,068.61	\$ 44,263.41
Carry over from 2018	\$ 0.00	\$ 21,634.64
Expenses paid to date	\$ 254,170.85	\$ 49,850.23
Surplus/(Deficit) 2018	(\$21,102.24)	\$ 16,047.82

"When God is about to do something great, He starts with a difficulty. When He is about to do something truly magnificent, He starts with an impossibility."

- Armin Gesswein

"Knowing God without knowing our wretchedness leads to pride. Knowing our wretchedness without knowing God leads to despair. Knowing Christ gives the balance."

- Blaise Pascal

Support Us

Please consider a gift of appreciated securities to Holy Trinity as you do your tax planning for this year. You may direct questions about how to do this to Alan Hinkle at alanhinkle@comcast.net

Keep in your prayers the following individuals serving in the armed forces:

Christopher Biehl
Michael Boerner
Connor Gowton
Shaun Hall
Eric Henderson
C.J. Hess
John Quici
Nathan Quinlan
Vikas Shah
Jonathan Skilton, MD
Jeremy Zar

Please remember your Church in your will.



NOTES OF THANKS



Dear Members of Holy Trinity,

July 5th was the date for Holy Trinity's latest blood drive. Turn-out was great! A total of 50 productive units of blood were obtained. As a result of everyone's efforts, we can potentially affect 150 people with this blood drive. As is our usual, we served the Red Cross employees and volunteers a tasty meal. We often hear that our church is one of the few sites who provide a meal. The Red Cross employees are always very vocal in their gratitude. As always, thanks to the callers, the cooks and, especially, the donors.

Thank you to all of you.

The Blood Drive Team

Dear Saints at Holy Trinity,

Greetings in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ! Thank you for your very generous gift to me on the occasion of my ordination into the holy ministry of Word and Sacrament. You have all been such a help and support to me, and also to my family, as we have journeyed through seminary and internship. We are most grateful!

> God bless you, Pastor Caleb Douglas





Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I wanted to personally reach out and thank you for your ministry. Together we bring God's love, hope & truth into our world. Yesterday, hundreds of homeless men, women and children joined the Sunday Breakfast family for a breakfast, lunch and dinner. It was a whirlwind of community, laughter and great food. I truly hope that we will continue to work together towards the goal of shining a light in the darkness and ending homelessness!

Sincerely, Elizabeth Hefner





NOTES OF THANKS (cont. pg. 11-12)

Dear Holy Trinity Family,

Thank you so much for your generous response to the request for hotel toiletries. A special shoutout to the person who left the large box of toiletries in the Nursery. (Please tell me who you are so I can write a thank you note.) Also, thank you to Lois Hamilton & Nancy Necker for helping pack between 25 - 30 personal care kits for Pastor Mike to take to Sarnelli House.

Sincerely,
Katie Beyer
LCW Christian Action Chair.



Dear Daniel,

Thanks be to God for His providence and care. We are always so grateful for all donations to our Bread of Heaven Food Pantry, but we are especially touched when it comes from someone so young with a heart for the needs of others. Not only did you bake almost 300 cookies and sell them to raise money for food for those less fortunate, but you also took the time to shop for and drop off the food to the pantry. Over \$400 worth of food! Many thanks to you and your mom! It was a joy having you visit us.

Sincerely, Heidi and The Bread of Heaven Food Pantry.



Thanks to all who helped to make our summer of healthy snacks a huge success. *Bread of Heaven* was able to provide a goodie bag for every family with children all through the summer, thanks to your generosity. Once the children return to school, we'll focus on our traditional weekly needs- tuna, pasta and sauce, canned fruit, PB & J, juice, green beans, corn, toilet paper and paper towels. We use between 20 to 40 of each of those items every week. The Bread of Heaven ministry is thriving and our guests appreciate all that we provide. The items that you bring in every week make such a big difference.

Thanks, Heidi



Dear friends,

Thank you for all your prayers, cards, and expressions of sympathy at the passing of our Mother and Mother-in-law, Thelma Valerio. Your love and support helped us through this difficult time. We are comforted by the promise of the resurrection to eternal life through our Savior, Jesus Christ. We thank God for our Holy Trinity family.

In Christ,

Larry and Ginny Guenzel



Vacation Bible School - Thank You

The theme for this year's Vacation Bible School was <u>"Miraculous Mission: Jesus Saves the World".</u> At Bible School this year we visited 6 rotation centers. They heard wonderful stories at Bible Story, they explored the story at Bible Challenge, and played exciting games at the Games area. The kids also enjoyed a delicious snack, created fun and beautiful crafts in Art and performed some lively new songs in our Music Center.

At VBS this year we had an average attendance of 55 students and 40 volunteers per day. We want to extend a thank you to everyone who has helped and supported VBS this year. This important part of Holy Trinity's ministry would not be possible without your dedication. Many thanks to Pastors Mike and Mandy for leading us in Worship, our Pre-School and Kindergarten teachers, Terry Affleck and Sherri Gregg and their assistants, our wonderful youth helpers some of whom acted as group guides, and our center leaders, Cindy Biehl in Bible Stories, Nancy Ischinger in Bible Challenge, Charlie Tolton in Arts & Crafts, Jackie Smith in Music, Ella Murphy in Games, and Linda Borkowski & Katie Beyer in the Snack Center. A special thank you to everyone who helped create the wonderful decorations that brought our theme to life. Our Vacation Bible School would not have been the huge success it was without each and every one of you.

Next year's Vacation Bible School is tentatively scheduled for July 27th through July 31st and the theme is "Rainforest Explorers, Jesus Leads the Way." We hope to see you all next year.

Yours in Christ,

Susan Schied VBS Coordinator

HOLY TRINITY VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL STAFF

Erica Affleck
Terry Affleck
Gia Berkovitz
Katie Beyer
Cindy Biehl
Linda Borkowski
Matthew Gregg
Sherry Gregg
Pastor Mandy

Pastor Mike
Nancy Ischinger
Hannah Mumford
Ella Murphy
Becca Nilsen
Elli Nilsen
Sue Schied
Jacqueline Smith
Charles Tolton

Pastor Mandy's Classes for 2019 - 2020 beginning in September



The Cathedral

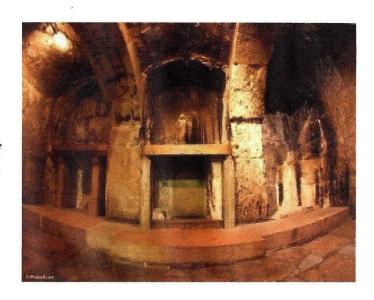
A Seven Week Course prior to Reformation Sunday September 10 – October 22, 2019

On <u>Tuesdays</u> this fall, from September 10 – October 29, 2019 [at 1:00 pm and again at 7:30 pm] Pastor Mandy will be leading a video course from The Great Courses on *The Cathedral*. We will be learning about what is a Cathedral, Romanesque, Vaulting, Romanesque at its best, Notre Dame in Paris, Chartres – the Building, and Amiens – the Limits of Height. It should be really fun. So mark your calendars!

The World's Greatest Churches

March 4 - April 1, 2020

On <u>Wednesdays</u> in Lent, [at 9:30 am and again at 7:30 pm] Pastor Mandy will cancel her Tuesday classes in order to lead a brief worship service followed by a video course from The Great Courses on *The World's Greatest Churches*. We will be looking at Holy Sepulchre, Hagia Sophia, The Rock Hewn Churches of Ethiopia, The Great Churches of Russia and St. Peter's Basilica. So please mark your calendars!



Great Churches (cont'd)

A Five Week Course following Easter **April 21 - May 19, 2020**

On <u>Tuesdays</u> following Easter, April 21 – May 19, 2020, [at 1:00 pm and again at 7:30 pm] Pastor Mandy will continue the *Greatest Churches* video course for 5 weeks. We will look at the Painted Churches of Romania, The Mosque Cathedral of Cordoba, The Pilgrimage Church of Santa Foy, The Stave Churches of Norway, and Four Great American Churches.



Never Stop Learning...

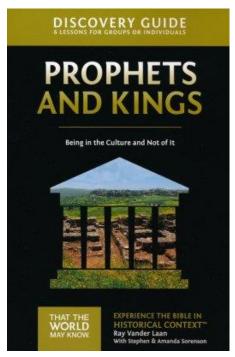
Join us for a class after worship

Adult Sunday School Opportunities for Fall 2019:

In SS Peter & Andrew Study beginning Sunday, Sept. 15th

The SS Peter & Andrew Study Class will kick off the fall season starting September 15th. Please join us as we study

Prophets and Kings by Ray Vander Laan.



This six-session small group Bible study by noted teacher and historian, Ray Vander Laan, is volume two of the *That the World May Know* series. In this volume, Vander Laan explores the turbulent history of Israel's prophets and kings, and draws lessons from their stories that can help build our devotion to and trust in God today.

Faith Lessons is a unique video series that brings God's Word to life with astounding relevance. By weaving together the Bible's fascinating historical, cultural, religious, and geographical contexts, teacher and historian Ray Vander Laan reveals unique insights into the Scriptures' significance for modern believers.

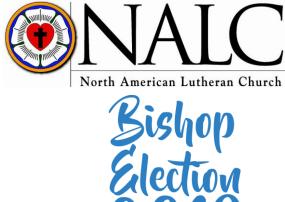
Pastor Mike's Fall Fellowship Hall Sunday School Class

Beginning the Sunday after Rally Day



Sunday, **September 15, 2019**Dr. Paul Randolph of Insight Christian Counseling.

Sunday, **September 22, 2019**A report on the 2019 NALC Convocation in Indianapolis, Indiana, presented by our lay delegate, Betsy Zimmermann.





Sunday, September 29, 2019
Pastor Mike begins his course
on an Introduction to the Bible.



New members will be oriented on **Sunday, October 27th** during the Sunday School hour in Fellowship Hall. Let Pastor Tavella know if you are interested in membership.



Coram Deo

Living in the Presence of God

We meet in the SS Peter & Andrew Study on most Mondays at 7:30 PM You do not have to read the selection in advance, and can drop by for any or all sessions.

List of Readings for September/October 2019

September 23: Remains of the Day by Kazuo Ishiguro

September 30: The American Dream by Edward Albee

October 7: Beneath Wandering Stars by Ashlee Cowles

October 14: The Grass Harp by Truman Capote

October 21: *H is For Hawk* by Helen McDonald

October 28: The Violent Bear It Away by Flannery O'Connor

November 4: Camping and Tramping With Roosevelt by John Burroughs

November 11: Poetry by Patton by George Patton (will read during meeting)



At Annual Meeting this year, **Sunday, January 26, 2020** the first item of business will be the adoption of Rules of Procedure. This adoption of Rules of Procedure has always been done at the outset of every denominational or synodical convocation (LCA, ELCA, or NALC). This adoption needs only a simple majority and is done to make the meeting run smoothly. Among other things, The Rules of Procedure say that Holy Trinity's Annual Meeting will be governed by Roberts Rules of Order, that all speeches will be limited to three minutes, and that anyone can present a resolution but that this resolution must be presented in writing to the Committee on Reference and Counsel by 3:00 p.m. on the Monday immediately prior to Annual Meeting. At the time each resolution is presented to Annual Meeting, Reference and Counsel will advise the Annual Meeting as to whether or not the resolution should be adopted. Copies of these Rules of Procedure and Forms for Resolutions are available in the Narthex.



The Collection of Shoebox Items Begins

We hope to fill more than 200 shoeboxes at our **November 16th** church packing party. With prayers to meet this goal, we ask you to consider contributing needed items.

General Needs

These are general items that go into every well-packed box. We will need in bulk: washcloths and bars of soap combs (large pick style best) pads of paper NO BIGGER THAN 6"x9" pencil sharpeners and erasers coloring books small stuffed toys, dolls or puppets boys & girls socks – various sizes for ages 2 – 14

We also hope to include toys, puzzles, hair ornaments, balls, balloons, small vehicles, etc. In addition to the bulk items listed above, here is our September wish list.

These are suggestions. Be Creative!

September Emphasis: School Supplies & Toiletries (NO liquids or lotions)

Colored pencils, pens

Childproof scissors, rulers, glue sticks (no bottles), scotch tape

Stencils & Stickers (best without words; think animals, flowers, shapes)

Color forms, Connect the Dots and Maze books

Backpacks for older boys and girls that can be folded compactly

Small purses or sacks for younger children

Nail files, clippers, emery boards, especially with fun designs

Band-Aids, regular and those with fun designs for the younger children.

<u>Please consider these contributions BEYOND the boxes you choose to pack individually.</u>

We do not want to subtract from your personal, loving efforts.

We hope you will consider also having the joy of participating in packing the general church boxes on **Saturday, November 16**th beginning with breakfast @ 9:00 AM in Fellowship Hall.



Women's Prayer Group

"Any concern too small to be turned into prayer is too small to be made into a burden." Corrie Ten Boom

The Women's Prayer Group is an intimate, confidential experience. We share concerns for ourselves, our families, and close friends both within and beyond our church. What we discuss and pray about stays with each individual and is never to be repeated to a spouse or close friend. We are here to create a safe place where we can love and support each other through our joys and challenges.

If this experience is calling to you, if your heart is carrying burdens or any size for yourself or others you love, please come and pray with us as you can. We meet once a month, the third Monday of each month, beginning the third Monday in September (**September 16**) and running through May. We usually take off the third Monday in December.

Coffee, tea, and a snack are available. We gather at **7:30 p.m**. in the upper room at the carriage house of Rosemary Hinkle. For more info and/or directions contact Rosemary@Rosemaryhinkle@comcast.net.

We welcome you whenever you choose to join us.

Holy Trinity's LCW

Join the "Team" and score big one of three ways:





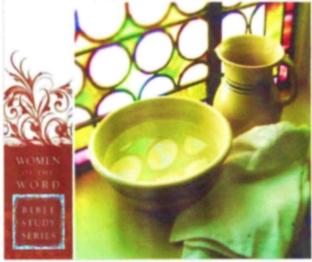
- 1) Bring in a new and in the original packaging blanket to be donated to the *Cradle of Hope*.
- 2) Knit or crochet a baby blanket for Cradle of Hope (place in plastic bag).
- 3) Sarnelli House will gladly accept clean and very gently used blankets (place in plastic bags).

You can donate money in a small white pew envelope made out to Holy Trinity and marked "**Blanket Sunday**"

The blue basket will be in the Narthex after Labor Day.

Many thanks in advance for helping us to hit this one out of the park!

Lutheran Church Women's Circle Bible Study



September Circles

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." John 12: 34-35

Our Circles' Bible Study for the coming months will be based on the book, *Loving Like Jesus* by Sharon Steele. This study will guide us to accept God's unconditional, all-encompassing love for us and then learn to share it, even with those in our lives who make loving difficult. We'll learn what Scripture says about the love of God revealed in Jesus and the steps we take to become a person whose love begins in Him and flows to everyone around us.

The purpose of this study has 3 objectives:

- 1) We can gain a clearer understanding of the true nature of genuine love. This study hopes to clarify what love is and what love is not.
- 2) We'll be encouraged to fully accept the love of Jesus for us. We can't genuinely love others until the love of Jesus is active and real in our own lives.
- 3) We'll learn how to love even when we don't feel love for others. We'll be encouraged to put the practical actions of love into practice. We'll find that we don't need to wait for feelings of love before we can perform loving actions.

Each month's Bible Study is divided into 4 sections:

- 1) A Closer Look at the Problem
- 2) A Closer Look at God's Truth
- 3) A Closer Look at My Own Heart
- 4) Action Steps I Can Take Today

September's Topic is: Love is Important.

Through Bible Study, stories and discussions we'll discover the importance of Love and how Jesus loved and taught about love. We'll examine our thoughts on Love and learn how to love those most difficult people in our lives. We'll close with some Action Steps that each of us can take as we evaluate the depth of love we have towards others.

If you are an active member of one of our circles, then we look forward to welcoming you back. If you are not yet attending a circle, please contact Holy Trinity Lutheran Church Women President Rosemary Hinkle @ 215.704.3701 or rosemaryhinkle@comcast.net OR contact church secretary Deb Mumford @ 215.659.2642 to explore what might work best for you.

Miriam Circle - Monday, September 9 at 12:30 pm in the SS Peter & Andrew Study.

Leader: Sandy Schmidt (215) 657-5065 sandyschmidt19001@yahoo.com

Hannah Circle - Monday, September 9 at 7:30 pm in the SS Peter & Andrew Study.

Leader: Marilynn Murphy (610) 304-7601 **mvetal4@verizon.net**

Ruth Circle - Wednesday, September 11 at 7:30 pm at home of Nancy Matteo

2060 Kenmore Avenue, Glenside, PA 19038

Leader: Nancy Necker (215) 884-2123 <u>nnecker52@gmail.com</u>

Eve Circle - Thursday, September 12 at 7:30 pm in the SS Peter & Andrew Study.

Leader: Sharon Koch (215) 355-7875 **sharonkoch1304@gmail.com**



Fríday, Apríl 17 - Sunday, Apríl 19, 2020



It's an easy way to shop and a great way to help...

The **Holy Trinity LCW** have Giant Food Stores Gift Cards for purchase. If you are interested in obtaining Giant Gift Cards, there is an order form in the Narthex. It can be completed and left in the box or turned into the Church office. (No money with order form please).

Joy Alderfer is coordinating this project for HTLCW. She will complete your orders. Cash purchases are always welcome. All checks for gift cards should be made payable to "Holy Trinity Giant". Joy will be available in Fellowship Hall after Church to take orders, payment and deliver cards.

HTLCW receives a 5% cash back award for each card sold which goes to our scholarship fund. Our scholarship fund is utilized to offset the cost of any LCW related function for any Church women who may want to attend but needs financial assistance.

Thank you for your support.

Holy Trinity Church Invites the Community to



A Free Brunch Program with

JULIE HENNING RAISED BY PEARL BUCK

Saturday, October 26, 9:00 AM

Fellowship Hall, 2086 Parkview Ave. Abington (diagonally behind Craft Givnish Funeral Home)

Church wheelchair accessible • Parking Lots

Julie will share Her Heart-Piercing Story of Being

Shunned and Impoverished as a mixed-race child in Korea.

Raised by Pearl Buck who brought her home to Bucks County.

Shaped and Saved by the God she didn't know.

AND...How each of us is Chosen for A Purpose.



RSVP REQUIRED: 215.659.2642 by Sunday, October 20, 2019



Youth Ministry -- Schedule 2019/20 All events are on SUNDAY unless otherwise noted

September 8, 2019 Rally Day Picnic (complete with Mr. Softee Ice Cream Truck)

immediately after worship.

September 15, 2019 Lunch Bunch "Kick Off" - (11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.)

Place: Fellowship Hall

Time: 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Lunch: We call out for pizza.

Today's Story: Adam and Eve's Temptation.

Craft: Creation/ Adam & Eve/ Obedient Hands handprint craft

Worship Tie-in: Become an usher-family/ Bringing up the Gifts/

Bell Sunday (First Sunday of Christmas)

September 15, 2019 **High School Bible Study "Kick Off" – For 9th – 12th Graders**

(10:30 - 11:30 a.m.)

Place: Sons of Thunder Youth Room

The High School Bible Study meets weekly during the Sunday School hour.

October 6, 2019 Sons of Thunder Youth Group (5 PM - 7 PM)

October 13, 2019 Lunch Bunch (11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.)

Today's Lunch: Call out for pizza **Today's Story**: The Tower of Babel

Craft: Shine with the Light of Jesus. Reflector Necklace craft

October 13, 2019 Annual Confirmation Field Trip -- We are going to St. Stephen's Orthodox

Cathedral in Philadelphia, PA. St. Stephen's is a congregation of the Orthodox Church in America (OCA). We will be attending worship with our Eastern Orthodox friends. Ideally, a parent will accompany each student, but if necessary, we may be able to arrange a ride. Additional details will come

home from Confirmation class.

St. Stephen's Orthodox Cathedral (OCA)

8598 Verree Road Philadelphia, PA 19115

215-745-3232

www.ststephenscathedral.org

October 27, 2019 Party for kids from Silver Springs

Bulletin in October: Publicity for All Saints Processional (People bring candles for saints whose light still shines before God)

November 3, 2019 Sons of Thunder Youth Group (5 PM - 7 PM)

November 10, 2019 **Lunch Bunch (11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.)**

Today's Cooks: Call out for pizza.

Today's Story: Thanksgiving Celebration **Craft:** Thanksgiving Wreath/ Pilgrim craft

Sign-up: GET VOLUNTEERS TO LIGHT THE ADVENT WREATH Worship Tie-in: Bring canned food to the Thanksgiving Service

Bulletin in Advent: Everyone should be sure to notice the small "box" announcement encouraging people to bring bells from home on the First Sunday of Christmas (Dec. 29, 2019) These bells will be used during the worship service.

December 1, 2019 Sons of Thunder Youth Group (5 PM - 7 PM)

December 8, 2019 Lunch Bunch -- Tucker's Tales Puppet Show 2nd Sunday of Advent.

At <u>11:30 AM</u> Tucker's Tales will treat us to a puppet show in the Sanctuary. The puppet show will begin at 11:30 AM and lasts about

an hour.

After the puppet show, we will call out for pizza.

Craft: Nativity Pictures/ Christmas Tree Ornaments

Sign-up: Family Ushering/ Bringing up the Gifts/ Don't forget Bell

Sunday and Transfiguration.

January 5, 2020 Sons of Thunder Youth Group (5 PM - 7 PM)

January 12, 2020 Lunch Bunch (11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.)

Today's Cooks: Call out for Pizza

Today's Story: Boy Jesus in the Temple

Craft: Anna & Simeon Craft/ God Keeps His Promises

January 26, 2020 <u>Annual Meeting</u> – right after the worship service

(NO SUNDAY SCHOOL TODAY)

February 2, 2020 SOT Youth Group TBA Souper Bowl Sunday at church.

February 9, 2020 Lunch Bunch (11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.) --

Today's Theme: Doing Lent as a Family

Today's Cooks: Call out for Pizza

Today's Story: Peter Tries to Walk on Water

Craft: Jesus Walks on Water/ God Goes With Me Everywhere

NOTE: Ash Wednesday in 2020 is February 26, 2020. Be sure to sign up families who will be carrying **Alleluia Banners on Transfiguration Sunday** on February 23, 2020.

We will burn last year's Palms immediately following the Sunday School hour on Transfiguration Day - announcements put in bulletin. Be sure all is ready for the Alleluia Banners to be carried in and out. Be sure to mention Stations of the Cross & the services of Holy Week.

LENTEN SPECIAL DAYS - Mark Your Calendars!

February 23, 2020 - Transfiguration (and burning of Palms for Ash Wednesday during the Sunday school hour)

February 26, 2020 - Ash Wednesday - 11:00 a.m. & 7:30 p.m.

March 1, 2020 - Lent 1 and Stations of the Cross.

March 8, 2020 - Lent 2 and Beginning of Daylight Saving Time

April 5, 2020 - Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday

April 9, 2020 - Maundy Thursday - 7:30 PM

April 10, 2020 - Good Friday - Noon & 7:30 PM

April 11, 2020 – Easter Egg Hunt – 1:00 PM Easter Vigil – 5:00 PM

April 12, 2020 7:30 AM – Son is Risen Potluck Breakfast 9:00 AM – Easter Worship Service

March 1, 2020 Sons of Thunder Youth Group (5 PM - 7 PM)

March 1, 2020 Lunch Bunch & Stations of the Cross – 11:30 AM – 1 PM
Note: this month we do NOT meet on the 2nd Sunday of the month
because of Daylight Saving Time.

Today's Cooks: We call out for pizza and eat before Stations of the Cross Craft: 40 Days of Lent Paperchain, 40 Days of Lent Stickers

Sign-ups for people to participate in the Palm Procession carrying palms Sign-ups for Families to carry their Alleluia banners in the Easter procession

Note: Families "group together" in the chancel after carrying up the Alleluia Banners. Families then call out the first 3 "Alleluia! Christ is Risen!" as Congregation responds: "Christ is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!"

12:00 - Stations of the Cross begins

April 5, 2020 – 5:00 PM PassionTide Choral Vespers SOT Youth group date TBA (watch the bulletin & April Echoes)

April 11, 2020 1:00 - Easter Egg Hunt 5:00 - Easter Vigil

April 12, 2020 EASTER DAY (No Lunch Bunch this month)

May 3, 2020 Sons of Thunder Youth Group (5 PM - 7 PM)

May 10, 2020 Mother's Day

May 17, 2020 Last Lunch Bunch of the Season (11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.)

Place: Fellowship Hall Time: 11:30 - 1:00 p.m.

Today's Cooks: Call out for Pizza

Today's Story: Mary Encounters the Risen Jesus

Craft: He is Risen coloring craft/ He Lives bingo game/ I Will Look for Jesus

Magnifying Glass.

May 31, 2020 Pentecost - Confirmation of 8th Graders

June 7, 2020 Last Sons of Thunder Youth Group for the Season (5 PM - 7 PM)

July 27 – July 31, 2020 Vacation Bible School – Watch your bulletin, (Tentative) Echoes, and the Holy Trinity Website.



Black Friday, Nov. 22nd 1:00 PM – 6:00 PM

Call Marilynn Murphy (610) 304 – 7601 to schedule an appointment

- ✓ Every unit donated can save up to 3 lives!
- ✓ Every 2 seconds someone in the US needs blood!





Men's Devotional Group

Announcing the Men's Devotional Group Fall Kickoff meeting:
The last time we met at Otto's we set a record for attendance
and everyone had a wonderful time!
With this in mind: put it on your calendar to join us on

Wednesday, September 11th at 7:00 PM

Otto's Brauhaus 233 Easton Road, Horsham, PA 19044 (215) 675-1864

www.ottosbrauhauspa.com

Come out for a night of fun, lively discussion and great food!

We will be meeting in the outdoor garden

unless weather dictates otherwise. Hope to see you there!





Girl Scout Cadets Troop Meeting

When: Monday nights 6 – 8:30 pm beginning September 16th

Where: Holy Trinity's Fellowship Hall

Who is invited: Any girl in grades 2-3
Interested: Contact Troop Leader
Christy Finazzo or Karen Darreff
at (215) 443-5585 or email



The Adult Fellowship Breakfast

Join us as we kick off the season on FELLOWSHIP Saturday, September 7th at 9:00 a.m.

Topic: An Apologetic: "Is Jesus the Lord of the Sabbath?"

Speaker: Albert Schmidt

Ideas for a topic of interest? Email Allan Shikhvarg at allan.shikhvarg@gmail.com or call (215) 885-1772

We'd love to hear from you.

Join us for breakfast & fellowship

Theology with Bagels



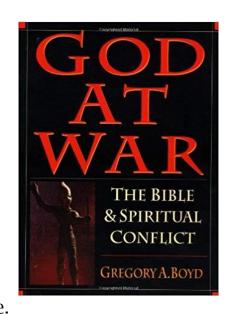
We have all heard about spiritual warfare, and putting on the armor of God.

But who are we fighting?

And what form does our conflict take?

In God at War: The Bible and Spiritual Conflict,

Greg Boyd attempts to answer these questions & more.







Dan Selbo elected bishop

Current Call: St. Timothy's Lutheran Church (San Jose, California)

Denominational Affiliation: NALC

Basic Biographical Information: Married for 33 years. My wife, Mary, and I have been blessed with four children and just recently with two grandchildren. I graduated from San Jose State University in 1982 with a B.A. in Religious Studies. I received my Masters of Divinity in 1986 from Luther, Seminary, and earned a Doctorate of

Ministry in Biblical Preaching in 2013, also from Luther Seminary. I enjoy golfing, fishing, working in the yard and spending time with family and friends.

Describe how you experience God active in your daily life. My experience of God's activity in my life is directly related to the priority I give to the relationship He has established with me in His cross and in my Baptism. On days when my relationship with Christ is central, giving Him the time and the place in my life He deserves, I see His hand at work in many ways. In contrast, when my relationship with Him gets set aside and I busy myself with other priorities, even though He is still actively at work, my experience of His activity is not the same.

Personally, I experience God opening and closing doors in response to specific prayers I offer. He provides opportunity, on a daily basis, for witnessing to people I had not on my own even considered. He strengthens the relationships I have at work. He grows and develops the partnership I share with other sisters and brothers in the Church. He strengthens and increases the love I have for my wife and family.

He also, on an even more personal level, enables me to grow in my individual relationship with Christ. Through His Holy Spirit, He strengthens my faith, provides an assurance and a peace that I know come from Him, and gives me the gifts and insights and wisdom I need to live each day as a follower of Jesus. The more disciplined I am in making time to spend with my Lord, the more fully I realize and recognize His daily activity in my life.

In my role as a pastor, the same relationship-driven principle has proven to be true. Having had the joy and privilege of serving for more than 30 years in a Word and Sacrament ministry, I have seen God actively at work in the lives of countless people. The power of His Word, faithfully preached and taught, and His life-giving presence in the Sacraments, regularly and properly administered, have had an eternal impact on the lives of hundreds, if not thousands, of people I have served and for whom our Lord died.

Particularly, over the past eight years, since the time our congregation made a conscious and deliberate decision to move away from being a program-driven ministry to becoming a disciple-making ministry, I have seen God's Spirit at work in transforming lives in ways I would never have imagined. Regardless of how long they have been connected to the church, the same life-transforming work is taking place. Regular Sunday morning attenders are being transformed into faithful and committed followers of Christ. People who used to volunteer their time because of their membership in the church are now serving in ministries because they have fallen in love with their risen Lord. Vocations in life are being viewed not only as a means of earning a living to support their families, but as an opportunity for living out their faith as members in God's family. Priorities are different. Life's purpose is not the same. The definition of success has dramatically changed. God is at work, through His Holy Spirit, to grow and transform lives into the shape and image of Christ.

I have seen it happen in the lives of congregational members as they have committed themselves to worship and opened themselves to a new and a living relationship with Jesus. I have experienced it in my own life as I give priority to the disciplines of the Christian life and to the relationship God has established with me in His Son. I know it works. I have seen it happen. I experience it on a daily basis. God is active and faithful in His promises as we open our lives to His guiding and life-changing presence.

List a favorite Scripture verse and tell why it has meaning to you. A Scripture that has become more meaningful to me over the years is one that is at the heart of our witness to the world. The apostle Peter says, "In your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have" (1 Peter 3:15 NIV).

I have grown to love this verse and take it to heart because it speaks to the essential nature of our shared calling in Christ. We are not simply called to place our hope in Jesus for the sake of our own salvation, but to be ready and willing to speak to others about the hope we have in Him.

At the heart of our Lord's Great Commission is a call to each of us to share openly and confidently with others about our relationship with Jesus. We need to live in ways that reflect the relationship we have with Him and then be ready to tell why that relationship is so important and the difference it has made for us.

Faith comes by hearing and hearing comes by the Word of Christ. God works through our spoken words to open and prepare hearts for His saving work. The Holy Spirit uses our witness to lead people to Jesus. If we, as the Church, do not share the faith and the name of Christ, no one else will. As a result, He calls us to "set apart Christ as Lord"

and "always be prepared" to share what we have been given with others who are loved eternally in Him.

If every believer in the Church would take seriously the importance of this calling in their life, our witness to the world would naturally follow.

In your ministry and life experience, what has prepared you to fulfill the role of bishop of the NALC? For more than 32 years as a parish pastor, I have served in two large congregations, each with Christian schools and multiple staff. I served as president and on the Board of the Fellowship of Confessional Lutherans from 1988 to 2008. I was an active member in Lutheran CORE in the years leading up to the NALC. I served on the eight-member Visioning & Planning Team that led to the NALC's formation in 2010. I served for seven years as dean of the Central Pacific Mission District and have served, since its inception, on the NALC Life-to-Life Discipleship Team. During these years, I have grown to love the Church and its Head more than anything else in life. The experiences, the challenges, the blessings and joys of these experiences have served to prepare my heart to accept whatever calling the Lord gives.

In the role of bishop, as pastor to the pastors, my experience as a pastor has prepared me to understand the challenges of the ministry, the opportunities it avails and the helpful and harmful expectations that come with the office. Some of those expectations are self-imposed. Others come from outside of and from within the church. My years of experience will enable me to support the pastors of the NALC in ways that will be lifegiving to the clergy and that will keep the priorities of the ministry and its function in its proper place.

As mentioned in my response to how I experience God active in my life, the past eight years in leading a congregation from a program-driven approach to ministry to a disciple-making commitment have prepared me to provide insight and perspective on what needs to happen in a congregation for disciple-making to become the central focus, and why such a focus is needed in today's world. My experience with disciple-making is one in which we have used many outside resources to shape our congregational efforts but always with the goal of contextualizing those resources for maximum benefit in the particular setting. My years of experience have given me an appreciation for the work that has been done in developing those resources, as well as for the contextualization that is needed to enable them to have their most effective impact.

Having worked alongside Lutheran pastors throughout the country, I have come to appreciate the different pieties found within the NALC congregations and clergy, and the differing approaches taken in various places to reach people for Christ. No one evangelical approach or pietistic perspective will work for everyone or in every place.

As a church body that spans North America and that is building partnerships throughout the global community, my experience will serve to recognize and support the vast and varied ways in which God is working to build and grow His Church.

I have also enjoyed partnering in my ministry with both male and female clergy. For the past ten years, I have experienced firsthand the benefits of serving on a pastoral team in which the strengths of each have blessed our congregation. The life experience and the differing perspectives that each have brought have complemented the preaching and teaching ministry, and have served as assets in our counseling and disciple-making efforts.

Finally, God has developed within me a strong personal relationship with Jesus and I have come to realize the importance of that relationship as the power that drives my ministry. I would be a strong advocate as bishop for pastors to be disciplined in their time each day with the Lord. They would hear that encouragement from me regularly. They would be challenged by me to make it a first priority. All of our work is for naught if it is not grounded and rooted and driven by a deep and abiding relationship with Christ.

What spiritual gifts and skills has God given you to bless this ministry? I have a pastor's heart, a love for Christ's Church and a passion for reaching those who do not yet have a living relationship with Jesus Christ. I have a deep desire to lead people not only to a saving faith in Jesus Christ in which their eternal salvation is secure but to also use their lives while on this earth for His service. The abundant life Jesus describes begins here and now as we live each day in relationship with Him.

Having served in team ministries throughout my pastorate, I have seen and experienced the benefits of the varied gifts in the Body of Christ. I am not afraid of delegating responsibility, nor afraid of making hard decisions when needed. I have strong administrative skills and have developed the ability to manage several tasks at the same time.

I am a good listener and take a humble approach and attitude in my work. I have lived through a wide range of pastoral experiences in which I have seen the value and importance of setting clear priorities for ministry and clear parameters for congregational expectations and life.

I am a good preacher, Christ Centered in my proclamation, and view the preaching of God's Word as the primary and most important task of the pastor. I would lift up this priority in my care and support of NALC pastors. I have worked with traditional and contemporary worship settings for nearly 20 years and understand and appreciate the value in both. I will not allow myself or the NALC to promote any single approach to

worship at the expense of other life-giving and Christ-honoring styles that include the basic and essential worship components.

I have developed a strong theological understanding of God's Word. I can rightly divide His Word of truth in Law and Gospel terms, and am able to clearly communicate each in my preaching and teaching. I understand the distinction between our justification by grace through faith in Jesus Christ and the ongoing process of being sanctified throughout life, by the power of the Holy Spirit, until we conform to the image and likeness of Christ. I recognize the importance of allowing each to hold their proper place and giving each their proper focus. I am committed to the Lutheran Confessions, to the centrality of the Gospel message of Jesus Christ and His cross in our proclamation, to orthodox teaching and to the Means of Grace offered to us in the Word and Sacraments.

I acknowledge and respect the strengths and differences within the ecumenical community and find tremendous value in working within the Body of Christ for the greater good and witness of the Church in the world. I believe the NALC can grow in becoming a recognized, reliable and theologically faithful resource for supporting other church bodies in their disciple-making efforts.

I have gifts for visioning that I believe will serve and strengthen our collective witness and work. As we focus on what needs to happen in the short-term, we need to always be thinking and planning and praying for what God is leading us to do in the years ahead. Those gifts have been used in the ministries I have served.

One of the strengths I would bring to the office of bishop is a deep and abiding relationship with Christ. I have grown to understand from my own experience the apostle Paul's words that "when I am weak, then I am strong." In the same regard, in the words of Jesus, in His depiction of He as the Vine and we as the branches, and that "apart from Him we can do nothing," I have learned and taken to heart the importance of staying closely connected to Him if my ministry is to bear any lasting fruit.

What should be the NALC's most important ministry priorities? Disciple-making should continue as the key and central emphasis for our denomination. Bishop John has done a tremendous job of setting a vision for the NALC, based upon the Great Commission of our Lord Jesus. For this emphasis to continue, we cannot allow it to be reduced to simply one thing we are doing among many. To be faithful to the calling we have been given, this priority must remain first and foremost in our efforts.

So important is this disciple-making emphasis that it can and will directly shape and define the impact we have in the world for Christ. If we move away from this priority as our central focus, we will not only quickly lose what we have worked so hard to put into

place over the past several years, but we will also, just as quickly, lose our relevance and impact in the world.

I would keep this priority central in our national efforts and would work to increase the support we provide for pastors, lay leaders and congregations in developing disciplemaking cultures in their ministry settings.

Second, our support for seminarians and their training must remain high on our priority list. We need to increase our commitment to training pastors who are well prepared for reaching a culture that has pulled away from the Church and who are also fully equipped to engage that same culture in discipleship conversations that lead to Christ.

I would work with the NALS President and our board of regents to more fully incorporate a disciple-making emphasis into the required seminary curriculum and would solidify our commitment to continuing this same emphasis by providing support for it during internship and the first two years of pastoral ministry. I would also work with our NALC staff and leaders to expand the financial support we offer to our seminarians in order to reduce, if not eliminate, the financial debt load they carry after their training.

Third, the unique challenges facing smaller congregations and those with pastoral vacancies must be addressed. We need to find creative solutions for offering pastoral support to our smaller congregations and for reducing the time between pastorates.

I would work to provide educational support and training for laity who could serve in short-term pastoral roles and services. Deployed seminary staff, retired clergy and soon-to-be-retiring clergy would be potential options for training laity and supporting pastoral vacancies.

We also need to take more seriously the development of models for "tent-making" ministries. In places where full-time pastoral support is not viable, we need to raise up and support pastors who would be willing to serve in part-time pastoral roles, while also working in other part-time employment. In the same way, we need to provide models for congregations to carry out full-time ministry without full-time pastoral support.

Fourth, strengthening relationships with our international church partners needs to remain a priority for our denomination. We have much to offer in terms of training, resources and theological education to our younger and developing partners. We also have much to learn from our partners who, in many cases, are more openly and effectively sharing the Gospel and reaching people for Christ. As our relationships with our international partners develop, we need to keep our commitment to disciple-making central in those relationships.

I would work to listen to our partners and learn from them, as much as I would be committed to offering what we have in support of their work. I would remain committed to our Lutheran and confessional theological roots in all of our relationships, and would work to increase the effectiveness of our shared efforts for the advancement of the Kingdom and the glory and honor of Christ.

The same commitments, number five, would guide our conversations with our ecumenical church partners. In a culture that has moved away from denominationalism and that has become skeptical of the organized Church, we need to find ways to engage with our ecumenical partners to offer a shared witness and voice to the world.

I would work to strengthen our ecumenical relationships on the national level in order to provide a foundation from which pastors and congregations can share in ministry on the local level. Central in our conversations with our ecumenical partners would be our ongoing commitment to disciple-making. If we are to be faithful to our Lord in truly being united as One Church catholic, we cannot allow our relationships with our sister church bodies to be guided by anything other than the primary task and commission we share together in Christ.

What challenges do you see facing the NALC? As a still relatively young church body, we need leadership that will keep the course set during our early years. Our commitment to the four Core Values we share and to disciple-making must remain our central focus, if we are to avoid being distracted and dissuaded by other good efforts that would ultimately lead us away from what is most important.

Much progress has been made during the first nine years of our life together. We need to build on the work that has been done and stay committed to not taking on too much. I believe the focus of our early years, on disciple-making and our Core Values, are the key to our continuing growth and success. I would err on the side of doing our primary tasks well, rather than getting caught up in doing many other secondary tasks at their expense.

Second, the challenge of reaching the next generations for Christ must be an ongoing awareness we have and commitment we make as a church body. In a culture where an increasingly smaller percentage of people are engaging with the Church, an increasingly greater percentage is seeking caring relationships and communities.

Recent studies and my own experience have pointed to two elements in our ministry that must be visible and tangible for the next generations to connect. One, we need to be authentic in our efforts to share the faith. If we are not living what we are preaching, the doors to open conversation will quickly close. We cannot simply talk in generalities

about caring for others, if we are not willing to enter into relationships with the others for which we profess to care. And, two, our ministry to the world needs to become more hands-on and visible as well. Young people want to see the impact we are having in the world before hearing about the impact we tell them will take place in Christ. I would be an advocate for congregations to look for ways to be identified and known in their communities by the tangible serving ministries they offer.

The third challenge we face, with a high percentage of our clergy nearing retirement, is to continue to attract new clergy to the NALC. To address this challenge, we need to move forward with the model for seminary training and development we adopted when the North American Lutheran Seminary (NALS) began.

With our seminary center at Trinity School for Ministry in Ambridge, Pennsylvania, we committed ourselves to developing satellite campuses throughout the country. We made an intentional decision to not invest our resources in buildings, but to take advantage of the buildings already in place in other established seminaries, putting Lutheran faculty on those campuses. Our evangelical, orthodox, confessionally-strong and theologically-centered Lutheran presence throughout the country will only increase our attraction to future pastors.

On the congregational level, we need to be encouraging our young people to consider the ministry as a vocation. Starting in junior and senior high, we need to be more intentional about talking with our youth about the need we have in the Church for godly leaders and praying with them about where God's Spirit might be leading them in their lives. On the national level, good work is being done through organizations such as NEXUS in providing opportunity for our youth to consider a career in ministry and exposing them to what that calling looks like. We need to increase these efforts to raise up future pastors and to pray for God's Spirit to send more laborers into the harvest.

On the flip side, with many of our clergy nearing retirement, we also have an opportunity to use their years of experience, in creative ways, to support the NALC during these years when new and younger pastors are being trained. I would explore a variety of options with our retiring clergy to see where and how their gifts and experience could be best used.

Short-term interims, longer term part-time roles, mentoring relationships for seminarians and newly ordained clergy and serving as on-site support for laity serving in ministry roles are only a few of the possible options for leveraging the giftedness of our retiring clergy. I would also work to find ways to engage those same gifts and years of experience in disciple-making efforts to support the overall work and witness of the Church. The voice of experience and support from this well-respected part of

our ordained clergy would go a long way in enabling the disciple-making efforts of the NALC to grow and flourish.

Fourth, we need to explore new ways to provide pastoral support for our smaller congregations and for congregations in pastoral transition. The traditional models for filling pastoral vacancies must continue while, at the same time, being open to finding new ways to fill the pastoral vacancies that exist.

Along with deployed seminary staff, more effective use of our experienced clergy, and options and models for "tent-making" ministries, I would work to increase the hands-on training and continuing education opportunities for pastors and laity. We could make better use of our mission district gatherings and provide greater and more frequent options for regional training events throughout the country. We need to find creative ways for congregations to work together, as well as for seminarians and laity to serve in pastoral roles.

We have explored many options in our first years together. There are many options yet to be explored. The answer to the challenge is not simple. What we cannot do is to allow these smaller congregations and pastoral vacancies to go unsupported. We must be willing to explore new options and change our approaches to serving and supporting these valued members in the Body of Christ.

Number five, our infrastructure and communication needs to be strengthened as we grow in size and as we strive to be effective in a 21st century world. We can and should make better use of the technology available for meetings, support and communications, to become more effective in our ministry efforts and to make better and more efficient use of our resources.

I would build upon the steps already taken to strengthen this part of our work by engaging some of our more technologically-versed members to outline plans and strategic steps for implementing new technologies into our system to reach a more highly-technological culture. New ways of doing things are not easy, but we must be willing to change if we hope to reach an ever-changing world with the message of Christ.

Finally, I would work to increase the level of stewardship support offered to our national church by developing a strategic vision for our future and a clear understanding of how and where our gifts would be used. I would then work to communicate that vision to pastors and lay leaders who could share it with their congregations. When people see a vision for where their gifts will be used and how they can impact the world for Jesus, they are more than willing to share what they have been entrusted with for a greater and eternal purpose.

The challenges facing us as a denomination are many, but the opportunities for impacting the world for Jesus Christ are even greater. I would make it a high priority in my work as bishop to develop a vision for our future as a denomination and a clear and strategic plan for how and where our financial gifts would be used to support those efforts.

Describe how the Core Values of the NALC would guide your ministry as bishop, and how those values can become more and more prominent in the life of the NALC and its congregations.

Christ Centered: Beginning with the preaching of the Word and lifting up Christ who will "draw all people to Himself," the centrality of Christ and what He has done for us on the cross must remain the primary focus of our preaching and teaching. My preaching and teaching ministry would continually center on what God has accomplished for us in His Son and how, in Jesus, we are made right with God.

I would like to see greater opportunity for preaching seminars and ongoing training for NALC pastors. Perhaps in mission districts and/or at national gatherings, a renewed focus on the importance of our preaching and teaching ministries would be a priority I would provide.

My leadership would use this Core Value as a litmus test against everything we are asked to do or consider as a denomination. If the proposal being offered serves and furthers our witness to Jesus, then it will be worth considering. If not, then it will not be among the considerations we make. Jesus is our identity, our priority and our purpose for existing as a church body. Nothing else will ever take that first and primary place.

In the same way, I would challenge each pastor and congregation to ask the same Christ-Centered question about its own ministries and apply the same litmus test to what they are doing. As a church, we cannot afford to waste our energies on anything not centered in Jesus. If it does not further the work of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, then it needs to be set aside in favor of something that does. It is that important.

Mission Driven: The emphasis on disciple-making is central to our Mission-Driven efforts. We need to become better equipped at speaking and sharing the faith with others. We need to focus on helping our members see themselves as being as responsible for fulfilling the Great Commission as the church is responsible for doing the same, all the while equipping them for the task.

We need to continually remind ourselves that the Holy Spirit is the one who ultimately leads people to faith. He is our Helper, our Advocate, our Counselor and our Guide. He takes our witness to Jesus and uses it to change people's hearts and lives and lead them to Christ. The work of creating faith is the Holy Spirit's primary and essential work. As

we seek the Spirit's guidance and trust in His power, our Mission-Driven efforts will bear fruit.

We also need to clarify the difference between ministry and mission. The former can serve the latter, but it is not intended to become a replacement for it. Only as the name of Jesus is shared are people drawn to a living faith in Him. I would work to make that distinction as clear as possible, without devaluing the importance and essential nature of our serving ministries.

In making this Core Value more prominent in the NALC, I would challenge each pastor and congregation to identify at least one new area, each year, in which the Gospel-mission they share could be furthered in their particular ministry setting. The goal would be to identify the opportunity and then to develop and implement a strategy to carry it out. I would also work with our international partners to identify specific challenges they face and opportunities there might be for us to support their mission efforts, and then challenge our congregations to become directly involved in supporting that work. If being Mission Driven is a Core Value we hold, then we cannot claim it as a value if we are not finding tangible ways to make it happen.

Traditionally Grounded: Central to this Core Value is our commitment to a strong Word and Sacrament ministry. Everything we do grows out of our regular worship in which the Word is preached and the Sacraments are rightly administered. As bishop, I would emphasize the importance of this central part of our life. I would challenge pastors to continually be growing in their preaching skills and would work to provide opportunities for that to happen.

I would also lift up the spiritual disciplines that have played such a significant role in the life of the Church since the time of the early apostles and challenge our pastors to make them more prominent in their own lives, as well as in their congregations. The disciplines of prayer, meditation, a quiet time with God, Bible reading, worship, fasting, solitude and service, only to name a few, have been powerful disciplines that are part of our tradition. From my own experience, I have seen how these disciplines can serve to strengthen my relationship with Christ. I would lift them up as a means through which pastors and congregations can be strengthened and renewed in their faith-walk with Jesus and would work to provide opportunity for such renewal to happen.

As a denomination whose roots go back to the early apostles and whose traditions have played such a central role in our history, we need to continually remember the importance of our traditions and why our roots are so essential. The Lutheran Confessions and the three main creeds of the Church are more than just historical documents we share and theological understandings we support. We believe they are accurate interpretations

of Scripture and a clear and concise confession of what we believe to be true. As a result, they hold a place in our tradition that continues to give direction and identity to who we are today and what we are about as a denomination.

Having said that, we must never allow the maintaining of our traditions and our roots to become the purpose for which we exist. They are to serve the work of the Church, and not vice versa. I would work to ensure that the traditions in which we are grounded are maintained and the roots from which we have grown are not lost, without allowing the maintaining of those traditions and protecting our roots to become the end goal.

In order to reach a new generation with the Gospel, we cannot be afraid to put new wine in new wineskins. Old wineskins serve a purpose, but new approaches and opportunities must also be identified and claimed. I would work to encourage us to always be moving forward in our efforts to reach people in new ways, without losing our purpose-serving and identity-giving traditions.

Congregationally Focused: My leadership would continually reinforce our understanding that the congregation is the primary place in which the ministry of the Church takes place. The national church and its structure are to serve the local church and its ministry, and not the other way around. As a staff, we would be available to pastors and congregations as needed, and would continually be looking for ways to support them in service of the Gospel in their settings. Identifying helpful resources, providing education opportunities and building training elements into every mission district gathering are among the priorities I would set.

Without compromising our Congregationally Focused Core Value, we need, at the same time, to increase our national support for hands-on congregational ministry. I would structure our staff in such a way as to best serve the local congregation in its ministries. I would also make it a priority to move forward with the restructuring plan proposed at the 2018 Convocation. If we expect to continue to provide national support for local congregations, we need a staffing structure that is scalable to support growth. This would be a high priority for me as bishop if I were chosen to serve in that role.

What tangible actions can the NALC, its mission districts and its member congregations take to live out our commitment to be a Christ-Centered and Mission-Driven church? For our Christ-Centered and Mission-Driven commitments to become real and tangible, I believe there is no better place to start than with the training of pastors, lay leaders and mission district deans to become equipped as disciple-makers. By providing training at mission district gatherings, regular support and guidance offered to clergy at pastoral conferences and events, and ongoing encouragement for congregations to become centers for disciple-making, these two Core Values will remain solid and central in our

shared work.

As bishop, I would give serious consideration in our staffing structure to having a person on staff dedicated full time to strengthening our disciple-making commitment. I would also give strong priority to shaping our staff to best serve the Christ-Centered and Mission-Driven values we hold.

On the local level, every congregation would be challenged with prioritizing prayer, financial support and relationship-development with at least one domestic and one international mission effort endorsed by the NALC. Tangible commitments to developing relationships with missionaries and mission agencies, along with regular prayer and financial support will naturally strengthen our Christ-Centered and Mission-Driven efforts.

Every mission district would be challenged with identifying and supporting one new mission start within the district every three years. Although a modest and certainly attainable goal, this commitment will keep our Mission-Driven value clearly in sight and will expand our Christ-Centered focus in new congregations.

What is your understanding of discipleship as a strategic direction for the NALC? I have a deep personal commitment to discipleship as the main and central calling and commission we have from Christ. My understanding of discipleship as a strategic direction for the NALC is driven by the fact that this is the strategy given to us by Christ Himself to grow His Church. I also have a deep theological conviction that disciplemaking efforts work best in settings where support, encouragement and accountability are built into the very fabric of the work taking place. This only happens when and where there is a conscious and intentional effort to develop such disciple-making cultures.

As bishop, I would challenge our deans to support and provide accountability within their mission districts to continually lift up disciple-making as our primary focus. I would work with our Life-to-Life Discipleship Team to increase the training opportunities for discipling guides and to move forward in our commitment to support our pastors in developing disciple-making cultures within their congregations.

I would also continually encourage pastors in their own spiritual disciplines for the purpose of strengthening their relationship with Jesus. In the same way, I would challenge them to encourage their own leaders and congregational members to become more disciplined in those daily commitments that allow the Holy Spirit to do its transforming work in us.

Having led the congregation I serve to set its own strategic direction in discipleship, I know and have experienced first-hand its value and benefits. All of our ministries are

framed with discipleship in mind. Each of our ministries has disciple-making as its goal. Real outreach is happening. Serving ministries have emerged. God is changing lives, through His Holy Spirit, and followers of Jesus are being shaped for His purposes.

If our strategy as a denomination is to be consistent with the calling and commission we have been given, and if our work on the national level is for the purpose of supporting local congregations and furthering the work of Christ, then the two cannot be separated in any way. Our strategy is discipleship, and discipleship is our strategy. Everything we do as a church body should serve the purpose of reinforcing our strategic discipleship efforts.

What hopes do you have for the mission of the NALC? In general, my hopes for the NALC and its mission revolve around the promise of Jesus to grow His Church as we are faithful to the Great Commission He has given and dedicated to living out the two Great Commandments in our life together. My hope is that we will remain united in our commitment to lifting up Jesus as Lord and Savior of all and, in so doing, that He will draw all people to Himself. I hope that our shared witness to Christ as a church body will become a public witness to other church bodies in North America and throughout the world.

More specifically, my hopes for the NALC are tied to our four Core Values. As a Christ-Centered church body, my hope is that we will continue to grow in our relationship with Jesus as our Savior and Lord. I hope each member of the NALC will become stronger in their own personal faith-walk with Christ. I hope our preaching and teaching will lift up the name of Jesus. I hope our sharing and serving will be a reflection of the heart and love of our Lord. I hope Christ will be seen in the lives of our pastors, our congregations, our individual members and our national staff, as well as in our mission district and national gatherings. My hope is that Christ will be seen in us because we have fallen in love with Him and we have no greater purpose in life than to live for Him.

As a Mission-Driven church body, I hope we will grow in numbers. I hope the number of congregations and baptized members in the NALC will increase. Although we are not in a numbers game, defining our success by the number of people in our churches, we live in a world where millions, if not billions, of people are living and dying each day without a saving faith in Jesus Christ. Because "God so loved the world that he gave his only Son," we must be tireless in our efforts to increase the number of people who come to know Him as Lord.

As a Traditionally Grounded church body, I hope we will never lose the foundation of our faith and the solid ground upon which the Church of Jesus Christ has been built. I hope we will value our traditions and claim our heritage, without compromising our

higher commitment to serving and honoring Christ. Because Jesus Christ is the same "yesterday and today and forever," we must always seek new ways to share with others the One we have come to know as our Lord, without losing the foundation upon which we will forever stand.

And as a Congregationally Focused church body, I hope our commitment to disciple-making will become the priority of every pastor in the NALC. I hope disciple-making cultures will be formed in every congregational setting, transforming the people through the power of the Holy Spirit into lifelong and ever-growing disciples of Christ. I hope our witness will be felt in every corner of North America and our relationships with Jesus will be visibly seen in every community in which we are found. I hope our congregational life in worship and in the sharing of the Sacraments will be the ways in which we are renewed and refreshed in our relationship with Jesus for the purpose of witnessing without fear of failure in a world that is in desperate need of what only Jesus can give.

In the same way, I hope we grow in our reputation with our international and ecumenical partners as a church body that has fallen in love with Jesus. We want to know Him. We want to serve Him. We want to honor Him in all we do. As a result, we have no greater purpose in life than to commit ourselves fully and faithfully and finally to the commission He has given to us.

My commitment to you as bishop would be to hold to the commitments and priorities I have offered as commitments and priorities for our Church. My passion and commitment is to Christ. My heart and purpose are to know and to serve Him. He is the reason I am willing to serve. He is the resource from which I will serve. And He is the rest in which I find my hope and my strength.

Thank you for reading what I have shared. It is an honor to be considered for this calling. To God be the glory as we pray for and choose our next leader.



September Worship Assistants Schedule



Swarm in 100-6 A swarm		Acciain lasgs con							
September 1									
Usher 4	Greeter Kevan Berkovitz, Linda Frezza	Presenters of Ken Tredinnick, Gifts Rob & Nancy Ischinger							
Count 3	Acolyte Kevan Berkovitz								
Christophers Sue Tolton	Crucifer Stephanie Powell								
Healing Kathy Ingerson Prayer	Lector- Sat Linda Cassady	Communion Charlie Tolton Assistants Tom Schied							
Sun Scott Brown									
September 8									
Usher 5	Greeter Jim & Nancy Necker	Presenters of The Ickler Family Gifts							
Count 4	Acolyte Kelly Darreff								
Christophers Deb Mumford	Crucifer Frank Ganther								
Healing Sue Tolton Prayer	Lector- Sat Karen McGovern	Communion Jim & Nancy Assistants Necker							
	Sun Nancy Berkovitz								
September 15									
Usher 1	Greeter Don & Linda Borkowski	Presenters of The Schied Family Gifts							
Count 1	Acolyte Audrey Brown								
Christophers Nancy Necker	Crucifer Charlie Tolton								
Healing Nancy Ischinger Prayer	Lector-Sat Linda Cassady	Communion Al & Pam Assistants Eisenmann							
	Sun Jody Cheeseborough								
September 22									
Usher 2	Greeter The Schied Family	Presenters of The Gregg Family Gifts							
Count 2	Acolyte Charlie Tolton								
Christophers Chris Quici	Crucifer Ryan Schied								
Healing Deb Mumford Prayer	Lector-Sat Karen McGovern	Communion Frank Ganther Assistants Eric Gregg							
	Sun Eric Gregg								
September 29									
Usher 3	Greeter Rosemary Hinkle Barbara Harvey	Presenters of Maryann Leventhal, Gifts Ella & Marilynn Murphy							
Count 3	Acolyte Elli Nilsen								
Christophers Mike Breslin	Crucifer Sherry Breslin								
Healing Barbara Harvey Prayer	Lector Sat Linda Cassady	Communion Nancy Necker, Assistants Deb Mumford							
	Sun Suzanne Brown								

If you cannot serve please contact someone on the list for that particular service team and find a replacement. If you cannot find a replacement simply contact the office (215) 659-2642 or email Deb at secretary@holytrinity.net





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday Thursday I		Friday	Saturday	
1 PENTECOST 12	2 OFFICE CLOSED	3	4	5 10:00 BOH Food Pantry 1:30 Artis Ministry Sing Along	6	7 9:00 Adult Breakfast Fellowship 5:00 Holy Communion	
	HAPPY LABOR DAY		7:30 Council		7:30 AA	7:00 AA	
8 PENTECOST 13 9:00 Holy Communion Mission/Commitment Form due PICNIC	9 12:30 Miriam Circle 7:30 Coram Deo 7:30 Hannah Circle	10:00 PB & J making session 1:00 PM Cathedrals Class/ repeat 7:30 PM	11 9:30 Kensington ★ ★ ★ Patriot Day ★ 7:00 Men's Group 7:30 Ruth Circle at home of Nancy Matteo	12 10:00 BOH Food Pantry 12:00 Old Lady Lunch Bunch 6:30 Handbell Choir 7:30 Eve Circle 8:00 Chancel Choir	7:30 AA	5:00 Holy Communion 7:00 AA	
15 PENTECOST 14 9:00 Holy Communion 10:30 Sunday School Pre-K thru Adult 10:30 MCTF Meeting	16 SHOP & COOK AIDS DINNER	17 DELIVER AIDS DINNER	18	19 10:00 BOH Food Pantry 1:30 Artis Ministry Sing Along	20	21	
11:30 Lunch Bunch	6 – 8:30 Girl Scout Cadets 7:30 Women's Prayer Group	1:00 PM Cathedrals Class/ repeat 7:30 PM	7:00 Evangelism	6:30 Handbell Choir 8:00 Chancel Choir	7:30 AA	5:00 Holy Communion 7:00 AA	
22 PENTECOST 15 9:00 Holy Communion Blanket Sunday 10:30 Sunday School Pre-K thru Adult	First Day of Autumn 6 - 8:30 Girl Scout Cadets 7:30 Coram Deo	24 10:00 PB & J making session 1:00 PM Cathedrals Class/ repeat 7:30 PM	25 9:30 Kensington 7:30 Worship & Music	26 10:00 BOH Food Pantry 1:30 Artis Ministry Sing Along 6:30 Handbell Choir 8:00 Chancel Choir	27 7:30 AA	5:00 Holy Communion 7:00 AA	
29 PENTECOST 16 9:00 Holy Communion 10:30 Sunday School Pre-K thru Adult 11:30 Altar Guild meeting	30	"The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into His harvest field." Luke 10:2					
	6 - 8:30 Girl Scout Cadets 7:30 Coram Deo		W-17				

Special Dates:

Labor Day, September 2, 2019 National Grandparents Day, September 8, 2019 Patriot Day, September 11, 2019 First Day of Autumn, September 23, 2019

