

Vine Street Journal

Johnstown, PA

First Lutheran Church

September 2024

A message from Vicar Christy...

The whole being of any Christian is faith and love. Faith brings the person to God; love brings the person to people.

Martin Luther

Summer has once again come to an end and the kids (and some adults) have returned to school. This brings back the "hustle and bustle" in our lives. But through all of that "hustle and bustle" we still should remember that we Children of God!! Take time to rest, to pray and share God's love to all.

We will have a Blessing of the Backpacks on Sunday, September 15, 2024. If you are returning to school and have a backpack – please bring it along!! This is not just for children...but for the whole family. If you have calendars, smart phones, briefcases, or anything that carries your life on it/in it, please come forward for a blessing!! See you there...

As this busy time begins – come join me as we have Conversations with Martin Luther's Small Catechism. It will be a time of fellowship, learning and fun (I hope)! We will be exploring the Small Catechism, the Ten Commandments, the Apostle's Creed, the Lord's Prayer, the Sacrament of Holy Baptism and Confession, the Sacrament of the Altar and Daily Prayer. It will begin on Thursday, September 19, 2024, at 7:00 pm. I can't wait to start and see you all there!

Burger and Dogs!! Oh, what fun a picnic will be. We have been invited to a picnic at Benscreek Church Grove on Sunday, September 22, 2024!! It will be great to get together before fall comes upon us!

Come spend some time eating, talking and just being together as children of God!!

We will come together in fellowship for a Community Hymn Sing at Benscreek Lutheran Church on Sunday, October 6, 2024, at 4:00 pm. I am looking forward to all of the beautiful music and hymns that will be sung!!

So, to close, at Martin Luther said faith and love!! We have those things within each of us here at First Lutheran and I am looking forward to growing together with Benscreek Lutheran as people of God!!

Enjoy this last bit of "quiet time" before all the excitement of school and fall begins. I wish you a wonderful September filled with new and exciting things!!!

Yours in Christ,
Vicar Christy



God's Work ~ Our Hands

**Join us for God's Work Our Hands
Sunday, September 8 following worship.**

Light lunch at noon; followed with the assembling of LWR school kits and appreciation bags for staff at local long term care centers. Blessing bags may be assembled as time and help permits.

Please come and do God's work with your hands in service to others!



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Published by the
FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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VICAR

Christy Harford

MINISTER OF MUSIC

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Barbara J. Pingatore, R.N.

OFFICE MANAGER

Jancie Stanley

CLEANER

Paul Eisenhuth

CHURCH COUNCIL

Barry Critchfield (Treasurer), Rob Abele (Vice-President), Bill Price (President), James Hargreaves, Karen Hargreaves,, Heidi Piurkowsky, Joel Hoshaw, Jody Kirk (Secretary), Rick Blackford, Josh Rinaman, Janice Hill.

Next Journal Deadline

Tuesday, September 17
Share your news with us!



PASTORAL ACTS

Vicar Christy Harford

~ CONTRIBUTIONS ~

In memory of Joann Keefer
gifted by Beverly Brocious.

In memory of Joann Keefer
gifted by Albert O. Johnson.

In memory of Grace Stephens
gifted by Albert O. Johnson

In memory of Andrew Antolik
gifted by Albert O. Johnson.

WALDEN M. HOLL FUND

In memory of Don and Joann Keefer
gifted by Robert James Zuppa.



Flower
sign-up

ALTAR/ORGAN FLOWERS

Here is a listing of flowers
available. Please sign up on
the boards in the lounge.

Altar dates available:

September 8, October 27, December 15,
22, 29

Organ dates available:

September 8, 15, October 6, 13, 20, 27
November 10, 17, 24, December 22, 29

Sign-up boards are available
for reserving your flower requests. The
charts are located on the wall in the
Lounge area. One board is for Altar
Flowers - \$40. (If there are 2 listings
on the same day, the flowers are only
\$20) the other is for Organ Flowers -
\$30. Payment will be due on or before
the date you have chosen. Thank you!

In our prayers



In the life of our congregation, there are often important events which touch the lives of the First Lutheran family. We commend them to you and encourage you to share news with us.

- + Sympathy and prayers to the family and friends of Joann Keefer, who died July 31.
- + Sympathy and prayers to the family and friends of Sandra Beth Dreier who died July 31 in Alexandria Virginia.
- + Sympathy and prayers to Calvin Anderson, family and friends on the death of his wife, Dorothy who died on August 22.
- + Please hold the family of Lynn McCormick (spouse of deceased Pastor James McCormick) in prayer as Lynn joined the Saints of Heaven on August 10, 2024.

**Income and Expense Summary
as of July 31, 2024**

	Current YTD Actual Jan. 1 thru July 31, 2024	Current YTD Budget Jan. 1 thru July 31, 2024	Difference over+/under- Budget
Regular Offering Income	\$96,309.61	\$90,805.39	\$5,504.22
Trust Fund Income	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Other Income	\$1468.00	\$2,479.19	-\$1,011.19
TOTAL INCOME	\$97,777.61	\$93,284.58	\$4,493.03
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$105,384.00	\$99,346.87	\$6,037.13

Thank you for your continued generosity and faithfulness to First Lutheran Church. God bless.



Council met August 14, 2024, to hear reports and conduct business.

Council was notified of Bishop Paula Lebo’s unexpected resignation, due to physical, emotional and spiritual health issues. She will be kept in prayer.

The AAUW wishes to continue to use the extra rooms downstairs for storing and sorting books for their 2025 book sale, with a monthly donation for the use. Council approved.

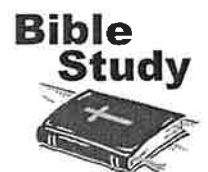
The Property Committee reported the two thermostats on the kitchen ovens were replaced, two dehumidifiers were replaced, and repairs to the air conditioning were made. All costs came out of the Preservation Fund. The leaking roof near the elevator and over the library is being inspected by Chappell with an estimate to follow. The organ needs to be repaired with possibly the replacement of the electrical console; the project is in preliminary stages.

The Joint Worship and Music committee met in August to plan fall/winter activities. Benscreek is invited to FLC for GWOH Sunday. The backpacks created on this day along with all backpacks/briefcases of those returning to school and work will be blessed on Sunday, September 15 during worship. There will be a potluck at the Benscreek grove September 22nd, and a Community Hymn Sing at Benscreek October 6th, 2024.

The next regular council meeting will be September 11, 2024 at 7:00 pm.

TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY

Tuesday Bible Study will resume on Tuesday September 10 at 6:30 and meet every other Tuesday following. The sessions will begin with a study of the parables of Jesus. In order to gain the greatest benefit from the parables, we must understand what they are and how they function. The year will conclude with a look at the book of Psalms. New members are always most welcome. Do come.



September Readings and Psalm**September 1 – Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

- Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9
God's law: a sign of a great nation
- Psalm 15
Lord, who may dwell in your tabernacle?
- James 1:17-27
Be doers of the word, not hearers only
- Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23
Authentic religion

September 8 – Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

- Isaiah 35:4-7a
Like streams in the desert, God comes with healing
- Psalm 146
I will praise the LORD as long as I live.
- James 2:1-10 [11-13] 14-17
Faith without works is dead
- Mark 7:24-37
Christ healing a little girl and a deaf man

September 15 – Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

- Isaiah 50:4-9a
The servant is vindicated by God
- Psalm 116:1-9
I will walk in the presence of the LORD.
- James 3:1-12
Dangers of the unbridled tongue
- Mark 8:27-38
Peter's confession of faith

September 22 – Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

- Jeremiah 11:18-20
The prophet led like a lamb to slaughter
- Psalm 54
God is my helper; it is the Lord who sustains my life.
- James 3:13—4:3, 7-8a
The wisdom from above
- Mark 9:30-37
Prediction of the passion

September 29 – Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

- Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29
The LORD's spirit comes upon seventy elders
- Psalm 19:7-14
The commandment of the LORD gives light to the eyes.
- James 5:13-20
Prayer and anointing in the community
- Mark 9:38-50
Warnings to those who obstruct faith

LIFT YOUR VOICES!

All are welcome to a HYMN SING at Benscreek Lutheran Church on Sunday, October 6 at 4:00 in the afternoon. We

will be singing hymns old and new with a special focus on some old-time favorites. Accompaniment will be provided by organ, keyboard, and special guests Johnstown BrassWorks. All are welcome to remain after for food and fellowship.

Some hymns to be sung include: Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing, Amazing Grace, The Old Rugged Cross, In the Garden, and Lift High the Cross.

Please plan to join in this musically spirited program.

Sunday, October 6, 4:00 p.m. at Benscreek Lutheran

Sunday worship will move back to the sanctuary on Sunday, September 8.





Appalachian music on next noon recital

Alex Price and Aaron Work will play music of Appalachia when the noon recitals resume **October 1**.

A light lunch will follow each of four upcoming recitals.

Alex most recently performed at First Lutheran when he presented an ambient-sound program of marimba and guitar.

On **October 8** Luis Gonzales, piano, and Joe Tirpak, guitar, will present a variety show. Luis is one of the Saturday night pianists at First.

On **October 15** Kim Rauch will present an organ recital of classics and a spiritual. Kim founded the recital series 35 years ago and now is associate chair of the Recitals Task Force.

The series will conclude **October 22** with a program of songs by Denise Baldwin, voice and guitar. Denise also is a composer and has performed frequently in the region.

There is no charge for the recitals or lunches. They are entirely supported by contributions and a foundation grant soon to be announced.



Ways to offer prayers. . .



If you are looking for ways to offer prayers for yourself, family, and friends or for other needs we have several ways this can be done.

Our prayer group meets every Monday at noon to pray for a variety of reasons. They will gladly take requests for prayer needs from the congregation. Contact the church office with any requests you might have.

The prayer chain is always actively praying for the many people and needs requested of them. Contact Caryl Swanson (814-255-3225) with any requests you might have.

Prayer cards are available to complete with requests and placed in the offering plates to have prayers offered during the Intercessory prayers at worship and noted in the bulletin.

REMEMBER PRAYER IS A POWERFUL ACT!



Looking for Volunteers

Speaking of prayer, the Prayer Chain is looking for a few more volunteers to share the prayer requests with others on the chain as requests are received.

A volunteer receives the information and then makes one call to another volunteer to share the information. The calls continue until everyone on the chain has been notified.

Volunteers also include the names of those on the list to their personal prayers and pray for them each day.

Call Caryl Swanson (814-255-3225) if you are interested or have questions.

Growing our faith through generosity



This fall's stewardship emphasis will be upbeat, reflecting the prevailing atmosphere at First Lutheran.

A postcard seeking prayer for the campaign will be mailed in mid-September.

The actual appeal will begin with a mailing the week of October 12.

"Growing our faith through generosity" is this year's theme.

"First Lutherans are remarkably loyal," said this year's chair, George Fattman. "And God is rewarding us with growth in ministry. You can sense it."

Barry Critchfield, treasurer, noted that every pledge made for this year is being fully honored, even though a pledge is not a legal commitment.

"Pledges are important," he said, "because they give the council a good idea of what the congregation has to work with."

Stewardship is not just about money.

"Time and talent are just as important," George said. "Because of all the optimism about our ministry, we can use more people to help make it happen."

"God has plenty for First Lutherans to do, here and in the world beyond."



Labor Day – Monday, September 2



During the Industrial Revolution, workers organized strikes, demonstrations, and rallies to push for improved working conditions. Labor Day commemorates the efforts of those who fought for workers' rights during the labor movement of the late 19th century. Thanks to their struggles, we now enjoy benefits such as the 40-hour workweek, paid time off, sick leave, and safer workplaces. This holiday celebrates American workers, unions, and labor leaders.

The first Labor Day holiday was celebrated on Tuesday, Sept. 5, 1882, in New York City, according to the U.S. Department of Labor.

Labor Day became a U.S. federal holiday in 1894 when President Grover Cleveland signed a congressional act. Even before it was recognized as a federal holiday, 30 states officially celebrated it.

Loving Father, on this weekend, when we rest from our usual labors, we pray for all who shoulder the tasks of human labor in the marketplace, in factories and offices, in the professions, and in family living. We thank you, Lord, for the gift and opportunity of work; may our efforts always be pure of heart, for the good of others and the glory of your name.


We lift up to you all who long for just employment and those who work to defend the rights and needs of workers everywhere. May those of us who are now retired always remember the valuable contribution we make to our Church and our world by our prayers and deeds of charity.

May our working and our resting give you praise until the day we share together in eternal rest with all our departed in your kingdom as you live and reign Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

Holy Cross Day

Saturday, September 14

May I never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. *Galatians 6:14*

TRUMPH OF THE

 SEPTEMBER 14

In the fourth century, Queen Helena, the mother of Emperor Constantine, oversaw some archaeological digs in Jerusalem, during which was excavated what she and others believed to be the true cross of Jesus. A long delightful medieval legend narrates this tale, in which the wood cross that Helen found had originally been the tree of life in the Garden of Eden. The excavated "true cross" was displayed in Jerusalem for the people's reverence on Good Friday, and splinters of it were sent throughout the Christian world as relics that meant to connect people with the mercy of God. At one of the excavations in Jerusalem, Constantine ordered the construction of a church, and on September 14, 335, the Church of the Resurrection was dedicated. Subsequently this date became more attached to Helena's finding of the "true cross." Since then some Christians have kept this date in honor of the cross, on which Christ brought about the life of the world. The Orthodox call the festival the Elevation of the Cross.

In the Cross of Christ I Glory

- 1 In the cross of Christ I glory,
tow'ring o'er the wrecks of time.
All the light of sacred story
gathers round its head sublime.
- 2 When the woes of life o'ertake me,
hopes deceive, and fears annoy,
never shall the cross forsake me;
lo, it glows with peace and joy.
- 3 When the sun of bliss is beaming
light and love upon my way,
from the cross the radiance
streaming
adds more luster to the day.
- 4 Bane and blessing, pain and
pleasure,
by the cross are sanctified;
peace is there that knows no
measure,
joys that through all time abide.

Text: John Bowring, 1792-1872

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ was lifted high upon the cross so that he might draw the whole world to himself. To those who look upon the cross, grant your wisdom, healing, and eternal life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Thought for the month. . .

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

Romans 8:28

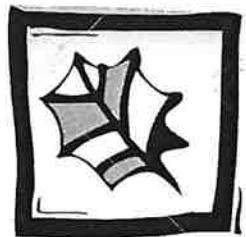


By Heart

You're invited to
Bible Study!!! – Conversations with Martin Luther's Small
Catechism. Using "By Heart" – Augsburg Fortress.

We will be alternating sites every other week beginning:

September 19, 2024, 7:00 pm
First Lutheran Church
Vicar Christy, Leader



Autumn

POTLUCK AND FELLOWSHIP

BURGERS AND DOGS

HEY FIRST LUTHERAN PARTNERS

WE ARE HAVING A POTLUCK AND FELLOWSHIP AT BENSREEK GROVE.
COME JOIN TOGETHER AT 4 PM ON SEPTEMBER 22

FOR " BURGERS AND DOGS"

AT 255 CHURCH GROVE RD. BOSWELL, PA 15531

BRING A COVER DISH AND GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER

AS WE CELEBRATE THE FIRST DAY OF AUTUMN.

PLEASE SIGN UP IF YOU ARE ABLE TO ATTEND.



Allegheny Synod Junior/Senior High Youth Event

Friday, Dec. 6 – Sunday, Dec. 8

St. James Lutheran Church & the Comfort Inn, Huntingdon

Thank you for your interest in participating in “The Weekend,” the Allegheny Synod Youth Event, and your commitment and passion for youth ministry in your congregation and the Allegheny Synod. The planning team is ecstatic and humbled by the overwhelming positive response to this event. We are looking forward to working with you to make this a meaningful and powerful event for all.

“The Weekend” is all about helping our youth know that, in a society that puts a lot of pressure and demands on them, *they are enough*, just as they are, and that Jesus loves them for who they were wonderfully created to be. We will utilize various gifts and leaders from throughout the Allegheny Synod to provide worship, Bible Study, service projects, fun, food and much more!

Early Bird Registration for the event is \$150 per person and runs through October 15. Regular Registration (October 16 through November 15) is \$175 per person.

Farewell & Welcome Back...



Hard to believe it's been around six years now that we have had the pleasure of Amber singing with us here at First. With her final stages in her

career education, the time has come that she will be leaving us. She will be missed!

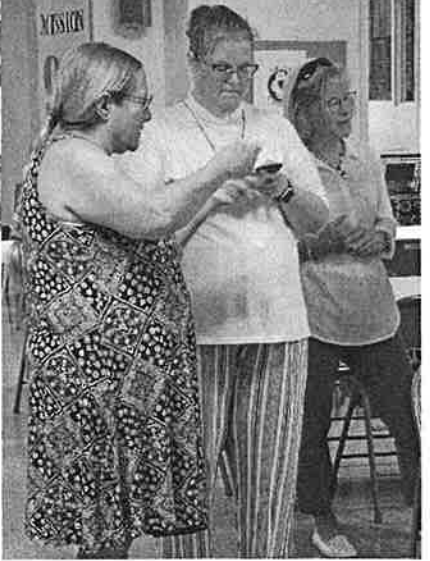
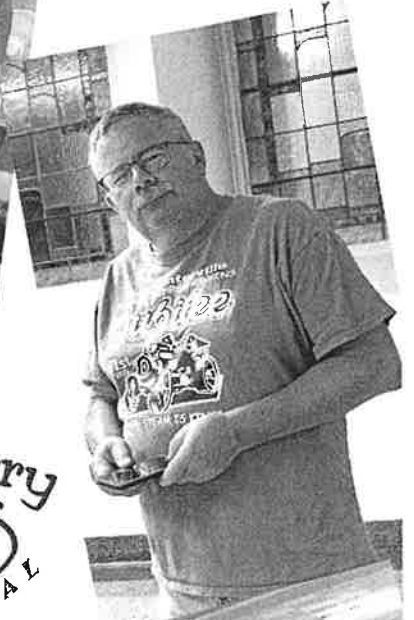
I am happy to welcome back to the choir, Kerri Hostetler who was with us before covid hit. I hope you will join me in welcoming her back when you see her.

And please keep in mind, if you are 15 or older, you too can be a part in this ministry of the adult choir that adds to our Sunday morning worship service. Just contact Howard, the choir director.

Thank you all for your continued support!

“Let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth.” —1 John 3:18

For 50 years we have joined together as Lutherans to address the root causes of hunger and poverty around the world through ELCA World Hunger. Part of our church’s long tradition of meeting human needs, ELCA World Hunger testifies to our hope for and commitment to God’s promise of a time when we will hunger and thirst no more. Reaching the 50th anniversary of this ministry, we have made great strides, but once again we face a startling increase in global hunger. As we reflect on our last 50 years of ministry together, we know God calls us to respond to the needs of the world now more than ever.



Volunteer Page - Month of September

ALTAR GUILD

Fawn Slonka and Donna Kovalchek – *Saturday*,
September 7, 14

Annie Hayes and Carol Massingill – *Saturday*,
September 21, 28

Vicki Price, Carol Allison – *Sunday*
September 1, 15, 22, 29

Caryl Swanson, Greer Koeller, Patty Schrott –
Sunday, September 8

COUNCIL GREETERS – Rick Blackford

FLOWER DELIVERY – Rob Abele

ACOLYTES

1 Ushers
8 Ushers
15 Ushers
22 Ushers
29 Ushers

CANTOR

1 Joel Hoshaw
8 Joel Hoshaw
15 Joel Hoshaw
22 Joel Hoshaw
29 Joel Hoshaw

COMMUNION ASSISTANT

1 Josh Rinaman
8 Barry Critchfield
15 Jody Kirk
22 Jody Kirk
29 Barry Critchfield

SATURDAY PIANISTS

7 George Fattman
14 Harriett Miller
21 Heidi Staib
28 George Fattman

TOWER BELLS

1, 15, 22, 29	Vicki Price
3, 10, 17, 24	George Fattman
4, 11, 18, 25	Anne Fattman
6, 13, 20, 27	Kim Rauch
9, 16, 23, 30	Harriett Miller

VIDEO

1	Rob Abele
8	Bill Grubb
15	Bill Hargreaves
22	Bill Price
29	Rob Abele

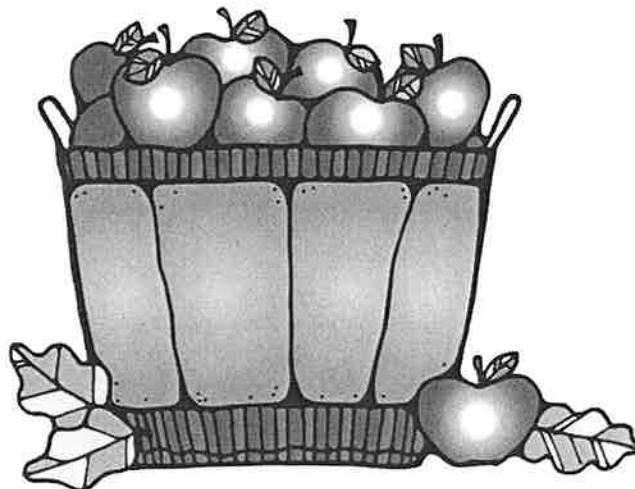
LECTORS

1	Josh Rinaman
7*	George Fattman
8	Tom Dixon
14*	Fawn Slonka
15	Jody Kirk
21	Heidi Staib
22	Ann Furlong
28*	George Fattman
29	Dick Schrott

*Saturday Lectors

SOUND

1	Harry Bennett
8	Rick Blackford
15	Rob Abele
22	Bill Grubb
29	Chuck Staib



September 2024

First Evangelical Lutheran Church – Johnstown, Pennsylvania
814-536-7521 email: firstlutheran@wpia.net
Office Hours: Mon. thru Fri. 9 am – 2:00 pm

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
1 Pentecost 15 11:00-Of Land and Seasons Holy Communion	2 LABOR DAY OFFICE CLOSED 8-Channel 9 Broadcast	3 6:30-Bell choir	4	5	6	7 Eve of Pentecost 16 5:00-Word & Sacrament Vicar Harford
8 Pentecost 16 God's Work Our Hands 11:00-Word & Sacrament Vicar Harford Noon-GWOH Celebration	9 9:00-Staff Meeting 11:45-Communion 12-Prayer Meeting. 8-Channel 9 Broadcast	10 6:30-Bell choir 6:30-Outreach Meeting 6:30-Bible Study	11 7-Council	12	13	14 Eve of Pentecost 17 Holy Cross Day 5:00-Word & Sacrament Vicar Harford
15 Pentecost 17 11:00-Word & Sacrament Vicar Harford Blessing of Backpacks Noon-Hospitality	16 Bishop's Convo 9:00-Staff Meeting 11:45-Communion 12-Prayer Meeting. 8-Channel 9 Broadcast	17 12-VSJ Deadline 6:30-Bell choir	18	19 7:00-By Heart Bible Study- First	20	21 Eve of Pentecost 18 5:00- Of Land and Seasons Fall - Holy Communion
22 Pentecost 18 11:00-Of Land and Seasons Fall - Holy Communion Noon-Hospitality 4:00-Burgers & Dogs at Benscreek	23 11:30-Staff Meeting 11:45-Communion 12-Prayer Meeting. 8-Channel 9 Broadcast	24 6:30-Bell choir 6:30-Bible Study	25	26	27	28 Eve of Pentecost 19 5:00-Word & Sacrament Pastor Nancy Hoover
29 Pentecost 19 <i>Michael and All Angels</i> 11:00-Word & Sacrament Pastor Ralph Hamer Noon-Hospitality	30 11:30-Staff Meeting 11:45-Communion 12-Prayer Meeting. 8-Channel 9 Broadcast	<p>"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Mathew 11:28</p>				