



The Parishioner

Volume 28 Issue 08 A Publication of St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church September 2023

From the Pastor's Desk:

Every year, as we approach the month of May, a lot of people – especially students in school, but even teachers and school staff – have one thing in common: they are all looking forward to summer break. And it is great to have some time away from school. But by the middle of August – if not before – many are looking forward to September. (I was talking to a neighbor back in early July. She and her husband have three children. She said, “I can’t wait for school to start back up!” She even knew how many days until the first day of school!!!) By the time we reach the first of September, most schools have already resumed.

So, as we move into September and the fall season, I want to ask you to do something, I want to issue a challenge to you: beginning in September and continuing through the rest of the year, make an effort to invite someone to worship at St. Mark's. It could be someone who is not currently affiliated with a church, or it could be an inactive member of St. Mark's. If you find someone who is interested, you can point them to the church website (www.stmarksbutler.org), where they will find a lot of information, including a link to the online video recordings of Sunday morning worship.

Invite A Friend
Bring someone you care about
one step closer to Christ.

And while we're on that subject, I want to comment that these online resources, as well as the broadcast of the lessons and sermon on Butler radio, are of great benefit to our homebound members. However, too many of us have substituted these experiences for gathered worship. I know this is hard to hear (read), but it's the truth. It forces us to come to grips with what it really means to be the church and how the life and mission of the church are carried out. Unfortunately, far too many Christians have separated the two. We look at the church as an institution that serves us and our needs, because we don't fully understand what it means to be the church. (And this isn't just a St. Mark's problem; almost every Pastor I know has expressed similar concerns.)

Most important is the fact that the sacrament of the Lord's Supper – **central** to the Christian faith and life – is celebrated in the life of the gathered community of Christ (except in circumstances when I or an approved layperson takes communion to someone who is homebound). At St. Mark's, holy communion is celebrated at every Saturday service (5:00 p.m.) and at every Sunday morning service (9:00), so that whenever anyone worships here, he or she always has an opportunity to receive the Body and Blood of Christ.

As you can see from Darcie's page (page #3 in this newsletter), children's Sunday School, Confirmation, and First Communion classes will resume in September and October. Please take time to read her page. I will be teaching Confirmation classes beginning on 17 September in the conference room on Sunday mornings after worship. Any youth in 7th grade or higher are encouraged to be in confirmation. Classes are held almost every Sunday from September to the end of May for two years. The four units focus on the Ten Commandments, the Lord's Prayer, the Sacraments, and the Apostles' Creed. The lessons in each unit follow *Martin Luther's Small Catechism*. Each student will be given a copy. I will also expand our lessons with other exercises from the Bible, especially memorization of the order of the books of the Bible. So, we will be busy very soon.

Before we know it, we'll be celebrating the Reformation (observed on Saturday and Sunday, 28/29 October), All Saints (4/5 November), Thanksgiving Eve (22 November), Christ the King/Reign of Christ (25/26 November), and the beginning of Advent (2/3 December), not to mention our Congregational Annual Meeting (12 November).

During 2023 so far, we welcomed 8 new adult members into our church family and celebrated Holy Baptism (with 3 more baptisms to be celebrated soon). I just received request from 3 other adults who want to become a member of St. Mark's. So, I encourage you to come and worship and celebrate these moments with our brothers and sisters who gather for worship at St. Mark's. Blessings, **Pastor Phillips**

3T-Wednesday, September 6 @ 9:00 am

Time of talk, task & tea
lite lunch @ 11:30am, bring a dish to share *please join us*

Our plastic bag collection for making mats has really been busy and we can use more hands to help prepare the bags for mat making.

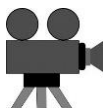
- *Our collection bins are located at the bottom of the steps coming in from the parking lot.
- *Find the list of acceptable plastic items that qualify on the table near the elevator and start recycling today!

♥ **Prayer Shawl Group**
meets
Wednesday, September 13
@ 1:00 pm.

If you are unable to join the group at the church, but would still like to add your talents, please reach out to Elaine Walker.

Afternoon @ the Movies

Thursday, September 7 @ 1:30



LETTERS TO GOD

Tyler Doherty (*Tanner Maguire*) is an extraordinary eight-year-old boy. Surrounded by a loving family and community, and armed with the courage of his faith, he faces his daily battle against cancer with bravery and grace. To Tyler, God is a friend, a teacher and the ultimate pen pal—Tyler's prayers take the form of letters, which he composes and mails on a daily basis.

Old Testament Bible Study

Thursdays @ 6:00 pm. in Fellowship Hall
9/14, 9/21, 9/28



Eve Bible Study

Tuesday, September 26 @ 3:00 pm in the Good News Classroom. The study that day is Malachi, The Call to Depend on God's Grace" from the study book, "The Minor Prophets"

Congregational Council – Next meeting

Tuesday, September 12, 2023 @ 6:00pm

Please have your reports into the office by Thursday, September 7. Envelopes will be available for pick-up in your mailboxes, Saturday, September 9. *Please keep our Church Council in your prayers as they make decisions for our church family.*

St. Mark's Financial Overview

June		July	
\$33,973.57	Receipts	\$65,410.85	
<u>\$41,088.58</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>\$50,651.96</u>	
(\$7,115.01) Deficit		\$14,758.89 Excess	



Mark your calendars! Date: Sunday September 10, 2023

Place: Alameda Park, Masonic Shelter

Schedule: Picnic will start at 1pm. Service of the Word will be at 1:30pm. We will eat immediately after the service.

Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, and drinks will be provided. Please bring at least one covered dish to share with everyone. Please RSVP to the Church Office with the number that will be attending from your family.

St. Mark's
Kids stuff

Church Service is every Sunday at 9AM.

Hope to see YOU there!

Youth Page

September 2023



Church Picnic

St. Mark's is heading back to the Masonic Shelter at Alameda for the annual Church Picnic.

The fun will be taking place on Sunday, **September 10th**.

Bring a dish, relax at the park, and engage in great conversation!

Friends!
Food!
Fun!



Confirmation classes are starting up Sunday, Sept. 17th at 10:15 to Noon.

All kids 7th grade and up that are ready



Rallying Back to Sunday School starts **September 17th** at 10:15AM in Schramm Hall.

Come make some new friends and see some that you've missed over the summer. There are lots of activities planned for the year ahead!

Sunday at 9AM As part of the Worship Service, all kids are welcomed at:

Children's Church

JESUS
Loves Me
This I Know

Make a difference and volunteer. Ways you can help with the kids:

Donate supplies, Cut stuff out at home

Assist a Teacher, Teach a Class

And definitely PRAY for all the families!



First Communion classes are starting up. The kids will take their First Communion on **Sun., October 1st** at the 9AM Service.

Miss Darcie will be teaching four classes to prepare the kids for their First Communion. All kids 3rd grade and up that are ready to take their First Communion, please come on Tuesday September 5th, 12th, 19th, and (if needed) the 26th after School from 4PM to 5:30PM.

St. Mark's Lutheran Church NALC
201 West Jefferson Street
Butler PA 16001

Darcie Pomykata, Youth Ministry Leader
(724) 996-9245 cell/text
Email: Darcie.Pomykata@stmarksbutler.org



NALC News

North American Lutheran Church



*THE REV. DR.
DANIEL SELBO*

HAS BEEN RE-ELECTED
AS BISHOP OF THE
NORTH AMERICAN
LUTHERAN CHURCH

In a significant show of unity and trust, delegates of the North American Lutheran Church (NALC) have re-elected the Rev. Dr. Daniel W. Selbo as their bishop during the NALC Mission Convocation in Oklahoma City, OK. Receiving 77% of votes on the first ballot, Bishop Selbo's re-election stands as a testament to his unwavering commitment, strong leadership, and vision for the church's future. The announcement of his re-election was made by NALC General Secretary, the Rev. Dr. Amy Little on Thursday, August 10, 2023.

Bishop Selbo stated, "The North American Lutheran Church, over the years, has become a beacon of hope, faith, and spiritual resilience. As we move forward into the future together, our mission remains firmly anchored in the teachings and love of Christ, and our enduring commitment to discipleship, both locally and globally. I am profoundly honored by this re-election and the immense trust placed in me. My earnest prayer is that together, as one unified body, we will continue to participate in the mission and work of God by lifting up Jesus as Lord and Savior of all, that the world might be drawn by the Holy Spirit to Him."

On August 3rd, Pastor and I (Jessie) went with Phyllis and Jerry Kaltenbaugh to the NALC Disaster Response warehouse in Caldwell, Ohio. We were shown the new facility for youth mission housing (see pictures below). As you can tell, it is not completed. With the increasing cost of supplies they will need assistance from our NALC congregations.

Since arriving at St. Mark's, I have seen how giving this church is. So, if this mission leads your heart to give, please do so. Please make your payable check to North America Lutheran Church (NALC) with NALC Disaster Response in the memo space.

I would also like to thank all those that helped the NALC Disaster Response with \$625 in gift cards and 3T for their numerous quilts, throws, and shawls. This assistance will help those victims of natural disasters.



Maui update: On Tuesday Aug. 8, a firestorm fueled in part by fierce winds from the Category 4 Hurricane Dora's 140 mph winds that triggered raging fires on the island of Maui. These fires hit the historic town of Lahaina, a popular tourist destination and economic hub. The wildfires also impacted the communities of Kihei and Kula. As of Tuesday Aug. 22, the death toll from the Maui wildfires has surpassed 114, with over 850 people still unaccounted. Authorities are continuing to search the community by grids and the harbor waters for remains. This is the deadliest United States wildfire in more than 100 years. 3,000+ homes, businesses, schools,

government and cultural centers are destroyed. This wildfire caused more than a loss of homes and land, but a loss of identity, loss of heritage, and a loss of *ohana* as known there. Everyone on the island of Maui has been affected directly or indirectly by these fires, and all are suffering and mourning their losses. An estimated 12,000 people are displaced, with people in shelters that will be closing soon, placed in hotels for the next 45 days, or living in their vehicles, tents in the park, on the street, or with family and friends. With businesses destroyed, there is also a massive loss of jobs, income, and tourism. NALC Disaster Response is providing support through local partners, shipping gift cards and other supplies for emergency relief. To support these efforts, donate your gift cards to NALC Disaster Response, 16500 Noble Ave. Caldwell, Ohio 43724 or give them to Jessie or Wendy and we will ensure they get to Mary Bates. If you'd like to give monetary support, send checks to the NALC Disaster Response, PO Box 860565, Minneapolis, MN 55486 (memo: Maui Disaster)

Save the date - Saturday, October 14, 2023, at 11:00 am. - for a church gathering with **all women of our church.** This is a fellowship time for us to meet and discuss where or whom we want to support in our mission for Christ. There is no cost and brunch will be served.

May our Lord continue to bless you as you bless others, Jessie

80+ Fall Luncheon
 Tuesday, October 24
 11:30 am.

Social time, Service of Holy Communion
 followed by lunch.

Join us for an afternoon of good food
 & fellowship!



September comes, and... Summer thins away.



~Hal Borland



Women of the
 NORTH AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH

**MID NORTHEAST MISSION DISTRICT
 FALL GATHERING**

**SATURDAY
 NOVEMBER 11TH
 9AM - 3PM**

Celebrating Women Veterans

**SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH
 26 CLARION ST
 SMICKSBURG, PA 16256**

**\$10 REGISTRATION, RSVP BY 10/28 TO LANE MAGERA
 AT LSMAGERA@GMAIL.COM OR (847) 714-3876**

CHURCH MUSIC NOTES: Thanks to: Matt Nocera, Georgia Lohner, Aimee Bookamer, Mary Kruger, Anne Ferguson, Janice Karenbauer, Jessie Phillips, Dick Beamer, and Dennis Hindman for sharing their musical talents during summer worship!

• Now that September is here, CHOIR REHEARSALS will be starting up again!
 Sanctuary Choir practice will resume on Tuesdays at 6 p.m starting September 5, 2023 and also on Sunday mornings in the sanctuary at 8 a.m. to accommodate those with work or other schedule conflicts during the week. **WE NEED SINGERS FOR ALL SECTIONS ESPECIALLY MEN, CAN YOU PLEASE HELP??**

• Bell rehearsals also begin Tuesday September 5, 2023 at 5:00 pm in the sanctuary balcony. We always need new ringers. Youth are welcome! So if you have any experience or simply want to learn to ring, please see me.

Thank you!! ~ Rebecca Veith, Director of Music



Katie's Kitchen Newsletter for September 2023.....



Happy September! Hope everyone had an enjoyable summer & had time to relax & change up your routine before the start of another school year! (Yes, I guess I still am on "teacher time".)

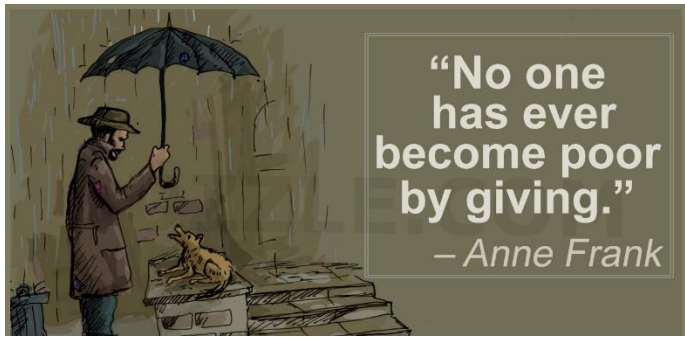
Our summers are filled with gifts. Many in our family have birthdays, & wedding anniversaries. Then there are the graduations and other occasions that require gift-giving. These aren't burdens but are acts of love between giver & receiver. I have found that KK is one of those gifts that continues to give. There are so many gifts & blessings that have come with working in KK. The joy of meeting new friends & working together, the bounty of food that is shared, even the folks we serve are wonderful gifts that money can't buy. In my reading this morning from *Living Faith*, Jonathan F. Sullivan writes "When we share God's gifts with others— even when we feel we have little— we don't lose them. We are vessels called to hold and then pour out the gifts of God to others. In sharing them, we make room to receive more from God. By giving more, we can receive even more." My prayer is that KK continue to be a gift to others on many levels & that we continue to share all of the gifts & graces that we receive from God with those around us.

Notes from the Kitchen.....

- In July we celebrated the gift of our wonderful volunteers with a catered picnic where we acknowledged all of their dedication to KK! Their hard work week after week and their ability to adjust to all of our crazy menus make my job easy! They continue to multiply the grace given by God.
- Thanks to Zach, an intern working with the Butler Eagle, for the great article explaining the plight of several of the folks that come to our Community Meals every week. He highlighted the difficult circumstances that these folks find themselves, & how helpful our meals & the meals from the other churches are. We appreciate all of the continued support from the Butler Eagle. ♥
- Thanks to Tom & Raylene Jindra who have offered to help my husband picking up the donations weekly from Panera Bread while Bill is going through some medical issues. Tom, Raylene, & Pastor Phillips keep Panera on their toes. Bill & I appreciate their support.
- The number of meals we serve the last 2-3 weeks of the month continue to be high. I am hoping that once the kids are back to school that these numbers will level off. Many of the elementary schools in our district offer the students free breakfast & lunches daily. We are especially grateful for these extra meals because it is very difficult to teach kids who are hungry.
- Speaking of students, please keep an eye out for used children's books. Our families are enjoying picking out a book for their children as they pick up their meals. Having reading material at home is one of the important items kids need to have available to them- not just at school. If you find any, please drop them off at your church & I will make sure they are made available to our families.
- Special thanks to Amy Brenckle, who has been sharing their extra produce with us. What a blessing it is to have this fresh, local food to help us feed & nourish our neighbors.

In closing, spend a few minutes today thinking of someone who needs YOUR gifts today. You will be blessed beyond measure.

-Justine



“No one has ever become poor by giving.”
 – Anne Frank

Caponata (Eggplant Antipasta)

This is a great low calorie appetizer that can be served with crackers.

Ingredients:

- 3 c Eggplant, diced into ½” pieces & soaked in salted water for 15
- Small onion diced
- ½ green pepper, diced
- 1# of mushrooms, diced or 1 small can
- 1 – 6 oz. can of tomato paste
- ¼ c sliced green olives
- ½ c water
- 2 tsp vinegar
- ½ tsp sugar
- ½ tsp garlic
- ½ tsp Italian seasoning
- Salt & pepper to taste

Eggplant



Instructions:

Drain & rinse the eggplant & sauté in a skillet with olive oil. Add the onions, green pepper, & mushrooms. Cook until tender. Mix in the remaining ingredients. Serve alone or with crackers warm or chilled.



*Where crooknecks are coiling and yellow fruit shines,
 And the sun of September melts down on the vines...
 ~John Greenleaf Whittier, "The Pumpkin"*



St. Mark's Children's Hour—50th Year!!!

Wednesdays, 9:30 to 11:30AM

September 2023 through May 2024

Children's Hour is a volunteer program for kids: Children's Hour is going on its **50th** year!

St. Mark's (201 W. Jefferson St, Butler PA) offers "Children's Hour" for all kids ages 2 up to Kindergarteners.

There is a lot of activity on Wednesday mornings. The kids will sing, make crafts, play games, listen to stories, have snacks, and make friends!

Cost: Suggested donation of **\$35** for the whole school year.

Parent Orientation Meeting on Wed., Sept. 6th from 6 to 7:30PM

First day of Class is Wed, September 13th from 9:30 to 11:30

Register today

Call the Church for a registration form (724) 287-6741 or print one on line at www.stmarksbutler.org (click the Children's Hour tab)

Always looking for great volunteers/leaders/Teachers, if you are interested please reach out to Darcie Pomykata.

Children's Hour is hitting its 50th! This Program has touched many young lives throughout the years. We'd love to hear your past experiences in the Program. If you have a good story to share, please contact the Church Office so that we can include it in our anniversary announcements!

Answer from page #11: "The end of a matter is better than its beginning, and patience is better than pride. ~Ecclesiastes 7:8 NIV

Congratulations to newly baptized Shiloh Ann Wilbert.

Daughter of Michael & Holly (Hespenheide) Wilbert
Grandparents - Denny Hespenheide & Sandy Wilbert
Great-grandparent - Joan Hespenheide
Shiloh's Sponsors - Lindsay Ebken &
Katie Pierce-Wilbert
Welcome to the Christian family.
Please continue to lift Shiloh and her family
up in prayer.



Welcome to New Members!



Rachelle Fritz - transfer from Trinity Lutheran Church, Butler

Larry Fritz - transfer from Trinity Lutheran Church, Gibsonia

Peggy Barron, affirmation of Baptism/Faith

For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.
~ Romans 12:4 - 5

Dear Wendy & St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Thank you so much for partnering with us to Provide desserts for our Butler Meals on Wheels Clients for the month of June. Our clients & our Program were blessed by your kindness and we thank you. May God continue to bless you & provide for your needs. ~from the Butler "Meals" Staff-Mary, Natalie, Terri, Donna & Jean Ann

~~~~~

Dear Friends, Thank you for your generous monetary gift to Butler Meals on Wheels. We are thrilled to have your support. Through your donation we have been able to prepare and deliver hot, nutritious meals to the homebound of Butler, and help keep the elderly in their homes. You truly make the difference for us, and we are extremely grateful! This year marks our fifty-four years of service in Butler. The generosity of folks like you make it possible for our organization to exist and for our community to be a great place to live. Sincerely, Mary Pataky, Program Director

Dear Parishioners of St. Mark's Lutheran Church: On behalf of the City of Butler, please accept our thank you for your... contribution toward city services...These services are necessary for not only the safety of residents, businesses, and visitors but also for enjoyment and the vitality of the City of Butler. We appreciate your services and outreach that enrich the community. Sincerely, Robert A. Dandoy, Mayor, City of Butler

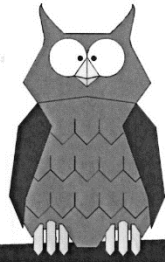
*thank you*

### Stay Connected

We are working hard to continue reaching out, serving and "being witnesses" through a variety of old and new ways. Find us, "Like us" and Share us! ❤️

- Website - stmarksbutler.org / Facebook - St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church (Butler, PA)
- YouTube - St. Marks Butler PA / Radio Broadcast - WBUT 1050 AM, Sunday mornings @ 10:30 am
- Newsletter - "The Parishioner" - sent monthly to your mailbox and found on the website
- Email - Parish Administrator, [wendy.holt@stmarksbutler.org](mailto:wendy.holt@stmarksbutler.org) / Phone - (724)-287-6741
- Mail - 201 West Jefferson Street, Butler, PA 16001

Help us stay connected to you. Share and/or update your contact information so that we can keep you informed.



## Wise Up!

Uncover some wisdom from the book of Ecclesiastes by carefully following the instructions below. Are you wise enough to solve this on your first attempt?

|   | A         | B       | C        | D      | E           | F        |
|---|-----------|---------|----------|--------|-------------|----------|
| 1 | Truth     | The     | Wise     | end    | foolish     | of       |
| 2 | a         | people  | matter   | lesson | meaningless | is       |
| 3 | numbers   | better  | than     | acts   | its         | world    |
| 4 | beginning | gift    | kingdom  | and    | wrongdoer   | patience |
| 5 | lies      | is      | certain  | will   | better      | job      |
| 6 | than      | knowing | property | pride  | celebrate   | saint    |

1. Cross out all the words in Columns A and F that have five letters.
2. Cross out all the words in the table that rhyme with eyes.
3. Cross out all words that are books of the Bible.
4. Cross out all words in Row 2 that have more than two vowels.
5. Cross out all words in Column D that have double letters.
6. Cross out all words in Row 4 that contain all the letters in GOD.
7. Cross out all 7-letter words.
8. Cross out all words in Column B that end in T.
9. Cross out all words in Row 6 that have three syllables.



Write the remaining words here, in order from left to right and top to bottom:

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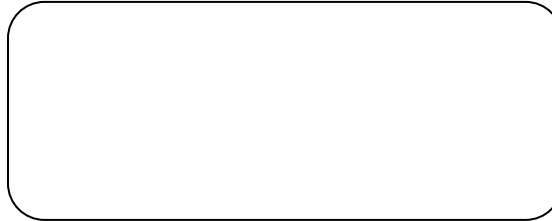
St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
201 West Jefferson Street  
Butler, Pennsylvania 16001  
Phone: 724-287-6741  
Fax: 724-287-6747  
Website: [www.stmarksbutler.org](http://www.stmarksbutler.org)

NON-PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U. S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT 92  
BUTLER, PA

Parish Office Hours:  
9:00 AM -- 1:00 PM  
Tuesday – Friday  
**WORSHIP SERVICES**

Saturday: 5:00 PM  
Sunday: 9:00 AM  
Sunday School: 10:15 AM

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



HELLO  
September



Learn more about The North American

Lutheran Church

[www.thenalc.org](http://www.thenalc.org)

Christ Centered

Mission Driven


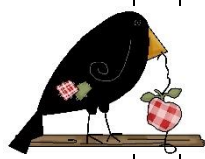
Traditionally Grounded

Congregationally Focused



**St. Mark's Staff**

Rev. David Phillips, Senior Pastor  
Wendy Holt, Parish Administrator  
Darcie Pomykata, Youth Director  
John Lingenfelter, Custodian  
Larry Rettig, Custodian  
Rebecca Veith, Director of Music  
Sherry Young, Treasurer  
Toni Tasse, Financial Secretary

| MONDAY                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |        |                                                                                   | WEDNESDAY |                                                                                                             |        | FRIDAY                                              |        |                                                                                    |                |        |                |        |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|-----------------------------------------------------|--------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|--------|----------------|--------|
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |        |                                                                                   |           |                                                                                                             |        |                                                     |        | 1                                                                                  | 5:00pm Worship | 2      |                |        |
| 9:00am Worship<br>10:15am S.S.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | 3      |  | 4         | 4:00pm 1 <sup>st</sup><br>Communion Class<br>5:00pm Bell Choir<br>6:00pm Choir                              | 5      | 9:00am 3T<br>6:00pm Children's<br>Hour Parent Mtg.  | 6      | 1:30pm Afternoon<br>@ Movies<br>5:00pm Katie's<br>Kitchen                          | 7              | 8      | 5:00pm Worship | 9      |
| 9:00am Worship<br>10:15am S.S.<br>1:00pm Church<br>Picnic                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | 1<br>0 |                                                                                   | 1<br>1    | 4:00pm 1 <sup>st</sup><br>Communion Class<br>5:00pm Bell Choir<br>6:00pm Choir<br>6:00pm Council<br>Mtg.    | 1<br>2 | 9:30am Children's<br>Hour<br>1:00pm Prayer<br>Shawl | 1<br>3 | 5:00pm Katie's<br>Kitchen<br>6:00pm Bible<br>Study                                 | 1<br>4         | 1<br>5 | 5:00pm Worship | 1<br>6 |
| 9:00am Worship<br>10:15am S.S.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | 1<br>7 |                                                                                   | 1<br>8    | 4:00pm 1 <sup>st</sup><br>Communion Class<br>5:00pm Bell Choir<br>6:00pm Choir                              | 1<br>9 | 9:30am Children's<br>Hour                           | 2<br>0 | 5:00pm Katie's<br>Kitchen<br>6:00pm Bible<br>Study                                 | 2<br>1         | 2<br>2 | 5:00pm Worship | 2<br>3 |
| 9:00am Worship<br>10:15am S.S.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | 2<br>4 |                                                                                   | 2<br>5    | 3:00pm Eve Bible<br>Study<br>4:00pm 1 <sup>st</sup><br>Communion Class<br>5:00pm Bell Choir<br>6:00pm Choir | 2<br>6 | 9:30am Children's<br>Hour                           | 2<br>7 | 1:30pm Afternoon<br>@ Movies<br>5:00pm Katie's<br>Kitchen<br>6:00pm Bible<br>Study | 2<br>8         | 2<br>9 | 5:00pm Worship | 3<br>0 |
|  <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> <p>9/7-National Salami Day, 9/9-Wonderful Weirdos Day, 9/13-National Bald Is Beautiful Day,<br/>9/19-National Butterscotch Pudding Day, 9/23-National Checkers Day, 9/30-National Love People Day</p> </div> |        |                                                                                   |           |                                                                                                             |        |                                                     |        |                                                                                    |                |        |                |        |

# SEPTEMBER 2023

1 2 3 4 5  
6 7 8 9 10 11 12  
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27 28 29 30 31

1 2 3 4 5 6 7  
8 9 10 11 12 13 14  
15 16 17 18 19 20 21  
22 23 24 25 26 27 28  
29 30 31

## Scripture:

<sup>10</sup> For "Those who desire to love life and to see good days, let them keep their tongues from evil and their lips from speaking deceit; <sup>11</sup> let them turn away from evil and do good; let them seek peace and pursue it. <sup>12</sup> For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their prayer. But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil." ~1 Peter 3:10-12

**AUGUST 2023**

**OCTOBER 2023**

## September Scriptures and Prayers

September 3, 2023 – Jeremiah 15:15-21, Psalm 26, Romans 12:9-21, Matthew 16:21-28

*\*God of all creation, You reach out to call people of all nations to Your kingdom. As You gather disciples from near and far, count us also among those who boldly confess Your Son Jesus Christ as Lord. Amen.*

September 10, 2023 – Ezekiel 33:7-9, Psalm 32:1-7, Romans 13:1-10, Matthew 18:1-20

*\*O God, we thank You for Your son who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by His example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow His commands; through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

September 17, 2023 - Genesis 50:15-21, Psalm 103:1-12, Romans 14:1-12, Matthew 18:21-35

*\*Almighty and eternal God, You know our problems and our weaknesses better than we ourselves. In Your love and by Your power help us in our confusion and, in spite of our weakness, make us firm in faith; through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

September 24, 2023 - Isaiah 55:6-9, Psalm 27:1-9, Philippians 1:12-14, 19-30, Matthew 20:1-16

*\*O God, You declare Your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity. Grant us the fullness of Your grace, that, pursuing what You have promised, we may share Your heavenly glory; through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*



# Seize-the-Last-of-Summer Plan

14 SIMPLE MEMORIES TO MAKE ANYWHERE IN THE LAST FEW WEEKS OF SUMMER

- 1. Make a fruit pie.
- 2. Eat under the stars.
- 3. Walk through the woods, some trees, long grass.
- 4. Dip both feet in water.
- 5. Sing hymns around flame (choice: candles or campfire).
- 6. Lick drippy ice cream.
- 7. Find a swing and swing high.
- 8. Pick a bouquet of wildflowers: set in sill or be the G.I.F.T and give it away.
- 9. Play one game of anything out on grass (frisbee, baseball, soccer, croquet, volleyball).
- 10. Eat something fresh (from the garden or the market or your mother's).
- 11. Lay down on grass, look up & watch clouds for 5 minutes.
- 12. Dance, dance on the beach, on a porch, on your toes, dance on until something in you feels lighter.
- 13. Open a window. Listen to the world. Slow. Still. Pray before that open window.
- 14. Sit with someone you love and watch the sunset. Say it out loud: Thank You.

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### ***Indian Summer***

*Softly, sweet Indian Summer,  
Thy footprints press the sod;  
And in the solemn stillness  
I hear the voice of God,  
As when my heart is tendered  
By love's subduing rod.*

*The dim and dreamy sunlight  
Is bathing all the land;  
And in the frost-touched forests  
The patient pine-trees stand.  
While billows flowing softly  
Embrace the sleeping strand.*

*High up along the hill-sides.  
Where granite rocks are bare,  
And down among the valleys  
Where lonely fields are fair.  
And through the leafless branches.  
Weird silence fills the air.*

*O days of lingering beauty,  
Too delicate to last,  
Like footprints on the lilies.  
The morning dews have cast.  
Or love's delicious echoes  
Through shadows of the past.*

*O, ever-softening spirit  
Into my spirit shine;  
And in the holy stillness  
May the still heart be mine,  
And life's sweet Indian Summer  
Be peaceful and divine.*

Poet: Ellwood Haines Stokes