



**Pastor Erik Sorenson**  
Office: (812) 343-1688  
Cell: (812) 371-1151  
pastoresorenson@gmail.com

**Church Council**  
Dan Acree, Chairman  
Barb Minor, Financial Secretary  
Camden Jeffries, Synodical Treasurer

Mike Vandercar, Gen. Fund Treasurer  
Michelle Schultz, Dir. of Christian Ed.  
Logan Hall, Recording Secretary  
Curt Acton, Practical Services

## The Laborers Are Few

- Pastor Sorenson

A group from our church has just returned from the LCMS Youth Gathering in New Orleans. It was a fantastic week, filled with lots of time for fellowship and learning. It was also quite a sight to behold over 20,000 LCMS youth all in one place.

One of the great things about the LCMS Youth Gathering, aside from all of this, is the opportunity for the youth of the Church to learn about how they can serve within the Church. For many of them, they have never even heard of our Concordia Universities or Seminaries or how they could use their God-given talents answering God's call to work in His vineyard.

It really drove home the words of our Lord Jesus Christ when He said, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest" (Luke 10:2).

While over 20,000 youth seems like a large number as we tried to navigate downtown New Orleans, it still is quite few compared to the billions of people in the world, many of whom do not believe in Jesus Christ and His death and resurrection for their salvation. The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few.

So, what is the Church to do facing this reality? Let us follow the words of our Lord and first pray earnestly that He would call and send more laborers into His harvest. Then, let us, in faith, see how God involves His whole Church in answering this prayer.

Learn the lesson from Jonah, who tried to run from the Lord's call to labor in the harvest only to be swallowed and spit out by a fish before answering that call, and be open to however the Lord may call you to be His laborer. As Abraham and Sarah (Genesis), and Zechariah and Elizabeth (Luke 1), show there is no age limit to when the Lord may call you to work. Instead of running from it, faithfully heed the Lord's call.

In the same way, and equally as importantly, encourage one another, and especially our youth, to prayerfully consider church work vocations. Sometimes, many times in fact, encouragement from fellow congregational members that someone should consider church work plays one of the largest roles in why they end up entering into it. Never underestimate what a simple, "Have you ever thought about being a pastor? You'd be great for it," or "You should really look at becoming a Lutheran school teacher or organist (etc.);" can do. Those encouragements mean more than you know.

And finally, let us support those who are striving to answer the call of God. For there is much work to do and God calls His Aarons and Hurs to hold up the arms of His Moses' (Exodus 17:8-16) so that God's work may be done.

Because, in the end, it isn't about the person doing the different church work vocations, but about how God is working through those vocations, through those offices, to bring salvation to all who believe. Let us, then, pray and encourage and support all of the laborers that God has called and is calling into His harvest that, on the last day, we may rejoice to see how plentiful it is because of Christ, our Lord.

# LCMS Stewardship Ministry

Lcms.org/stewardship

## *Jesus' transforming presence*

“But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, ‘Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost’” (Luke 19:8-10 NIV).

Who knew, all those kids sitting in Sunday school were getting a lesson in stewardship! Generations of children have very often heard lessons based on the familiar account of Zacchaeus. The diminutive tax collector's curiosity surrounding the person and ministry of Jesus is what the Holy Spirit used to set him on a collision course for a total stewardship transformation. This transformation, according to the text of Luke 19, is not just about this life. This stewardship transformation is about eternity as well!

Remember the story: Zacchaeus was a tax collector. Do not think of friendly neighborhood IRS agents. This was more like a toll booth operator, but the governing authorities did not set the toll. They would contract men to staff roadside booths and tax the commerce that was passing along the road. This was an enterprise full of greed and graft. The tax collectors would take as much as they could and only pass on a portion to the government. The rest did not go into the community chest either! It went into the pocket of the tax collector.

This is why the people had such disdain for Jewish tax collectors. They were seen as both crooks and traitors. They were crooks in that they extorted their compatriots and others in the toll process. But worse, they were seen as traitors because their efforts supported the occupying Roman authorities. That is the real reason that the people would not make way so that short Zacchaeus could see Jesus.

For this reason, he runs ahead and climbs a tree. He had heard all the stories. He wanted to see this Jesus with his own eyes. Mercy is on display. This hated crook and traitor gets a direct audience with Jesus — at Jesus' own request! Jesus invites Himself to Zacchaeus' house. This is where the transformation is about to take place!

Notice how Jesus does it. He does not preach a three-week sermon series, nor does He ask Zacchaeus to make a pledge. There is nothing programmatic about Jesus' approach. But Zacchaeus is completely transformed! The transforming force is the very presence of Jesus! Direct time with Jesus takes a crooked, selfish, criminal and makes him the most faithful steward.

This new life of stewardship is marked by the promises made. First, he gives half of his ill-gotten gains to the poor. These are people whom he would not have defrauded at all! Yet, after spending time with Jesus, they are His first concern. Only after this does he double the requirement of the Levitical law on fraud. And what does Jesus say is the result? Salvation!

Doing the acts of stewardship does not save. Rather, the faith in Jesus that is created by the Holy Spirit is what saves! This is critical for us to confess. Failed stewardship can and will cut you off from God. The only antidote for failed stewardship is the presence of Jesus.

We do not need to run ahead and climb a tree for this presence of Jesus. He makes Himself available to us every week in the Divine Service. He speaks His Word of invitation to us in the pages of Holy Scripture. This, and this alone, transforms us from sinner to saint, from owner to steward of all that belongs to the Lord.

Do you want to become a more faithful steward? Spend more time with Jesus. Make the Divine Service a weekly priority. Feast on Christ's body and blood weekly! This is the great gift that brings salvation from God's House to yours!

## Elders' Corner

*(A monthly feature from the Board of Elders)*

Brothers and sisters in Christ,

St. Paul writes in Colossians 1:3-14: “<sup>3</sup>We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, <sup>4</sup>since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, <sup>5</sup>because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. Of this you have heard before in the word of the truth, the gospel, <sup>6</sup>which has come to you, as indeed in the whole world it is bearing fruit and increasing—as it also does among you, since the day you heard it and understood the grace of God in truth, <sup>7</sup>just as you learned it from Epaphras our beloved fellow servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf <sup>8</sup>and has made known to us your love in the Spirit. <sup>9</sup>And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, <sup>10</sup>so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; <sup>11</sup>being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy; <sup>12</sup>giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. <sup>13</sup>He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, <sup>14</sup>in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.”

Yours in Christ,  
Elders of St Peter

### **WORSHIP & BIBLE STUDY INFORMATION**

#### **Bible Studies:**

- **Sundays:** We will continue a study on the book of James.
- **Wednesday Night Bible Study:** Wednesdays at 6:30 PM. We are currently on a summer break, and will begin again after Labor Day. If you have any suggestions for possible topics, please let Pastor know.
- **Book of Concord Study:** Usually on 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month, but on break this month.

#### **Sermons and Devotional Resources:**

- Weekly sermons will be posted on our church website (<http://www.stpeterwaymansville.com>) on the sermon page under the “At St. Peter” tab. (Direct link to page - [https://www.stpeterwaymansville.org/?page\\_id=1965](https://www.stpeterwaymansville.org/?page_id=1965))
- You can also find helpful resources for your home devotions on the “Devotional Resources” page under the “Resources” tab ([http://www.stpeterwaymansville.org/?page\\_id=489](http://www.stpeterwaymansville.org/?page_id=489)). Now is a great time to begin, continue, and strengthen a home devotional pattern by yourself and with your family.

-----  
May these resources assist you as you continue to hear the Word of God and cry out to Him in prayer.  
-----

### **IN OUR PRAYERS**

Throughout the year, this space will be used to encourage you to keep your brothers and sisters in Christ here at St. Peter in your prayers. As you pray for them, you may even ask them how you can pray for them. Families will be listed in alphabetical order throughout the year. During this month, you are encouraged to pray for:

- |                                                 |                                    |                          |
|-------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| • Pastor, Michelle, Seth, Lucy, & Anna Sorenson | • Danny & Judy Strasser            | • Phil & Margie Trimpe   |
| • Charles & Janet Spurgeon                      | • Max, Kelly, Kyle, & Jenna Thomas | • Paul & Kathy Trotta    |
| • Robert & Connie Stiles                        | • Tom & Brenda Tracy               | • Eric & Brenda Turner   |
|                                                 | • Greg & AJ Trimpe                 | • Mike & Verna Vandercar |

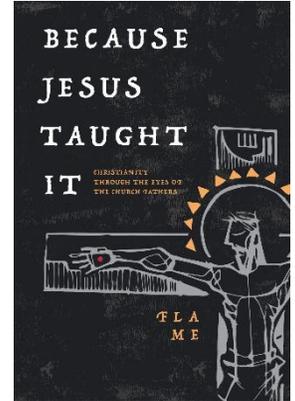
### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

**Missions:** This year we will be supporting a variety of missions. The missions we have supported include Clarity, Lakeview Ministries, Orphan Grain Train, Tiffany Smith (missionary for Lutheran Bible Translators serving in Tanzania), a seminary student, and our youth group. If you would like to submit a name of a seminary student or any other organization for consideration this year, please speak to an elder or to Pastor. May God continue to bless these missions as Christ is proclaimed to the ends of the earth.

**Pastoral Vacation:** Pastor will be on vacation from August 4<sup>th</sup> until August 17<sup>th</sup>. If you need pastoral care during this time, please contact Pastor Jung (812-764-8664) or Pastor Haugen (440-376-6275).

**Thrivent Action Teams:** If you have any Thrivent policies or products, you are eligible for two action teams a year. An action team includes \$250 seed money and may be used for a fundraiser, an educational event, or a service activity. As a church, we have used action teams for the fish fry, the youth golf scramble, Bible studies, etc. If you are interested in using your action teams for events at church or anywhere else, you can look for more information and help signing up on the Thrivent website or by speaking to Pastor.

**Book of the Month:** The Book of the Month will be available in the Parish Hall library. The August Book of the Month is *Because Jesus Taught It: Christianity through the Eyes of the Church Fathers* by Flame. Here is an excerpt from the book: "That long sentence you just read is desperately trying to express how shunned and ignored the Sacraments have become in generic expressions of Christianity. All across the world, brothers and sisters have bitten into the rotten fruit of expressions of the Christian faith focused on morality and personal experience. Sacraments have truly become an afterthought or been forgotten altogether. Where the Sacraments do show up in many church denominations that occupy contemporary airspace, they have been so redefined and altered that they are nearly dead."



**Council Positions:** At our October voters' meeting, we will elect new council members for the positions of financial secretary and practical services. If you would be willing to serve in either of these roles or would like more information about them, please let a current council member know.

**Circuit Meeting Hosting:** We will be hosting the Columbus circuit meeting on Tuesday, August 19<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to join us for worship that day, it will be from 11:15-12:00. Also, if you would like to assist in providing breakfast and lunch for the circuit, please let Pastor know. Any help would be greatly appreciated!

**Altar Flowers:** If you would like to sponsor altar flowers, there is a sign-up sheet for 2025 in the hallway between Pastor's study and the church office. The cost to sponsor the flowers is \$20, and the payment can be put in the offering plate or in the mail rack outside the church office door. The flowers are yours for the taking after the worship service. Please contact Barb Minor (812-372-4193) if you have any questions.

**Communion Assistance:** We are looking for people who may be interested in setting up and/or cleaning up communion. No need to worry about the linens, as those will be taken care of for you. If you are interested in learning more, please speak with Lynnette or Pastor. The sign-up sheet for 2025 is also on the bulletin board.



**Vanco:** A new, online offering method is now available. You can find more information by scanning the QR code in the bulletin or by going to <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZMRA>.

**Church & Parish Hall Cleaning Volunteers:** If you are interested in helping to clean the Church and Parish Hall, there is a sign-up sheet in the hallway in the Parish Hall. You can sign-up for a month at a time and you can sign-up with another person/couple/family too. Prayerfully consider lending a hand in this way. You may also speak to Janice Acree or Jenni Acton for more information about the cleaning duties or the sheet on the bulletin board.

**Puzzle Sharing:** If you would like to borrow a puzzle or donate a puzzle, they can be found or placed in the cabinet in the Conference Room closest to the white board. Enjoy a variety of puzzles and some fellowship with your fellow brothers and sisters in Christ!

## YOUTH GROUP & YOUTH CLASSES

**Youth Group:** The youth group will meet Sunday, August 24<sup>th</sup>, at 5 PM for our youth night. We will have a meal, time to study God's Word, and a fun activity. Feel free to bring a friend! If you would like to be added to the text group to receive youth group notifications, please let Pastor know.

**Pampered Chef Fundraiser:** The Youth Group is doing a Pampered Chef fundraiser through August 4<sup>th</sup>. Speak to a Youth Group member or visit here for more information – [www.pamperedchef.com/party/stpeteryouth](http://www.pamperedchef.com/party/stpeteryouth).

**VBS:** Thank you to everyone who attended and who helped make VBS another great success this year!

**Sunday School Teachers:** As we approach a new school year, it is time to start planning for Sunday School! We are in need of people to volunteer to help teach our Sunday School classes. This is a fantastic opportunity for you to be a part of teaching the Word of God to our children, to dive into the Word yourself, and to build up the entire church. If you are interested in teaching in any capacity (weekly, twice a month, once a month, substitute, etc.), please contact Michelle Schultz or Pastor Sorenson. Thank you for supporting our youth in this way!

**Youth Catechesis:** Youth Catechesis (confirmation) classes will be beginning on September 7<sup>th</sup>. If you have a child who has already begun Catechesis, or if you have a child you would like to start this year, please contact Pastor Sorenson as soon as possible. If your child will be going through classes at White Creek, please contact Pastor Sorenson as well, as he would like to have all of our catechumens together in class so they may grow with one another and so he may get to know them and they may get to know him. Thank you!

#### EVENTS

**Game Night:** Game Night will be on Friday, August 1<sup>st</sup>, beginning at 5:00 PM. All ages are welcome and bring a friend too! Our dinner theme will be your favorite busy day/school night dish. Feel free to bring a dish to share, your favorite games, or a deck of cards. Mark your calendars and invite your friends and family to come along as well!

#### LCMS COMMUNITY NEWS & EVENTS

**Lutheran SGO:** Take full advantage of all the benefits of donating to the Lutheran SGO and support the students and families of Trinity Lutheran High School. For their generosity, donors may receive a 50% state tax credit. Donations can take many forms, from cash to credit cards to commodities. <https://www.lutheransgo.org/donations/index.php> Have questions or want to learn more? Contact Erin Brooks at 812-524-8547 or [ebrooks@trinitycougars.org](mailto:ebrooks@trinitycougars.org)

**Helping Camp:** Lakeview Ministries is seeking adult volunteers to help with the construction of the sixth village at Lakeview Villages. A very wet spring has delayed progress, and we could use extra hands to get the project moving forward. If you're comfortable using tools—or simply willing to lend your time and energy—we'd love your help. Whether you're part of a church trustee board, small group Bible study, a group of young adults, or simply someone with a heart for serving the Lord, you're invited to pitch in. Lunch is provided, and limited housing is available for those interested in staying overnight for a multi-day experience. To learn more or sign up, contact Pete Bolden at [Pete@lakeview.camp](mailto:Pete@lakeview.camp) or call 812-530-8006.

#### FROM THE OFFICE

**Contact Information:** We would like to be able to contact everyone in a quick and timely manner. If you could please contact Camden or Pastor to update your contact information, especially phone number and email, that would help us tremendously and be greatly appreciated. Thank you!

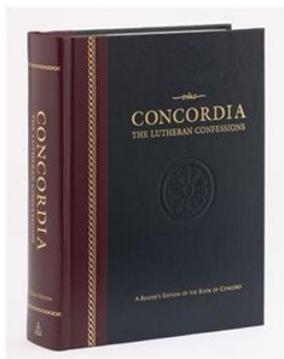
**2025 Offering Envelopes:** Hello everyone! I wanted to inform you that 2025 envelopes are now in your mailboxes, or sitting, in the narthex of the church. Please let me know if I did not provide you with them, and if you would like to have envelopes. Hope everyone has a great month!

**Church Constitution:** If you would like to sign the church constitution, please contact Camden.

Pastor Erik Sorenson • (812) 343-1688, office • (812) 371-1151, cell • [pastoresorenson@gmail.com](mailto:pastoresorenson@gmail.com)

Camden Jeffries • (812) 343-1688, office • (812) 390-5980 cell • [waymansvillestpeter@yahoo.com](mailto:waymansvillestpeter@yahoo.com)

On the web: [www.stpeterwaymansville.com](http://www.stpeterwaymansville.com) • Facebook: [www.facebook.com/StPeterEvangelicalLutheranChurch](https://www.facebook.com/StPeterEvangelicalLutheranChurch)



#### Book of Concord Corner

On the Apostles' Creed: "These articles of the Creed, therefore, divide and separate us Christians from all other people on earth. Even if all people outside Christianity – whether heathen, Turks, Jews, or false Christians and hypocrites – believe in and worship only one true God, they still do not know what His mind toward them is and cannot expect any love or blessing from Him. Therefore, they abide in eternal wrath and damnation. For they do not have the Lord Christ, and, besides, are not illumined and favored by any gifts of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 2:9-16; Hebrews 6:4-6)." (Large Catechism, Part II, 66)

## Reflections on the LCMS Youth Gathering and Thanks

Audrey – “Thank you for supporting the youth group to go to the LCMS Youth Gathering in New Orleans. Going to the Youth Gathering opened many new opportunities up, like going to a Preservation Hall concert, trying new foods, meeting new people, riding an airplane, making memories, and learning. Some of my favorite sessions are the ones I learned the most at: Mormonism and Their Beliefs, 5 Reasons Why Not To Be A Missionary and 5 Better Reasons To Be A Missionary, and Resurrection And Our Hope In Christ. Thank you for making the trip possible.”



*Audrey, Jenna, & Rayleigh at Preservation Hall*



*Preservation Hall*



*20,000+ at nightly mass event in Superdome*



*Convention Center crowd*

Joe – “The gathering was a great experience with many memorable moments. It was mind blowing to see how many other LCMS youth there were and to meet people not only from other states, but other countries as well. I enjoyed both the mass sessions at night and the smaller breakout sessions in the convention center. The smaller sessions were especially mind blowing with topics ranging from what the resurrection will look like to avoiding overcommitment and burnout. Thank you to the congregation for helping us fundraise and supporting us with your prayers. This was truly an experience I will never forget.”



*Beignets at Cafe Fleur-De-Lis*

Jenna – “Thank you so much for supporting our youth group to go on the LCMS youth gathering trip! It was so cool to be around 20,000 teenagers who all had the same beliefs as me. My favorite part was going to the individual sessions where we were able to pick topics that were interesting to us to learn about. My favorite was the session where we learned about the resurrection and our hope in Jesus. I also liked walking around the convention center, and I even got to try New Orleans food like jambalaya and beignets. It was so much fun, and I am so grateful that I got to go.”



*The youth before our Indiana district riverboat event*



*"Larry" the alligator in the Mississippi*



*Closing Divine Service in the Superdome*



*Our group with LCMS President Harrison*

John – “Thank you for supporting the Youth Group’s trip to New Orleans. It was a learning curve in many ways. We went to an average of 2-3 sessions a day, the sessions were about a variety of things, some including how to avoid burnout and one about introverts. We also got to meet President Harrison. We ate fried food almost every day.”

Kyle – “I want to thank everyone who made this trip possible. It was an incredible experience. There were three things that I enjoyed the most throughout the trip. The first was the many sessions that we could attend. This involved a speaker talking about a particular issue such as addiction, time management or forgiveness. I thought that almost all of these were very impactful and there were many others I wish I could have attended had we had more time to do so. Another thing I enjoyed was our daily reflections throughout the trip where we could discuss what we liked, didn't like and talk about any questions or thoughts we had. We could discuss what the gathering did well or what they did not do well. Some issues we had was music that didn't mention Jesus by name or calling what we did at the Superdome events “worship”. These starting points led to even more meaningful discussions and allowed me to learn what worship should and shouldn't look like. I'm very thankful to go to a church that values the traditional way of worship. Thirdly, I really enjoyed the service we had on Wednesday and President Harrison’s sermon in particular. What I really appreciated about his sermon was that you could tell he was talking to a younger audience, but he didn't simplify things for them. With some other speakers it felt like they were talking down to the kids or speaking to an even younger audience than high schoolers, but he did a great job. Overall it was a really great experience and I'm glad I went. I think this is something that everyone growing up in the church should experience at least once. I had a good time, and it made me appreciate what I have here even more.”

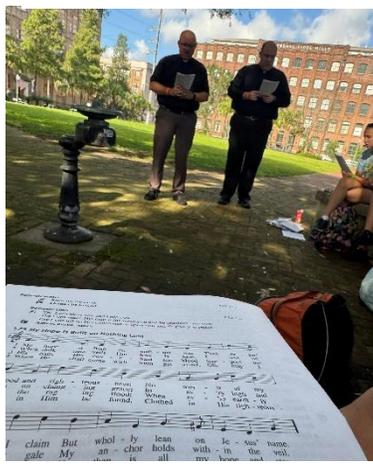
Rayleigh – “Dear congregation, thank you so much for your support in sending me and the rest of the youth to the LCMS Youth Gathering. It was an amazing and faith-filled experience. I appreciate your generosity and prayers. My favorite part of it was the sessions in the convention center. They were very eye opening.”



*Communion during closing Divine Service in Superdome*



*St. Louis Cathedral*



*Sunday Divine Service in the park*

Trevor – “My favorite part of the gathering was probably going down to Preservation Hall through the French Quarter on our first night. We saw a lot of interesting things and I was still kind of shocked that we were finally in “Nawlins” as the locals would say. The ferry ride with all the Indiana kids was pretty fun, but man when you got on that top deck, the sun fried you like a beignet. Speaking of food, everything is good down there, but beignets were not the hype and very overrated in my opinion. The mass events in the Superdome were great and the sessions during the day were also just as good. Thank you so much for fundraising with us and helping us get to the gathering.”

# St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church Calendar

**August 2025**

**Ushers:** Max Thomas & Joe Acree

**Acolytes:** **August 3** – Abe Acton  
**August 17** – Noah Nye  
**August 31** – John Nye

**August 10** – John Nye  
**August 24** – Abe Acton

**Communion Set-up & Clean-up:**  
 August 3, 10, 17, 24, 31: open

**Parish Hall Cleaning:** Camden Jeffries

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<i>Upcoming events:</i> 9/7: Sunday School kickoff					1  6 PM – Game Night	2
<b>3</b> 8 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 AM – Divine Service 10:15 AM – Pastor’s Bible Study	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
Pastor on vacation. Contact Pastor Jung (812-764-8664) or Pastor Haugen (440-376-6275) for pastoral care.						
<b>10</b> 9 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 AM – Divine Service 10:15 AM – Pastor’s Bible Study	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
Pastor on vacation. Contact Pastor Jung (812-764-8664) or Pastor Haugen (440-376-6275) for pastoral care.						
<b>17</b> 10 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 AM – Divine Service 10:15 – Pastor’s Bible Study	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
Pastor on vacation		10 AM-2 PM – Pastor @ Circuit Meeting (here)	9 AM – Elders meeting 7 PM – Council meeting			
<b>24</b> 11 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 AM – Divine Service 10:15 AM – Pastor’s Bible Study  5 PM – Youth Group	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b> 12 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 AM – Divine Service 10:15 AM – Pastor’s Bible Study						