

The Chimes

First Lutheran Church 1206 Whitehall Road Muskegon, MI 49445 Phone: (231) 744-1522 Fax: (231) 719-9015 office@firstlutheranmuskegon.org



From Pastor Bill

"Aware of the grief, violence, and deep pain of our world, we will in 2024 and beyond endeavor to be a community of lament, love, and reconciliation." (Goal #2 for 2024)

We as a congregation do ministry not just in general, but in a context. And that context is definitely local. Our building's location on Whitehall Road in North Muskegon shapes what we are about. But our context is not limited to the local scene. We do our ministry in light of what is happening in the world. We have to think globally, as well as locally.

Our ministry occurs in the midst of a time of great violence—in Sudan, Ukraine, and Palestine. Our congregation has been blessed by our relationship with some Ukrainian friends. They have made us more aware of the tragedy that is the war caused by the Russian government. We were blessed by food that they made for us on a couple of occasions. Aware of their pain, we grieve with them.

We've developed a special relationship with grieving Palestinian Christians over the past couple of years, in part because of the trips that Paula and I have made to Palestine and Israel, but also because of the historic relationship that ELCA Lutherans have had with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land. The situation in Gaza is horrible. The pain and destruction there are beyond our comprehension. We grieve with our Palestinian friends, and yes, with our Israeli friends who were the victims of Hamas' horrible violence.

We must advocate for a ceasefire in Gaza. The violence being brought there by Israel is not acceptable. My grieving and my advocating for Palestinians will not end until the war is over, and justice is brought to that land. It is my opinion that Americans must rethink the level of support that Israel is given by our country. When you travel throughout Palestine, you discover the oppression that is brought about by Israeli occupation. As a Christian, I must always stand with the oppressed.

There is much to grieve over these days and much to disagree about. I remain committed to make sure that our community of faith, while able to tell the truth about the injustices of the world, will be a community in which people who disagree about matters of public import can still live together in unity.

Our upcoming election will test that sense of unity. While I remember somewhat the challenges to

(Continued on page 3)

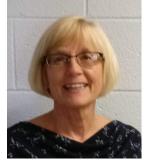
The Chimes is published monthly by First Lutheran Church, Muskegon, MI for members & friends of the congregation.

The Chimes

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From Pastoral Assistant Paula

Children who have read books over the summer and those who have not; the latter will lag behind on the first day.

As we move into the fall season, I have children/kids on my mind. Some children will be entering the academic arena for the first time in their lives. Others are returning to familiar classroom settings and connecting with teachers whose faces have graced the hallways for years. Many of our high school graduates will be living on their own for the first time; some in college dorms, some in barracks and some in a friend's basement or apartment. Regardless of age, gender, race or religion, kids are entering a new chapter in their lives. So it is with this on my mind, that I pray for our children. All children.

Children who have donned new backpacks and carry the branded snacks. Children who have ragged and smelly backpacks and have no snacks but are relieved that food will be available to them on a daily basis once school reconvenes. Children whose parents divorced over the summer and children who have experienced loving environments throughout the year. Children who have read books over the summer and those who have not; the latter lagging behind on the first day. I pray for high school students for whom the pressure is mounting to run faster, study harder and kick farther to obtain a scholarship to offset college costs. I pray for students who have thrown in the towel, dropped out of school but are now seeking a GED. And I pray for children in war-torn countries as life as they knew it no longer exists.

Yes, children are on my mind this month and I surmise every month to follow. They are the vulnerable of this world and yet, they will also inherit this world, a world that stands in need of kindness, goodness, justice, unity and peace. So won't you join me in a prayer for the children - all the children?

Loving God,

Watch over our children as they begin a new school year or enter a new a new phase in life. Bless them with joy at seeing friends and making new friends, excitement at new experiences and a love of learning.

Guide and protect all who learn, replacing fear with joy, anxiety with peace, and tiredness with energy. Give wisdom, patience, and joy to teachers and mentors as they serve their students. Grant all children a safe-haven to grow into the people they were created to be. **Amen.**



Blessed to be a blessing, Paula

First





Sunday Worship Time Change September 8

10:30 a.m. Sunday 6:00 p.m. Thursday

Official Acts



Deaths

Donald C. Freeman Date of Birth: March 3, 1943 Date of Death: August 2, 2024

Michael Sauro, Jr. Date of Birth: September 30, 1952 Date of Death: July 26, 2024

Thomas Kanaar Date of Birth: June 06, 1946 Date of Death: August 3, 2024

(Continued from page 1)

unity of the late 1960s, I haven't felt the disunity of the culture as much as I have over the last eight years. Certainly, I have my opinion about the upcoming election, but I will not give in to the temptation to see those who disagree with me as my enemies. I will not allow one person or one candidate to cause me to be separated from people I love. It's tempting, but I must pray, "Lead me not into temptation."

Our ministry is, without a doubt, local. But it's also done in light of the bigness of the world and the culture. It's being done in the time of Harris and Trump, the time of Netanyahu and Putin, a time of war and violence. It's during such a time that we grieve and that we pray, "Your kingdom come, O God. End the violence and let justice flow like waters."



Sunday	Weekly Scripture Readings			
9/1	Deut 4:1-2, 6-9, Ps 15 James 1:17-24, Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23			
9/8	Isa 35:4-7a, Ps 146 James 2:1-10 [11-13], 14-17 Mark 7:24-37			
9/15	lsa 50:4-9a, Ps 116:1-9 James 3:1-12, Mark 8:27-38			
9/22	Jer 11:18-20, Ps 54 James 3:13-4:3,7-8a, Mark 9:30-37			
9/29	Num 11:4-6, 10-16, 25-29, Ps 19:7-14 James 5:13-20, Mar 9:38-50			



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Confirmation starts on Sunday, September 8 at 9:15, during Faith Formation time.



Middle School/Confirmation Students Bowling

September 21 at 2:30 p.m. Northway Lanes

High School Youth Game Day

September 22 12:00 p.m.—3:00 p.m. Lunch provided Bring your favorite board games or sports games



Faith formation kickoff for PreK-5th grade is on September 8 at 9:30 a.m.

Pastor Bill's adult class will be "The Narcissism Epidemic: Following Jesus and Developing Healthy Self-Esteem"

Please join us!



From the Fellowship Committee

November 10 at 1:00 p.m. we are planning *BOWLING* for *EVERYONE*. Invite your family and friends to take part in the fun! We will meet at Northway Lanes, have lunch there and bowl a few games. There will be sign-up sheets at the information stations; **you must RSVP**. We will determine the cost a little later so stay tuned. Please contact Stan Daszko at 231-343-4486 or Cameron Moore at 231-742-1467 or Deb 231-744-1936 or Diane Kroll 231-557-4637 for more information.

The Fellowship Committee is trying to secure tickets for a Thursday night performance of the *Mona Shores Christmas Tree*. The event usually takes place the first week of December. Stay tuned for more info in the next Chimes.

Adopt-A-Highway Cleanup

As part of our care for God's creation, First Lutheran has made a commitment to participate in the MDOT Adopt-A-Highway program (<u>https://www.michigan.gov/</u><u>mdot/programs/highway-programs/roadside-property-</u><u>management/adopt-a-highway</u>). This means that we clean up a stretch of M-120 three times each year. Our next cleanup will take place on **Saturday, September 21 at 10:00 am**. Everyone 12 and up is welcome (those under 18 need adult supervision, please).

We'll meet at the church at 10:00, have a brief safety meeting, and then head to our assigned locations. We divide up into 4 teams and are usually done in about 90 minutes or so. Please dress for whatever Michigan weather we're having that day!

Bags and safety vests will be provided (we also have a number of "grabbers" if bending is hard for you). Please contact Kathryn Hall (734-612-8690 or <u>kathryn.a.sweet@gmail.com</u>) if you have questions.

We hope you can join us!



Halloween Costume Party

Dress up in your favorite costume at the Wednesday Night Dinner on October 23. Dinner will be served from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Costume Parade and prizes to follow. Free will offering will support upgrades to the Family Life Center.

Menu includes:

Severed Chicken Breast Monster Chicken Nuggets Baked Potato Brains Franken Tots Corn Casualties Devilish Desserts

We are asking for donations for Halloween desserts. Please sign-up at the Information Stations.

Any questions? Call Deb Roest at 231-744-1936 or Diane Kroll at 231-557-4637.



Yoga Classes Resume Monday, October 7

Every Monday-Chair Yoga 5:45p.m. (those who are comfortable in a chair or standing)

1st and 3rd Mondays-Gently Restore Yoga, 7:15 p.m. (great for beginners, experienced, and those who need a little more ahh and stress relief)

2nd and 4th Mondays-Soul Flow Vinyasa, 7:15 p.m. (those more familiar with yoga looking to add strength, flexibility and challenge to their practice)

Anyone with questions or concerns can reach Sandy Hutchins preferably by text at 231-903-5227 or email at <u>Sandy.lyn.hutchins@gmail.com</u>



Don't forget to join us on Saturday, September 14th at 10:00 a.m. for Debby Jaquith's Famous Baked French Toast. We will also hear from Pastor Khader El-Yateem about the plight of the Palestinian Christians in the Holy Land and what justice would look like from our end. See the next page for more information.

Sign-up sheets are at both information stations or contact Paula and she will make sure you are on the list!!! paula@firstlutheranmuskegon.org September 2024

A WEEKEND WITH PASTOR KHADER EL-YATEEM

WE ARE THRILLED TO WELCOME PASTOR KHADER EL-YATEEM, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR ELCA SERVICE AND JUSTICE, TO FIRST LUTHERAN IN SEPTEMBER! PLAN TO JOIN US FOR ANY OR ALL OF THE FOLLOWING EVENTS:



BRUNCH FUNDRAISER

SATURDAY | SEPTEMBER 14TH | 10AM

DEBBY JAQUITH IS AT IT AGAIN WITH HER FAMOUS BAKED FRENCH TOAST! A FREE WILL OFFERING WILL BE TAKEN FOR DAR AL-KALIMA LUTHERAN SCHOOL

PERSONAL NARRATIVES FROM PALESTINE AND ISRAEL W/ PASTOR KHADER EL-YATEEM SATURDAY | SEPTEMBER 14TH | 11AM



EXPLORE PERSPECTIVES ON PALESTINE AND ISRAEL IN AN OPEN DIALOGUE LED BY **PASTOR KHADER EL-YATEEM**



JOINT WORSHIP SERVICE SUNDAY | SEPTEMBER 15TH | 10:30AM

WORSHIP TOGETHER WITH OTHER AREA CHURCHES, LED BY PASTOR KHADER EL-YATEEM

ALL EVENTS WILL TAKE PLACE AT FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH PLEASE CONTACT PAULA DUSSELJEE WITH ANY QUESTIONS: PAULA@FIRSTLUTHERANMUSKEGON.ORG



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Thank you to the Fellowship Board for all your help with providing our church with breakfast on August 11 to help celebrate our 160th Anniversary here at First Lutheran. We served over 140 people that morning. We had a wonderful variety of food that everyone enjoyed.

Thank you to Barb Bonifield and her crew for setting up the Family Life Center. It was so beautiful. Thanks Barb for all the supplies you provide for all our celebrations here at church. Thank you for the donation of the fruit bowls, too. We appreciate all you do for the Fellowship Board.

Thanks so much to Kaitlyn Sutton for making the wonderful, tasty scrambled eggs. We love you on the Fellowship board. You are a wonderful asset along with this great group. Thank you to Diane Kroll and Steve Ferski for helping with the cooking and Dave and Cindy Short for helping us, too. We are so blessed to have them here cooking at First. They had expert advice to give us that day when we needed it.

Thank you to Lisa Ferski and Cameron Moore for being floaters and doing anything we needed to help. Thank you to Barb Pellerin and Carol Parker for helping set up. Thank you to Tim Rodriquez who is always available to help us on the clean up crew. Thank you to Jim, Marcy and Tommy Sutton for helping with clean up, too. Thank you to our Fellowship group and friends and families for helping us. We could not do events like these without their help.

In Grace and Peace, Deb Roest and Diane Kroll Co-chairs of the Fellowship Committee

Chimes Assemblers

Thanks to Dave and Theresa Buchan who assembled the August Chimes.



Thank you to the Fellowship Crew for hosting the Hot Dog Roast to kick off the North Muskegon Concert series at the library. Thank you to Steve and Lisa Ferski for stepping in and taking charge of the event. Thanks to Jerry Dibble for bringing his grill and helping Steve with the cooking. Thank you to Kaitlyn Sutton for bringing her supplies and helping the guys. Thanks to Barb Pellerin, Cindy McClurken, Evie DiPiazza, and Dale Roest for all your help with set up and handling the goodies. Thanks to Carol Parker for being available to help as well. Thanks to everyone who helped with this event. It was a huge success. Way to go, Fellowship Board and friends!!!!

Sincerely, Deb Roest and Diane Kroll Co- chairs of the Fellowship Committee



We wish to thank all of the generous folks who donated money to help offset the costs for our Summer Concert Series. We are truly blessed to have such a loving, giving congregation.

Scott & Kathy Gearhart Besteman Properties (Susan & Mark Besteman) Joanne Webber Jane Horton Sons of Norway **Diana Duell Richard Miller** Joanne Johnson Roger & Dee Barber Evie DiPiazza David & Susan Aker **Bill & Jan Naymick** Joe Labiak Phil Sielski Steve & Rhonda Smith Tim & Sylvia Israels Sean & Kelly O'Connor



160 Years...Civil War and First Lutheran by Rev. Dr. Gary Hansen

I tend to be a big picture guy!

I know God has been present in all our comings and goings. We, too, are the faithful, able to see in all times that God is at work.

160 years ago, in 1864, the Civil War had been going for three-plus years. Bull Run, Antietam, Gettysburg were in the past. So many had dealt with comings and goings, sadness and hopes. It was just nine months before the war finally came to end and emancipation and freedom were finally possible. In August of 1864, First Lutheran came to be.

More than 90,000 union soldiers were from Michigan and a good number surely were from Muskegon County. One out of five of these soldiers were recent immigrants from Europe. (These soldiers would get some pay and some meals.)

During 1861-1865 immigrants, including Norwegians, came to the United States. Many of these were from the Haugean (a piety movement) Lutheran Church. This group thought they had been pushed around by the state Lutheran Church in Norway. They tended to think their way of life and Christian faith would not get better. They came through Ellis Island or, like my grandparents, to Boston. They would then take trains west to places like Chicago. Also, the Homestead Act of 1862 gave 160 acres to every family, a reality that was very attractive to these newcomers.

A group of fifteen Norwegian Lutherans met on Ottawa Street in Muskegon on August 12, 1864 as the Civil War grew farther south and west, and while victory seemed hopeful. For a short time, the fifteen organized as the Scandinavian Evangelical Lutheran Church. For a brief time they worshipped at Hall and Prospect, just east of Ottawa Street. Danes and Swedes joined them. Civil War stuff prevented the good mission start from growing.

The congregation bought property at Yuba and Giddings and built a new church for \$2200 and it is still there. The Danes and Swedes didn't like the location and moved on. The congregation became the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church. It was located on the north side of Muskegon in what was called Ward One. In 1915, the congregation renamed itself First Evangelical Lutheran Church and pledged every week to have English worship services that even Norwegians attended.

160 years...a war and a new congregation...lots of comings and goings that have included us —the still faithful in 2024. We give thanks for our faithful journey and our 160th anniversary.



Weekly Offerings

Week ending 07/07/2024

General Fund: \$9,339.84 Building Rent: \$188.50 Building Enhancement: \$240.00 Dollar A Day: (for tech upgrades in gym): \$4,755.97

Week ending 07/14/2024

General: \$6,932.89 Building Rent: \$502.00 Building Enhancement: \$345.00 Noisy Offering: (for Samaritas): \$224.06

Week ending 07/21/2024

General: \$5,184.16 Building Rent: \$398.00 Building Enhancement: \$255.00 Noisy Offering: (for Samaritas): \$150.14

Week ending 07/28/2024

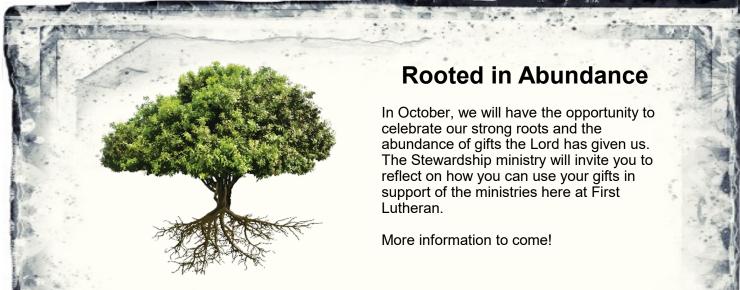
General Fund: \$4,055.15 Building Rent: \$94.00 Building Enhancement: \$150.00 Noisy Offering (for Samaritas): \$198.18

Dollar-a-Day Update

The fundraiser for the Family Life Center enhancement is making good progress. Between funds previously raised, those donated this year, and proceeds from the recent golf outing (\$4,700), there is now \$13,862 in this fund. This will greatly help us accomplish our goal.

Thank you for your generosity. Let's keep up the good work.

Your Stewardship Team



"They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit." Jeremiah 17:8

September 2024

11



September Birthdays

Jeri Staudacher

Cama Shunta

- 1 Jeff Lucht Lorey Montgomery
- 2 Marnie Fielstra Karl Ziemelis Chris Corbett
- 3 Jake Frietsch
- 5 **Dorothy Pfhistner** LouAnn Hansen
- 6 Brad Hyde Chloe O'Connor
- 8 Roland Crummel Kaitlyn Sutton Andy Will Roger LeMieux
- 9 Einar Ness **Debra Shields**
- 10 John Golden

12 Patricia Shafer 13 Erin Schmitz 14 Carolyn Ness 15 Renee Petersen Mary Beth Liskey 17 Nancy Burton

- Matthew Cregg
- 18 Ronald Hansen Sylvia Koski
- 19 Merritt Archer Lana Cassidy

- 21 David Bleich Charles Joy Dianna Radel Jenna Lowry Nancy Miller-Corbett Kim Westerholm
- 22 Joshua Pfhistner **Beverly Uetricht** Gerald Crenno Kaleb Kitchka
- 23 **Deborah Roest** Mike Strait
- 25 Amia Mackay
- 26 Gail Taggart
- 28 Mylie Neel **Richard Sahlhoff**
- 30 Marcy Joy Michael Sauro

Keepers

Warren Robinson 1845 Moulton Ave Muskegon, MI 494445-3127

Linda Sahlhoff Christian Care Nursing Center 2053 Sheridan Dr Muskegon, MI 49442

Keith Stapel 1228 Lawrence St Muskegon, MI 49442

Margaret Tyler 1901 Duck Lake Rd Whitehall, MI 49461-9719

Marjorie Visscher White Lake Assisted Living 6827 Whitehall Rd Whitehall, MI 49461

Dave Walborn 18552 W Spring Lake Rd Spring Lake, MI 49456

Mary Warden 1740 Village Dr. Apt 222 Muskegon, MI 49442-4283

- 1740 Village Dr Apt 318
- Muskegon, MI 49442-4288

Theresa Hansen Robbinswood-Northcrest Campus 2650 Ruddiman Dr

North Muskegon, MI 49445 Pat Mullinnex Newaygo County Medical Care Facility 4465 W. 48th St.

Fremont, MI 49412 Mailing Address: 2284 Riverwood Drive Twin Lake. MI 49457

Gerald and Betty Crenno

Village at the Oaks

First Lutheran Church

September 2024

Saturday	 7 8:30AM-Stephen Ministry 9:00AM-160th Anniversary Play Practice 10:00AM-Lion's Club 1:00PM Memorial service For Tom Kamaar at Systema's Funeral Home 	14 9:00AM-160th Anniversary Play Practice 9:00AM-Pastor Khader EL-Yateem Visiting	21 8:30AM-Men's Breakfast 8:30AM-Women's Breakfast 9:00AM-160th Anniv. Play Practice 10:00AM-Highway Cleanup 11:00AM-Memorial service for Ted Wierenga	28 6:00PM-Anything Goes Dinner & Variety Show & 160th Anniver. Play	
Friday	6 10:00AM-Lions Club 7:00PM-AA Meeting	13 5:00PM-Sons of Norway 5:30PM-Bunco 7:00PM-AA Meeting	20 6:00PM-Crafty Group 7:00PM-AA Meeting	27 6:00PM-Anything Goes Rehearsal 7:00PM-AA Meeting	
Thursday	5 12:00PM-Lectionary Bible Study 6:00PM-In-Person Worship 7:00PM-Cardio Drumming 7:15PM-Council Meeting	12 12:00PM-Lectionary Bible Study 6:00PM-In-Person Worship 6:30PM-Scouts Meeting 7:00PM-Cardio Drumming	19 12:00PM-Lectionary Bible Study 6:00PM-In-Person Worship 7:00PM-Cardio Drumming	26 12:00PM-Lectionary Bible Study 6:00M-Private Group Mig 6:00PM-In-Person Worship 7:00PM-Cardio Drumming	
Wednesday	4 9:00AM-Pickleball 12:00PM-Staff Meeting 6:00PM-160th Anniversary Play Practice	11 9:00AM-Pickleball 12:00PM-Staff Meeting 4:00PM-Lion's Club Officer Meeting 6:00PM-Kids' Music 6:10PM-Bible Study	18 9:00AM-Pickleball 12:00PM-Staff Meeting 5:30PM-Vved Night Dinner 6:00PM-Kids' Music 6:10PM-Bible Study	25 9:00AM-Pickleball 12:00PM-Staff Meeting 5:30PM-Wed Night Dinner 6:00PM-Kids' Music 6:10PM-Bible Study	
Tuesday	3 Bulletin Deadline 9:00AM-Pickleball 9:00AM-Seniors Helping Our Parish (SHOP) 11:30PM-MARSP Meeting 3:00PM-Burnished Brass 6:00PM-Worship & Music Gathering 6:00PM-Lion's Club Meeting 9:30PM-Compline	10 Bulletin Deadline 9:00AM-Pickleball 9:00AM-Seniors Helping Our Parish (SHOP) 9:30PM-1st on 2nd Quilt Bee 3:00PM-Burnished Brass 6:30PM-Choir 9:30PM-Compline	17 17 Bulletin Deadline 9:00AM-Pickleball 9:00AM-Seniors Helping 0.ur Parish (SHOP) 11:30AM-Warkegon County 0.arden Club 11:30AM-Burnished Brass 6:00PM-Lions Club 3:00PM-Lions Club 6:00PM-Lions Club 9:30PM-Choir 8:00PM-Complied	24 Bulletin Deadline 9:00AM-Pickleball 9:00AM-Seniors Helping Our Parish (SHOP) 3:00PM-Burnished Brass Rehearsal 6:30PM-Choir 9:30PM-Conpline	
Monday	2 ** Labor Day ** ** Office Closed ** 6:00PM-Overeaters Anonymous 7:00PM-AA Meeting	9 12:00PM-Quilters' Group 3:00PM-Sons of Norway Board Meeting 6:00PM-Oxereaters Anonymous 7:00PM-AA Meeting 7:00PM-Cardio Drumming	16 11:30AM-Red Cross Blood Drive 12:00PM-Quilters' Group 6:00PM-Overeaters Anonymous 7:00PM-AA Meeting 7:00PM-Cardio Drumming	23 12:00PM-Quilters' Group 6:00PM-AA Meeting 7:00PM-AA Meeting 7:00PM-Cardio Drumming	30 12:00PM-Quitters' Group 4:30PM-Medicare 101 Presentation 6:00PM-Overeaters Anonymous 7:00PM-Cardio Drumming 7:00PM-Cardio Drumming
Sunday	Dollar-A-Day Weekend 10:00AM-In-Person Worship 10:00AM-Online Worship 7:00PM-AA Meeting	8 9:15AM-Confirmation 9:30AM-Faith Formation 0:30AM-In-Person Worship/ Blessing of the Backpacks 10:30AM-Conline Worship 12:00PM-Church Picnic/ 160th Anniver. Celebration 7:00PM-AA Meeting	15 Chimes Deadline 9:00AM-Pastor Khader El-Yateem Visiting 9:15AM-Confirmation 9:30AM-Faith Formation 10:30AM-Dnline Worship 10:30AM-AA Meeting 7:00PM-AA Meeting	22 9:15AM-Confirmation 9:30AM-Faith Formation 10:30AM-In-Person Worship 10:30AM-Online Worship 7:00PM-AA Meeting	29 9:15AM-Confirmation 9:30AM-Faith Formation 10:30AM-Un-Person Worship 10:30AM-Online Worship 1:00PM-Rental 6:00PM-New Member's 7:00PM-AA Meeting