

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH 4107 21st Avenue, Moline, IL 61265 (309) 764-9720

holycrosslutheran@mchsi.com

THE ILLUMINATOR

The Holy Cross Lutheran Church Newsletter

Pastor's Newsletter Article for July 2025

Knowing Jesus or Knowing About Jesus: What's the Difference?

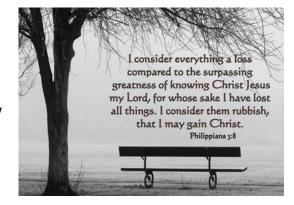
Isn't social media wonderful for staying in touch? You can watch a video of your nephew's first step, share your grandmother's recipes, or make personal contact with your best friend on his birthday. Even when separated by distance, you carry your friends and family around with you in your pocket or purse.

But it's not the same as being there in person, is it? There's no substitute for holding your mom's hand at the clinic when she gets bad news or sitting by your dad's side at a funeral. A true relationship is

more than following a news feed; it's being an eyewitness to history and experiencing it firsthand.

More Than Just Information

This distinction between knowing <u>about</u> someone and truly <u>knowing</u> them applies directly to our faith. Most people know the facts about Jesus' life, as told to them by parents, grandparents, Sunday school teachers, and pastors. The people of Nazareth knew who Jesus' parents were. They heard reports about his preaching and miracles and were thrilled to have him visit. But they didn't know him as well as



they thought. Jesus himself announced, "No prophet is accepted in his hometown" (Luke 4:24). And when Jesus started to tell them what needed to change, the people of Nazareth tried to kill him.

Just knowing the facts about Jesus doesn't change our behavior or attitude. Just following the story with our heads won't make us feel ashamed of our sins and lead us to trust him as our Savior. And it certainly won't get us to heaven, because *knowing about Jesus isn't the same thing as knowing Jesus*.

What Does it Mean to *Know* Jesus?

Knowing Jesus means taking to heart what he says about our sins, acknowledging our need for a Savior. It means recognizing that there's nothing we can do to earn this relationship, but that he makes it all possible through his grace and sacrifice. It's experiencing his love and forgiveness in a deeply personal way. When we truly know Jesus, we walk with him through the darkest days of our lives, confident in a relationship that never ends, no matter how bad the news may be.

It's less about accumulating information and more about a **living, dynamic connection**. Think of it this way: you can study all the facts about a famous person, but that doesn't mean you have a relationship with them. A relationship requires interaction, trust, and a willingness to be changed by the other person.

Continued...

This is the peace Jesus speaks of in John 14:27: "Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you. Not as the world gives, do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid." The world often defines peace simply as the absence of trouble or conflict. But Jesus's peace is far more profound. It's not just a state of being, but a divine gift that is active and transformational. It's a peace that flows from His perfect sacrifice on the cross, removing God's wrath and ushering us into His love.

This peace, received from Christ, doesn't just sit within us. As we experience God's peace, we are compelled to <u>share it</u> – passing it along in word and action. It informs our actions, guiding us to live lives that reflect this inner tranquility, even when the world weighs heavy around us. Because Christ has given us His peace, we can be at peace with ourselves and with others, knowing He is always with us, just as He promised: "In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world" (John 16:33). This peace, surpassing all understanding (Philippians 4:7), both calms and protects us, enabling us to declare God's love and transforming peace to a troubled world.

Cultivating Your Relationship with Jesus

How can you be close to someone who lived so long ago?

- **Dive into eyewitness accounts:** Regularly read the Bible. Put yourself in the place of those who walked with Jesus and apply what they saw and heard to your own life.
- **Communicate through prayer:** Stay in touch with your Savior by speaking to him in prayer, even with all the busy activities of summer. Prayer is our direct line to him.
- Connect with fellow believers: Join together with other Christians. Growing in your knowledge about Jesus and what he means for you is often enriched through shared faith and discussion.
- **Prioritize His House:** It's so important that we not let this pastoral vacancy become a reason for absenting ourselves from God's house. Our church community is a vital place to encounter Jesus together and share His peace.

It's true: No Jesus, no peace. Know Jesus, know peace.

I LOVE BEING YOUR VACANCY PASTOR!

Pastor Wright

Res Hawnight

(Next month: Do we have guardian angels?)



You are always welcome to any of our Bible classes!

Wednesday's at 9 a.m. or Sunday's at 9:30 a.m. Held in the fellowship hall. You do not need to start at the beginning of a unit or topic. Please come whenever you can. For those who have been attending church for decades, it may seem that the historic liturgy is boring or vain repetition. In this Bible study, however, we will note how much of the liturgy is actually God's Word as it first appeared in the lives God's people. In a practical and vibrant way, these sessions will help enrich and deepen our worship life and appreciation for Word and Sacrament in a way that has proven tried-and-true over the centuries.

Please help us maintain accurate contact information (addresses, phone numbers & emails) for our members requiring in-home ministry. This is especially critical if there have been changes in the past 8 months.

From the Deaconess -

VBS is one day only! July 12th from 9a – 1p. There will be a form to fill out when you arrive (come as early as 8:30a) for parents/guardians. If you have any questions, please ask Amanda Hahn.



At the beginning of June, I was able to venture to Fort Wayne Indiana for the Organist Workshop. There were 10 of us that week, with 7 being between the ages of 16 and 22 (which is encouraging that there is interest!). Time went a bit too quickly as we were busy each day between lecture/class in the morning and lessons/practice in the afternoon, and typically a gathering at night. There was plenty of information to be absorbed, but also plenty of reinforcement of knowledge I had already learned.







A very special thank you to the thoughtful and generous donor who provided the funding to purchase matching kneeling pads at the communion rail. *Praise be to God!*



Altar Guild...Please give some prayerful consideration in serving as a member of the Altar Guild. Duties include setting up and cleaning up of communion; keeping the altar paraments current for the Sunday according to the church calendar; and keeping the candles filled and ready for services as needed. Many hands make for light work. 'It has been my privilege to have been on this committee for over 5 years. My last day will be July 6, 2025.' Respectfully, Jan Serre



Holy Cross has competent and faithful representation to the Central Illinois District Convention, July 2025. The Voter's elected Mr. William Serre as Lay Delegate and Mr. Richard Kraft as the alternate Lay Delegate. Thanks be to God.



The Mutual Encouragement Committee

Serves a meal the second Monday of every month following a worship service at Christian Care in Rock Island. In this way we serve both body and soul of those in our community who find themselves in need. Our next date of service is Monday, July 14th, 2025. Monetary donations are always welcome and are used to purchase spaghetti ingredients, salads and garlic bread. A

sign-up sheet is in the entryway for those interested in providing desserts or fresh fruit. These items, clearly marked for Christian Care, can be left in the Holy Cross kitchen on Monday or Sunday immediately preceding. Space is limited in the Christian Care kitchen, so those signing up to serve must be limited to four. The Mutual Encouragement Committee thanks you in advance for your kind and generous cooperation.



Our Pantry Sunday recipient for the month of July is Cristo Rey.

Mark your Calendars!!!

LWML (Lutheran Women's Missionary League) will meet

on Thursday, July 10th, 2025, at 12:30p.m.





Peace Quilters is scheduled to meet at 10:45 a.m. on Thursday, July 17th, 2025.

Exercise Class and Fellowship Hour

Exercise Class begins at 10:15 A.M. Immediately following the 9:00 A.M. – 10:00 A.M. Bible Class led by Pastor Gary Wright. Come and join us for Fellowship Hour following the Exercise Class!



Newsletter & Calendar Announcements for the month of August **MUST** be submitted to the office by **Monday, July 21**st, **2025**!!!

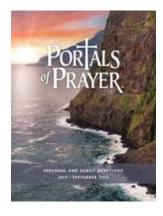
Volunteering to Serve:

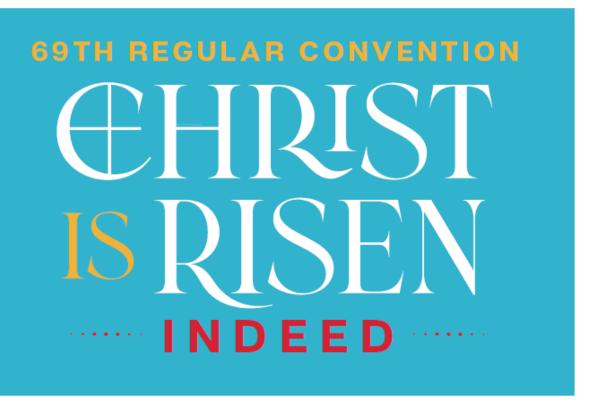
Volunteers are needed to watch the security monitor during our services!

If you can help in this way, please sign the sheet in the church entryway. If you have any questions, please talk to a member of the Board of Elders.

The July – September Editions of Portals are here!

Please help yourself to this devotional resource and share with others





Call for Nominations:

National Synod Officer, Board, and Commission Positions

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

2026 LCMS CONVENTION

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES



The Illuminator July 2025 Page 6 Continued...

Call for Nominations: National Synod Officer, Board, and Commission Positions

The **Committee for Convention Nominations** requests nominations of qualified members of Synod member congregations for the following positions to be filled by the Synod convention meeting July 18–23, 2026. Officers, agencies, ordained and commissioned ministers, and member congregations of the Synod and their lay members are all invited to submit nominations, to be received preferably before August 18, 2025, and **no later than October 18, 2025**. Nominees are sought for:

- Secretary of the Synod
- LCMS Board of Directors (at-large and regional)
- LCMS Boards for National and International Mission (regional)
 - Commission on Theology and Church Relations
 - Concordia Historical Institute Board of Governors
 - Concordia Publishing House Board of Directors
 - Lutheran Church Extension Fund Board of Directors
 - LCMS Foundation Board of Trustees
 - Concordia University System Board of Directors
 - Synod University and Seminary Boards of Regents

Important information, including an explanatory memorandum, a detailed description of the offices to be filled (with present terms and incumbents), and instructions for use of the **new online nomination system**, is available at *Icms.org/nominate*. Any member of a member congregation with a valid email address will be able to establish an account and submit a nomination. Please distribute this call widely and urge participation.

John W. Sias, LCMS Secretary

For general information on the upcoming convention, see *lcms.org/convention/timeline*. Congregation administrators, please make sure your leader emails are up to date at *lc.lcms.org* so that important convention-related announcements will be received. Congregations will receive nomination ballots for the President and regional vice-presidents of the Synod in the fall of 2025.

In Preparation for the LCMS Regular Convention

In Preparation for the LCMS Regular Convention

For general information on the upcoming convention, see *lcms.org/convention/timeline*. Congregation administrators, please make sure your leader emails are up to date at *lc.lcms.org* so that important convention-related announcements will be received. Congregations will receive nomination ballots for the President and regional vice-presidents of the Synod in the fall of 2025.

ITEMS OF INTEREST

"Reaching In" Prison Mentoring Program Coming to CID

You can help with prison ministry from outside a prison! "Reaching In," a letter-writing mentoring ministry developed in southern Illinois, is now available in CID. Correspond with inmates via letters sent back and forth to a P.O. box, thus guarding your identity and location information. For more, e-mail your name and phone number to prison/jail ministry will be at the CID convention, July 13-15.

Central Illinois District LCMS 61st Regular Convention

Theme: "Witnessing Christ to the People" Acts 13:30-31

July 13-15, 2025

Crowne Plaza Hotel, Springfield, IL

The *Convention Workbook* has been posted to the CID website. It contains all District reports and convention information, including the resolutions that will be presented at the convention.

Here is the direct link to the 2025 CID *Convention Workbook*. https://www.cidlcms.org/Convention2025/2025.Workbook.pdf

A Dollar for Missions News First Project of 2025 - Update

The current Dollar for Missions project is replacement of insulation in the chancel ceiling at Wittenberg Lutheran Center, Normal. Some of this fiberglass insulation has fallen from its place under the roof. The area needing work is hard to reach in a high ceiling, so the job will be expensive. The DFM project is for \$10,000. For more details, see https://www.cidlcms.org/ministry-dfm-current-project.html

PRAYER

PRAYER O Lord, open the hearts of your people to support the proclamation of the Good News about Jesus in ways large and small. Bless the Dollars for Mission that support mission work in unusual ways. In Jesus' name. Amen.

You can always find out more about DFM, including the present project at any time, at https://www.cidlcms.org/ministry-a-dollar-for-missions.html



The Mission of the LCMS Central Illinois District Church Extension Fund is to aid The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS) congregations, schools, and agencies of the LCMS Central Illinois District (CID) in building and expanding their facilities and ministries for the growth of God's Kingdom.







June 16, 2025

Holy Cross Lutheran Church Missouri Synod Interim Gary Wright 4107 21st Ave Moline, IL 61265



Interim Gary,

Thanks so much for your most recent gift of \$300.00.

In choosing to support this life-saving ministry financially, you are making a huge difference in the lives of moms and dads right here in the Quad Cities.

Today a pregnant mom came in for a follow-up appointment. She is married, has other children, and is preparing for a career change. She wasn't planning to have more children, and was not sure if she would continue this pregnancy or go through with an at-home abortion. After meeting with a nurse and seeing an image like the one above during her ultrasound appointment, she and her husband chose life for their child!

Praise the Lord! Because of you, the care she needed was available.

Life was seen, honored, and protected because of the help that you made possible! Thank you for your continued generosity.

In your faithful service,

Trisha Wilson Executive Director

TW/amk

This letter is your receipt and should be kept with your tax records. Your contribution is tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. No goods or services were provided in exchange for this gift. Pregnancy Resources is a registered 501(c)(3) EIN#363699951





Holy Cross Lutheran Church Missouri Synod Father Interim Gary Wright 4107 21st Ave Moline, IL 61265

Dear Friends at Holy Cross Lutheran Church Missouri Synod:

The Walk for Life is coming Saturday, September 6th, 2025, at the East Shelter on Ben Butterworth Parkway (55th & Old River Dr.). Look for your church's Walk pledge form in the coming weeks. Your church can leave a Legacy of Life by participating in Pregnancy Resources' Walk for Life. You or members of your congregation can become a pledge-raising walker or team. With 250 dedicated walkers pledging to raise \$250.00, you make HOPE accessible to anyone facing pregnancy decisions.

As you walk, you see past her discouraging circumstances to her need for biblically compassionate and medically accurate information. Because of your faithfulness, moms, dads, and their little ones can have a Legacy of Life. You stand in the gap of broken relationships, unhealthy support systems, and challenging life circumstances. You offer hope and help so moms and dads see a different future—a future with life.

Join other church families and friends on this two-mile family-friendly walk to encourage and promote a legacy of life. Sign up online or when you arrive at the walk. Check in anytime between 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. Rally your church or team at 9:00 a.m. to hear how you offer a Legacy of Life! Then, walk anytime as a church or team between 9:15 and 10:30 a.m.

As a church or team, you can enjoy river views, donuts, coffee, and popsicles from our event sponsor, Whitey's! A first-time walker (over 18) will receive a gift.* Register and become a pledge-raising walker earlier to receive your Walk t-shirt.** The next generation can learn about life and follow in your footsteps!

<u>Thank you for making a difference!</u> If you have questions or want digital materials to promote Walk for Life in your church or community group, contact <u>Liz@qcpregnancy.org</u>.

Blessings,

Liz Ryan

Partner Development

*While supplies last.

**Quantity & Sizes limited and offered on a first-come, first-served basis.

SAVE THE DATE:

Summer Camp registration is OPEN!

- To celebrate CILCA's 75th anniversary, all program sessions for summer 2025 are just \$100.
- Plenty of spots open for preschool through 4th grade cmapers!
- Generations Camp & Pathfinders Camp



* Homecoming: August 2, 2025

Homecoming on August 2, 2025 will be *CILCA's only fundraiser* for the year (replacing the Hog Roast *and* Chicken Fry). There will be a live concert featuring *Eshelon*, a vendor fair, great food served from 4-6pm, swimming, square dancing, face painting, wagon rides and more.

Mark your calendar to celebrate CILCA's 75th anniversary in style!

❖ S.E.L.F. Retreat: August 22-24

• What does S.E.L.F. stand for? Singles Engaged in Lutheran Fellowship. What's our goal? Our goal is fellowship and fun. We are planning to do lots of activities and have a ton of fun with other Lutherans who happen to be single. When's the retreat? August 22-24. Who can attend? Anyone over the age of 18.

Camp CILCA exists to strengthen and foster faith in Jesus Christ and relationships with others in a unique outdoor setting.

Find out more at





www.cilca.org



Christ the King (Cristo Rey) Lutheran Church

1301-19th Street, East Moline, IL 61244



Rev. Pablo G. Domínguez

JULY 2025



The Liberty in Christ.

Here in the United States, July 4th is a big national holiday, The United States Independence Day and I am sure you celebrate it. Many families gather together for cookouts. The beaches are full of visitors. Towns all across America have parades and fireworks. It is a time for family reunions and patriotic activities. Right?



Mexico has an Independence day also. The citizens of Mexico all over the world relive the night of September 15th, 1810 when the parish priest, Miguel Hidalgo, called on his townspeople to take arms against the Spaniards who had been ruling Mexico since the days of the Conquest in 1521.

El Grito (The Shout), every 16th of September is the Mexican Fiesta par excellence! Streets, houses, buildings and cars are decorated everywhere in the country. On every street corner there are vendors selling flags, balloons, and hats, all with green, white and red, the national colors. Flags wave from practically every house and building.

It is customary for the current President to deliver the Grito at the National Palace in Mexico City. The original bell rung by Hidalgo is the bell that is rung every 16th of September. The ceremony reaches the high point when the crowd joins in proudly shouting out the names of the heroes of Independence and ends with the exciting: Viva Mexico! When the Grito ceremony ends, the sky lights up with multicolored fireworks that shower the hearts with the pride of knowing that Mexico is free and independent nation.

Why I am talking about liberty? Just read Galatians 5:1 "It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery"

We have the true liberty in Christ for these reasons:

Because of His love, He died on the cross for us; Through His Gospel, we are now His Children; He gave us reconciliation and His peace; Even though we are sinners, we received His forgiveness; Because gave us faith, we confess that we receive salvation. Nations may celebrate their Independence Day, but for Children of God, liberty is constant! Every day in Christ we have true liberty; sin's liberty, death's and hell's liberty granted by Jesus. We do not proclaim liberty for just one day, but for an eternal liberty when we believe in His promises.

PLEASE, WATCH US:

https://youtu.be/U-limHLeZvY

Our ministry would not be possible without your support and prayers.

We thank God every day because of you!

The Illuminator July 2025 Page 13

July Bible Reading Guide

07/01 Deut. 32:1~4/1 Samuel 28~31	07/17 Psalm 43/1 Kings 21-22
07/02 Psalm 28/2 Samuel 1-3	07/18 Psalm 44/2 Kings 1-3
07/03 Psalm 29/2 Samuel 4-6	07/19 Psalm 45/2 Kings 4-6
07/04 Psalm 30/2 Samuel 7-9	07/20 Psalm 46/2 Kings 7-9
07/05 Psalm 31/2 Samuel 10-12	07/21 Psalm 47/2 Kings 10-12
07/06 Psalm 32/2 Samuel 13-15	07/22 Psalm 48/2 Kings 13-15
07/07 Psalm 33/2 Samuel 16-18	07/23 Psalm 49/2 Kings 16-18
07/08 Psalm 34/2 Samuel 19-21	07/24 Psalm 50/2 Kings 19-22
07/09 Psalm 35/2 Samuel 22-24	07/25 Psalm 51/2 Kings 23-25
07/10 Psalm 36/1 Kings 1-2	07/26 Psalm 52/1 Chronicles 1-5
07/11 Psalm 37/1 Kings 3-6	07/27 Psalm 53/1 Chronicles 6-10
07/12 Psalm 38/1 Kings 7-8	07/28 Psalm 54/1 Chronicles 11-15
07/13 Psalm 39/1 Kings 9-11	07/29 Psalm 55/1 Chronicles 16-20
07/14 Psalm 40/1 Kings 12-14	07/30 Psalm 56/1 Chronicles 21-25
07/15 Psalm 41/1 Kings 15-17	07/31 Deut. 32:1-4/1 Chronicles 26-29



7/16 Psalm 42/1 Kings 18-20

Tina Thompson ~ Cole Fender ~ Mallory Noblet ~ Connie McKean ~ Richard Kraft ~ Geraldine Stolze ~ Ryan Larrison ~ Gage O'Neal ~ Emily Finley ~ Kris Finley ~ Laurie Revel ~ Craig Revel ~ Alma Sigler ~ Vicki Welvaert ~ Claude Lohse ~ Melissa Brondos ~ Ryan Noard ~ Lily Eastman ~ August Kretschmar ~ Mary Freeman ~ David Mangelsdorf ~ Carole Kusterman ~ Terry Shrake ~ Karen Broberg ~ Donna Knudtson ~ Mary Pement ~ Judith Becker ~ Alexandria Elliott ~ Jacob Kroll



Members in Facilities:

Heritage Woods of Moline-Susan Wyant; Park Vista- Ron & Caroline Luecke;
Woodridge Supportive Living, Galesburg- Dick Ristau;
Charter Memory Care of Moline - Jan Phillips;
Hope Creek, East Moline-Elizabeth Cobb

Serving in the military:

Alexa Ellis (daughter of Tera Elliott, granddaughter of Mike and Cheryl McLaughlin), Logan Noard (son of Kyle and Marilyn Noard), Stephen Waugaman (grandson of Donna Knudtson), Matthew Glider (grandson of Doris Glider), Andrew Tolley (son of Carole Tolley), David Revel (son of Craig & Laurie Revel), Jeffrey Teuscher (nephew of Willie Swain), Austin Cox (grandson-in-law of Sieg Paulsen)

Leith Masri (son of Peggy Jones), Jakob Ryckeghem (grandson of Connie McKean),

Brett Kramer (grandson of Terry Kramer).

Member(s) of the congregation receiving treatment for cancer: Rev. Murdock

Friends & family of the congregation receiving treatment for cancer:

Don Rimkus (husband of Susan Rimkus); Angela Cochrian (nephews daughter of Joyce Spidle) Cathy Morgan (friend of Geri Stolze), Steven Bell (nephew of Pastor & Phyllis Murdock), Dan Schmidt (brother of Sarah Paller) Gail Stuenkel,

Lisa Crawford, Joanne Lyons, Dave Patterson, Judy Knudsen, Peggy Arkland (friend of Mike & Cheryl McLaughlin), Kim Trask (sister of Robbie Garrison), Corey Dombrowski (neighbor of Dan & Melissa Thorngren).

Serious health concerns:

Rev. Murdock, Sandy Lohse, Bob Trueblood (brother of Joyce Spidle), Tony Loritz, friend of Jennifer Swanburg, Dennis Rusk, Richard Geisler, Heidi Sias, Maureen DeLassus, Kelly Teuscher, Kenny Lackey, Gwen Shrake, Pam and Bill, (friends of Gwen Shrake).

Recovering/Ongoing health concerns:

Doris Stegemann, Monica (daughter of Brian & Bev Gustafson), Anita Ingold-Kroll (daughter of Martha Kroll), Levi Koopmas (relative of Patricia Erickson), Penny Dawson, Donald Dawson, Scarlet Durbin, Phyllis Murdock, Sherri Lohse, Helen White, Gary Johnson, Fred Poe, Carol Ferrell, Susan Jamieson, Joshua Duburg, Cindy Davenport.

The Illuminator July 2025



JULY HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	9:00 No Bible Class 10:15 No Fitness 10:40 No Fellowship Hour	3	Judependence	5
6 4th Sunday after Pentecost 9:30 Bible Class ~ SS 10:45 Divine Service Pantry Sunday ~ Cristo Rey	7 Office Closed in observance of July 4 th	8	9 9:00 Bible Class 10:15 Fitness Class 10:40 Fellowship Hour 5:30 BOE Meeting	10 12:30 LWML	11	VBS 9:00 a.m. – 1:00p.m.
13 5th Sunday after Pentecost9:30 Bible Class ~ \$\$10:45 Divine Service	14 6:00 Christian Care	15	9:00 Bible Class 10:15 Fitness Class 10:40 Fellowship Hour	17 10:45 Peace Quilters	18	19
20 6th Sunday after Pentecost 9:30 Bible Class ~ \$\$ 10:45 Divine Service	21 August Calendar & Newsletter Items Due!!	22	9:00 Bible Class 10:15 Fitness Class 10:40 Fellowship Hour	24	25	26
27 7 th Sunday after Pentecost 9:30 Bible Class 10:45 Divine Service	28	29	9:00 Bible Class 10:15 Fitness Class 10:40 Fellowship Hour	31		