Bethlehem Lutheran Church 418 8th Ave NE Brainerd, MN 56401

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



If you would rather receive this newsletter by email or would like to stop receiving it, please let us know.

Please let the church office know if you will be stopping your mail service for an extended period of time so we do not send you any publications. Thank you.



Tune in to your cable provider's local access channel (try channel 8 or 181 in Brainerd) every Sunday at 2 pm to watch Bethlehem's worship service.

Get u event www

Get updates, share pictures and RSVP for events on our Facebook page... www.facebook.com/bethlehem.brainerd

Our Mission Statement

We are called into compassionate community by the Holy Spirit through the confession of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to publicly confess the faith of the Triune God in, under, and with our daily callings in the community of God's world.

The Bethlehem Star



Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church 418 8th Avenue Northeast Brainerd, MN 56401

> Phone: 218-829-3330 Fax: 218-829-0792 Email: office@belcnet.net Website: www.belcnet.net

> > THE WAY



WORSHIP TIMES

Sundays at 9:00 am with Communion on the 1^{st} and 3^{rd} Sundays

OFFICE HOURS Monday - Thursday

9:00 am- 12:00 pm and 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Friday 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

CHURCH STAFF

Senior Pastor: Rev. Dr. Mark Skinner Children, Youth & Family Pastor: Rev. Sarah Marshall Office Administrator, Worship Team Director and Organist: Cori Wrobel Bell Choir Director: Stacy Erdal Senior Choir Director: Al Albertson Youth Choir Director: Nancy Albertson Financial Administrator: Shelly Johnson Children, Youth & Family Ministry Coordinator: Joan Rosenow Food Services Coordinators: Pat True and Sara Larson Custodial Services: Ruth Unger



August 2019 1

From the Senior Pastor

"Confessing the Faith in a Secular Age"

Over the next year, we will have the opportunity as a congregation to fully lean into our annual theme for 2019-2020 "Confessing the Faith in a Secular Age." As we live into a culture within North America that is increasingly more and more secular, how will the church need to adapt

and retool to meet this challenge head on as we faithfully seek to, "... confess the faith of the triune God in, under, and with our daily callings in the life of God's world (from our Mission Statement for Bethlehem

Lutheran Church)"? To begin and frame that conversation, Pastor Mark will be preaching a threeweek series on this theme beginning September 8th. Here is an outline of the three-week series:



September 8: "Confessing the Faith in a Secular Age: Engaging the Myth of the Autonomous Self"

September 15: "Confessing the Faith in a Secular Age: Engaging the Myth of Authenticity"

September 22: "Confessing the Faith in a Secular Age: Engaging the Myth of the Time and Opportunity"

Adult Forum opportunities:

Join us for Adult Forum on September 15th and 22nd as Pastor Mark shares some insights about confessing our faith in a secular age. Andrew Root in his recent book, *Faith Formation in a Secular Age* (citing Charles Taylor) writes, "Taylor points us to the possibility that our issue isn't necessarily people leaving the church but instead people no longer having ways to imagine the possibility of divine action or transcendence." How do we live as a church in 21st century North America, in a culture that is increasingly more and more secular? What will the church need to be ready for? How might the church be best equipped to confess the faith in and throughout this culture with the transforming power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ? Join Pastor Mark in this exciting and thoughtful time of engaging culture, scripture, and other confessions of the church as we examine these questions together.

Reading through the Bible in One Year Challenge

As we consider our annual theme, "confessing the faith in a secular age," how will we know *what* or *how* to confess? How will we *know* God's story throughout history that is brought to fulfillment in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ for the sake of God's world? We will *not* adequately know or be proficiently equipped, unless we take seriously our study of scripture. Over the next year, I am challenging our congregation to engage in a daily reading of scripture. In Paul's second letter to Timothy, "All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work." (2 Timothy 3:16-17). I would encourage us to lean into the daily discipleship practice of reading scripture either by yourself, or better yet, gather with another (or others) to read/discuss together. Find a "bible study buddy" to check in with once a week to see how things are going and talk about what you are reading. Check out our website or newsletter each month for daily readings beginning with Genesis on September 15th, 2019 and concluding on September 14th of 2020 with Revelation. To further aid you in this endeavor, I would recommend visiting the website <u>www.enterthebible.org</u> which is provided by Luther Seminary in St. Paul, MN. This is an excellent resource to utilize as you are reading. You will find online videos, maps, historical information, etc, for every book in the Bible ... best of all, it's free to utilize. To log on, simple create an account and password, then you are all ready to go!

May God bless you as you seek to follow Jesus!

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

1 ~ Vicki LaPlant

2 ~ Jason Hennessey, Sam Schoenecker, Kathleen Thorson, Emma True

3~ Kara McCarthy

4 ~ Mya Ferrari, Ken Kemboi, Owen Seamon

6 ~ David Hallgren, Jon Luhrs

7 ~ Vincent Moe

- 8 ~ Paige DeFrang, Jeff Maxwell, Sallie Park
- 9 ~ Jackson McKusick, Jon Steblay
- 10 ~ Isla Eidenshink

11 ~ Payton Lillo

13 ~ Jennifer Lindholm, Elizabeth Olson

14 ~ Zach Skogen, Margaret Steblay

15 ~ Sasha Burgstaler, Kourtney Holloway, Kathryn Jourdan, De Etta Theien

17 ~ Ashley Anderson, Rosabella Horton, Tate Magnan, Bruce Praska, Barrie Rempel, Stacy Smith

18 ~ Mara Mienert, Beverley Rempel

Please remember these people in prayer on their birthdays.

19 ~ Joyce Brick, Bev Gotti, Judy Jourdan, Dale Spaulding

20 ~ Marty Christiansen, Tyler Gubrud, Marlene Kossila, Emily Rhoda, Henry Thesing

21 ~ Jean Anhalt, Kristina Nelson, Hazel Nelson, Matthew Nichols

22 ~ Sharon Braun, Paige Bremer

23 ~ Jeff Macejkovic, Tim Schoenecker

24 ~ Larry Olson, Phyllis Roberts

25 ~ Ray Frisch

26 ~ Marshall Billman, Marissa Thorson

27 ~ Deb Cole, Kacey Finch, Jeff Pulak 28 ~ Judy Hulsether, Malcolm Innes, Zach Kraklau

29 ~ Cory Kruse, Barb Owens, Maren Thurlow-Praska

30 ~ Melissa Levig, Dan Vleck 31 ~ Jonah Macejkovic, Becky Meyer, Marge Streich

We continue to update our contact information. If your birthday is missing or incorrect,

please let the office know at 829-3330 or office@belcnet.net.

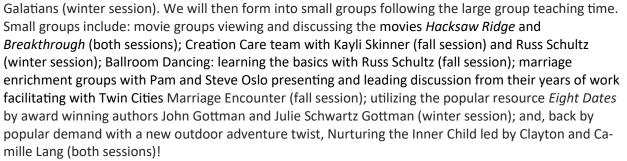
Pastor Mark

August Ministry of the Month: Board of Congregational Care and Community's Small Group Night

Small Group Night this coming year will consist of two sessions. The fall session begins on Tuesday, September 10, 2019 and concludes in December of 2019. The winter session begins on Tuesday, January 14, 2020 and concludes in April of 2020. These nights will be open to adults (18 plus) in the congregation and friends of our members as well. We will be meeting (once a month) on the second Tuesday night of each month from 6:00-8:30 pm. The format for the evening will be:

6:00-6:30 pm—Dinner 6:30-7:15 pm—Large group time with Pastor Mark 7:15-8:30 pm—Small group time

We will gather in the Fellowship Hall with the evening meal provided by our wonderful cooks Pat and Sara (a nominal fee of \$5 is encouraged). Pastor Mark will lead the large group teaching time from 6:30-7:15 pm on Paul's letter to the Colossians (fall session) and then on Paul's letter to the



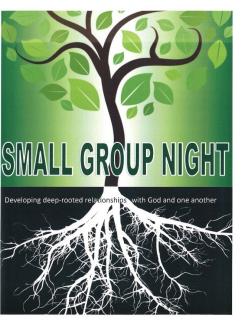
Childcare will be provided. Preregistration is required. More details to come.

Sign up online through our website at <u>www.belcnet.net</u> or via the yellow opportunities sheet or by contacting the church office.

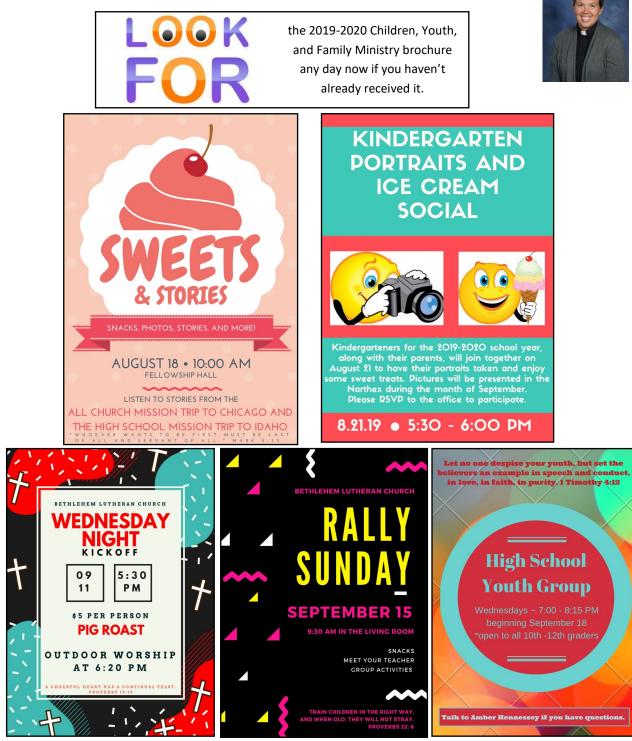
Congregational Care and Community long-term strategic imperatives approved in April 2018:

*Continue enriching ongoing lay leader development.

*Grow small groups and ministry teams. 75% of all congregation members will be involved in a small group or ministry team by year-end₁2020.



From the Children, Youth and Family Pastor



High School Mission Trip to Idaho



Looking ahead...

*9/4 at 7:00 pm—Confirmation Prep meeting; Senior Choir rehearsals begin

*9/8—Baptismal Calling of Educators and Students at both services with Adult Forum at 9:30 am

*9/8—God's Work. Our Hands. Sunday at 12:00 and 2:00 pm

*9/10—Small Group Night kicks off at 6:00 pm

*9/11 at 5:30 pm—Catechism Kickoff Pig Roast with outdoor service at 6:20 pm and Parent/Youth Night at 7:00 pm

*9/15—Rally Sunday with 3 year old blessing at 8:20 am service and Sunday School start at 9:30 am; Reading through the Bible in One Year Challenge begins

*9/17 at 11:00 am—Women's 55+ Book Club

*9/18 at 7:00 pm—Catechism classes and High School Youth Group begin

*9/21 at 8:30 am—All Board Retreat

*9/22 at 9:30 am—Ministry Team Leader training

*9/24 at 5:15 pm—Endowment Board meeting

*9/26 at 4:30 pm—Card making resumes

*9/30 at 10:00 am and 7:00 pm—Tending the Seeds



If you have a prayer request for the Prayer Chain, you can either put it in the offering plate on Sunday or Wednesday or call Deloris Ebinger at 829-2333. Prayers will be kept on the chain for 3 Praver Chain weeks. If you'd like it to be kept on for longer, please let the office know. If you would like to be a member of the Prayer Chain, please call the church office at 829-3330.

"Grant that I may not pray alone with the mouth; help me that I may pray from the depths of my heart." -Luther

Please keep these people in your prayers:

Nancie Paulson; Roy Cheney; Lona Furan; David Borgstrom; Dan Eigen; Diane Ristrom; Michelle Brekken; Glen from Woodland; Norma Matson; Jean Anhalt; Wendy Gindorff; John True; Stefan True; those who are abused; a couple who suffered a miscarriage; Patty Nelson; Verna Miller; Del Dahl; all addicts; couples trying to have a baby; everyone dealing with mental health issues; all caregivers; Chuck Dahl; Aldene Gosse; Cheryl Johnson; everyone dealing with cancer

Sympathy: the family of Marcia Turcotte (Jackie Burkey's Mom); the family of Evelvn O'Connor **Service:** Danny Peters in Peace Corps

Please note that we keep people on the prayer list for 3 weeks. If someone needs extended prayers, please let the office know.

Please keep the following Bethlehem households in your thoughts and prayer this month of August:

Chuck and Gwen Kienholz; Jenny King and family; the Klecker family; Brenda Klinger and family; Jenny and Josh Klukas and family; Ellie Knold; Butch and Jean Koering; Kris Kolstad and family; Laura and Nick Kory and family; Marlene Kossila; Lisa Kotchikian and family; Norma and Ted Kotyk and family; Jean Krueger; John Kruize and family; Kelly Kruize and family; Cory Kruse and family; Doug and Vicki Kruse and family; Camille and Clayton Lang and family; Vicki LaPlant; Beth and Rob Larson; Eric and Sara Larson and family; Lori and Syd Larson and family; Peggy Larson; Brenda and Jayme Laughton and family; Don and Jan Lawrence; Bonnie LeDoux; Corky and Lana LeDoux

New Pathways Update

A group of people representing the area churches met in June with Pam Streed, Executive Director of New Pathways, to learn the current status of New Pathways. Currently, Brainerd area families needing housing are being served in Cambridge. Salvation Army is a local referral contact and will provide for a 24 hour stay in the area while the family waits to enter the program. As of March 2019, the Brainerd New Pathways program was experiencing a \$26,000 deficit. Funds from the Cambridge program have been used to make up a shortfall in revenue for the annual Lakes area budget. Approximately \$180,000 is needed annually to cover program expense of operating New Pathways in our area as it was in the past.

The Cambridge program receives regular financial donations from their church partners and some large annual contributions from businesses and corporations in the area. As a step toward building an adequate base of community support, a community assessment will be held in Brainerd on September 9. The goal is to have at least 50 people who hold positions of leadership and influence within the area to answer a series of questions regarding the need for the program, the kind of program wanted in our community and the level of interest and willingness to support it. Recommendations for individuals or organizations who would have valuable input and should be part of the event can be emailed to Pam Streed at ed@newpathwaysmn.com.

The Cambridge Board is seeking to establish local leadership for the Brainerd area program and suggests a group of 10 people who would be willing to make a two year commitment to meeting monthly in order to help develop and oversee a New Pathways program in our area.

The 80s+ Lunch Bunch is taking the summer off but will resume meeting in September.



Young at Heart will meet on Friday, August 9 at 12:00 pm.

1:30 PM

9:00 AM

10:15 AM



Attention Women of Bethlehem Walkers!

We're taking a suggestion from the Planting the Seed meetings and starting an informal women's walking group. All women are invited to come walk with us to socialize and get some exercise.

The next walk will begin at 6:30 pm on Tuesday, August 6 (weather permitting) at the lower parking lot at the Northland Arboretum for a walk on the Paul Bunyan Trail. All walkers are welcome go as far and fast as you wish!

If you have questions, contact Kathy Hauble at 218-851-2766 or klhauble@gmail.com



MINISTRY TEAM LEADER TRAINING

If you lead a ministry team, please attend one of the following trainings:

TUESDAY, AUGUST 13 FROM 6:30-7:30 PM SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22 FROM 9:30-10:20AM

YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS. PLEASE CONTACT PETE OLSON, DIRECTOR OF THE BOARD OF CONGREGATIONAL CARE AND COMMUNITY





Conventional wisdom has led many to believe that R paper is a more natural product than plastic, thus making it a better choice for the environment. In truth, things are a lot more complicated. Both

 \mathbf{O}

- paper and plastic have big environmental impacts during their life-cycles.
- F As compared to plastic, paper production actually generates more greenhouse gasses and uses more energy and water, report several studies like this
- R one: Life Cycle Assessment of Grocery Bags in Common Use in the United States.

Unlike paper, most curbside collection programs don't accept plastic bags, so the recycling rate for plastic is lower. Plastic bags are more likely to become litter, clog waterways, and pose a threat to marine animals.

Hazardous chemicals are used to produce both paper and plastic bags.

The best choice is to avoid disposable bags altogether. Opt instead for durable, reusable bags, preferably made from recycled materials.

Source: www.pca.state.mn.us/featured/seven-green-myths

Have you used your reusable BELC bag from the Creation Care Team?



Camp Knutson 33rd Annual

OUILT AUCTION

Some things Russ Schultz is doing to Care for God's **Creation**. For the church, I signed up to receive the Bethlehem Star electronically reducing the need to print a paper version and saving the cost of postage for the church. I am also signed up for **online giving** saving the need to print and purchase offering envelopes. At home, I have energy saving LED lights throughout the house. I also minimize waste and recycle when I can. As a result, 6 my recycle bin always fills up faster than my waste bin.

Chank you! Senior Choir Music Fund

'God's work. Our hands.'

JOIN US

SEPTEMBER 2019

Sunday

\$25 in memory of Evelyn O'Connor from Keith

Our congregation will soon engage in service work right here in our community. We are one of over 9,100 congregations participating in "God's work, Our hands," Sunday, on Sept. 8, Across the country, thousands of members will engage in service work to make a positive change in ou communities, build and deepen relationships and share God's love. Join us as we do God's work

BELC will be going to a number of local organizations to help out

and make a difference for many people

At 12:00 on 9/8, we will send groups to Habitat for Humanity, Salem West, Salvatio Army, and the Women's Center with a group staying here to create a rain garden.

At 2:00 that afternoon, a group will go to the Birchwood House to play bingo

Your help is needed. Sign up today in order to reserve your free t-shirt

Sign up by August 11 to get

your free t-shirt.

with our hands! Contact us for more information:

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

and Kirsten Olson

Kitchen Fund

\$15 in memory of Evelyn O'Connor from Nancy and Tim Bogenschutz

\$30 in memory of Evelyn O'Connor from Cheryl Severson-Nichols and Jeff Nichols

\$30 in memory of Evelyn O'Connor from Terri Hanson

\$25 in memory of Evelyn O'Connor from Carolyn and Jim Cole

\$25 in memory of Evelyn O'Connor from Jon and Margaret Steblay

\$25 in memory of Evelyn O'Connor from Norma and Ted Kotyk

\$25 in memory of Evelyn O'Connor from Curt and Sandy Nielsen

\$15 in memory of Evelyn O'Connor from family and friends

Thank you for your donation of \$492.78 to the Sharing Bread Soup Kitchen. Your generous gift of money helps pay for 60-80 meals per day served Monday through Saturday. With gratitude, Glen Gustafson. Treasurer of Sharing Bread Soup Kitchen



Take control of your money with Financial Peace University (FPU)! This nine-lesson course uses biblical wisdom and common sense to help you tackle budgeting, pay off debt, and make your money work for you! FPU includes

your member workbook and a year of free online resources through Financial Peace Membership. Classes start at Lord of Life Lutheran Church in Baxter on September 10 at 6pm and will meet for nine consecutive Tuesdays. Cost is \$109 for singles or couples. Please register through the Lord of Life website, or through the following class link: https:// www.fpu.com/1087441 Contact Valerie Jones for more information at valstevejones@gmail.com



June, July, and August Service Groups

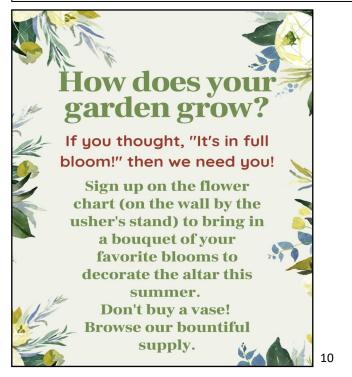
Coordinators: Jackie Nornes 546-6524; janornes1116@gmail.com Karen and Steve Rosenow 839-3161 (Karen) 839-3160 (Steve); rosenowkaren@gmail.com Margaret and Jon Steblay 764-3424; margaret.steblay@gmail.com; jon.steblay@gmail.com Greg and Sue Wiger 828-8331; wildwiger5@aol.com

Assistants:

Terry and Wanda Lundeby Kent Johnson III Jackie and Terry Forsberg Becky and Dave Meyer Kelly and Marty Gubrud Kathy Dufour and Rick Patton Carla and Scott Stall Pam Stock and Al Gardner Mike and Wendy Gindorff Kristi and Ron Holloway Jerry and Krystal DeChaine David and Faye Nelson Brian and Geri Skogen Gene and Lynn Teufert Ken and Marcie Kemboi

Michelle and Ryan Tollefson Todd and Tonya Person Jen and Joe Lindholm Mary and Scott Parsons Gloria and Harvev Munsch Stacy Erdal Bev Gotti Terri Hanson Cheryl and Bill Bailey Dave and Tanya Johnston Cheryl and Jeff Maceikovic Carl and Solveig Seamon Kay Theien Barb DePaoli Pam and Steve Oslos

Dave and Sheila Skogen Rebekah and Stephan Gorny Carly and Patrick Almond Laura Kory Harold Munsch Lori and Syd Larson Marlene and Rod Kossila Dustin Johnson & Rebecca Ostrowski Dylan and Emily Ferrari Hans Anderson Dennis and Kathleen Weisman Al and Nancy Albertson Deb Steuck Beth and Rob Larson Dawn and Steve Verdon





It is through the donations of every individual and family in the congregation that we are able to carry on our work throughout the year.

If you need a convenient way to make recurring contributions or would like to make an additional gift, we encourage you to check out our electronic giving options.

To set up a recurring giving schedule, visit us online at www.belcnet.net and locate the Online Giving button, or if it's easier, complete a paper

authorization form and return it to the church office. Thank you for your generosity and faithfulness!



August Worship Assistants

Greeters:	9:00 am4: Linda Schuster11: Linda Schuster18: Mary and Scott Parsons25: Kay Theien				
Ushers:	4: the Unger family 11: Carla and Scott Stall 18: Cathy and Jenna Lee 25: Mary and Scott Parsons				
Readers:	4: Linda Schuster 11: Kathleen Weisman 18: Cheryl Severson-Nichols 25: Sue Skinner				
Communion preparation	4: Jackie Nornes and Phyllis Stall 18: Joan Rosenow				
Communion servers	4: 5 still needed 18: 2 still needed				
Assisting minister	4: Kathleen Weisman 11: Kathleen Weisman 18: Kayli Skinner 25: Jackie Nornes				
Coffee server	4: Jerome and Marge Streich 11: Art and Colleen Jentsch 18: Sweets and Stories 25: Colleen and Kevin Goedker				
Flowers:	 4: in celebration of Emma True's 16th birthday from Grandma Pat True 11: still needed 18: in memory of Korbyn Rosnau on the anniversary of his baptism from his aunt and god-mother, Jen Lindholm 25: still needed 				
Flower Care	Krystal DeChaine 7				



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
8:55~Hymn Sing 9:00~Worship service		4:oo~BELC at the Sharing Bread Soup Kitchen <u>; help</u> <u>needed</u>		9:00~Edgewood Brainerd worship 10:15~Edgewood Baxter worship 5:15~TOPS		4:30~Circle of Change
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
9:00~Worship with communion	5:00~Creation Care Team meeting 5:30~Bridges of Hope ACES 101 6:00~Board of Service and Evangelism meeting	6:30 pm~Women of Bethlehem Walkers at the Arboretum parking lot	1:30 ~ Woodland worship service; office closed from 1- 2:15 6:00~Board of Education and Spiritual Formation meeting	10:00~Stephen Ministry meeting 5:15~Board of Congregational Care and Community meeting 5:15~TOPS	12:00~Young at Heart	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
8:55~Hymn Sing 9:00~Worship service	4:00~BELC at the Sharing Bread Soup Kitchen	5:00~Board of Worship and Music meeting 6:30~Ministry Team Leader training	12:00~LSS training	8:00 and 3:00~LSS staff meetings 8:00~LSS training 9:00~Edgewood Brainerd worship 10:15~Edgewood Baxter worship 5:15~TOPS 5:30~Congregational Leadership Board meeting		4:30~Circle of Change
18	Newsletter deadline 19	20	21	22	23	24
8:25~Pick Up Choir rehearsal 9:00~Worship with communion	BELC serves Operation Sa	andwich: make sandwiches from 10	8:oo~LSS training			
10:00~Sweets and Stories	10:00~Ruth Circle		1:00~Martha Circle 1:30~Woodland worship service 5:30~Kindergarten portraits and ice cream 5:30~Worship Team rehearsal	5:15~TOPS 5:30~Board of Stewardship and Properties meeting		
s' 25	26	27	28	29	30	31
8:55~last Hymn Sing of summer 9:00~Worship service 5:00~Sunday Night Potluck	11:00~Norwegian Literature Group 5:30~ACES Resiliency		5:30~Worship Team rehearsal	5:15~TOPS	4:30~Sellnow/Jasmer wedding rehearsal	3:30~Sellnow/Jasmer wedding 4:30~Circle of Change