



Trinity Lutheran Church

Proclaiming, Teaching and Living the Gospel of Christ!

WORSHIP SERVICES

Saturday: 5:00pm
Sunday: 8:30am

*Holy Communion is
celebrated weekly on
Saturday & Sunday*

**Sunday School &
High School Bible Study
Sundays at 9:30am**

Sat. Adult Bible Study 4:00pm
Sun. Adult Bible Study 9:45am

A Prayer on Reformation Day

Almighty God,

*I give You thanks and praise
for Your work through
Martin Luther and his
reforming work in the
church. Moved by Your
Spirit at work in Your Word,
Luther brought to light again
the truth that we are saved
only by Your grace through
faith in Jesus Christ. Keep
me strong in faith as I cling
to this truth, confident that
my sins are freely forgiven
for the sake of Jesus, my
Lord.*

Amen.



*Concordia Publishing House
Portals of Prayer
Oct.-Dec., 2026
Page 107*

October 2026 - Newsletter

LWML Weekend—October 3rd & 4th

The Zone 18 Fall Workshop will be held at St. Paul, Bourbonnais
(1780 Career Center Road) Saturday, October 3rd at 8:30am:

Registration and Breakfast
Bible Study
Reports from District Convention
Packing Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes

LWML Sunday will be observed Saturday & Sunday, October 3rd
and 4th. The completed quilts and school kits will be blessed before
shipment on October 31st.

Officer Nominations

Nominations were opened at the July 19th Voters' Meeting for the
positions of 3 Elders and 1 Board of Education member. Please
prayerfully consider serving if you are/were nominated.
Nominations will remain open up to and including October 18th,
when voting will occur at the Quarterly Voters' meeting.

Pastor Appreciation/Voters' Meeting

October is Pastor Appreciation Month. We will honor Pastor Brown
at Trinity with a cake reception at the end of the Quarterly Voters'
Meeting Sunday, October 18th. The meeting will include regular
quarterly business/reports as well as elections for the January
2027—December 2029 terms of 3 Elders and 1 Board of Education
member.

Lunch will be served at 10:45am that day.

Trinity's Trunk or Treat

Trunk or Treat is planned for Saturday, October 31st. Having Bible
Study and Worship at 4:00pm and 5:00pm respectively, Council will
decide the Trunk or Treat hours at Trinity. Watch the bulletin for
announcements.

Donations of individually wrapped candy are being accepted. A bin
will be placed in the Parish Hall for your donations. **Thank you in
advance!**

255 E. Third Street, P.O. Box 414 Herscher, IL 60941

Phone: 815-426-2262

Web site: trinitylutheranherscher.org Email: trinityherl@comcast.net

Visit us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/trinityherscher

One of the great (and sad) debates that comes up through the history of the Church and Theology is the debate around the “Atonement”. The Scriptures teach that Christ “atones” for our sin, that He makes up for our sin and restores our relationship with God. The debates will center around how exactly this is done, why it works and what's the best way to describe it. Much ink has been spilt, keyboards have been worn out by theologians grousing against each other about the best single way to describe this.



Which is silly. The Bible is a big book with lots of images to describe all the various angles of what Christ has done. But theologians have egos that get involved, and there's pontification and all that. Yet, when I consider the atonement, I'm convinced that Luther in the Small Catechism gives a wonderfully concise yet complex answer that we can ponder to our heart's content. Jesus “has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death.” There it is – simple, complex, deep and wondrous.

Jesus has redeemed me – that is He has restored my value. My sin lessened me, but on account of Jesus, I am valued, I am “deemed” worthy and righteous as holy. He restores my belonging with God. Jesus makes me right with God. However, there's also the effects of sin – the claim that sin, death, and the devil have on me. Well, Jesus pays that – He purchases me away from that. Because Jesus has died, there is no debt, no obligation, no guilt that sin, death, or the devil have on me. Both of these angles are true, right and full – and they all go on at the same time because Jesus went to the Cross.

In fact, I would argue that in the Church every problem we can think of regarding the human condition is solved by Christ Jesus dying and rising for us. If there is guilt, Jesus takes care of it. If there is separation from God, Jesus takes care of it. If there is a lack of love, Jesus gives us His love and takes care of it. If there is separation, Jesus calls us unto Himself. Jesus seriously fixes it all.

That's really what we learn, what we grow in as Christians. We may see more and more problems and trials in the world, and the devil will often try to frighten us with them, but really the point is that Jesus has done it all by going to the Cross for you. There's no problem or trouble that can trump that. Jesus wins.

Pastor Brown

Christian Education Schedule

Sunday School Pre-K—8th grade Meet in the front of the church for the opening at 9:30am.

High School Bible Study is held on Sundays at 9:30am. Meet in the youth room in the basement.

Sunday Adult Bible Study is held Sundays at approximately 9:45am after Sunday worship and the Sunday School opening. We are currently studying the *book of Galatians*.

Saturday Adult Bible Study is held Saturdays at 4:00pm before the worship service. We are currently studying the *book of James*.

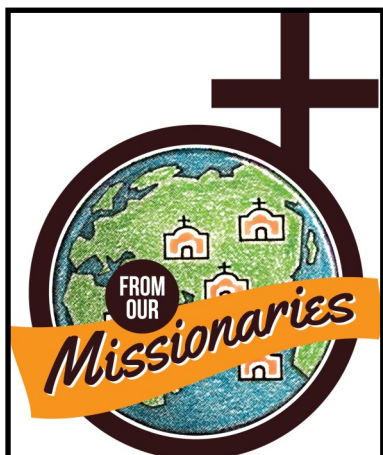
Facebook Live devotions are held online most weeks, Monday through Thursday at 8:00am.

Confirmation Class meets Sundays at 10:30am.

Be in the Word!
It's a great place to be!
All are welcome.

Missionaries

Please continue to pray for our missionaries Rev. Shauen & Krista Trump and their family as they continue to share God's love and spread His Word in Africa.



Weekly Bulletin Deadline

Items for the weekly bulletin are due in the church office each **Wednesday by noon**. Thank you!

Monthly Newsletter Deadline

Articles, announcements and information for the November newsletter are due **Thursday, October 22nd by 9:00am**. Thank you!



Pastoral Care Contacts

Pastor Brown often roams around in his duties, but he will be happy to meet with you. Please call, text or email to set up a time.

Pastor's Email: pastorbrown.trinity@comcast.net
Pastor's Cell phone (call or text): 815-953-9995
Pastor's Office phone: 815-426-2262 x102

Diane Hart will continue to be in the office as often as needed. Phone messages and email are checked multiple times daily.

Diane's Email: trinityherl@comcast.net
Diane's Office phone: 815-426-2262 x101
Diane's Cell phone (call or text): 708-307-2710

Parish Hall Rental/ Property Check-Out List

The Parish Hall may be rented to Trinity members for various functions. Please contact Diane in the office to schedule, remit rental fee, and obtain a copy of the guidelines. **Reminder, the kitchen, tables and chairs should be left clean and floors swept. Restrooms should be checked for tidiness.**

Also, any property borrowed (old tables, kitchen items, etc.) need to be signed out on the check-out sheet in the church office. Please note, per the Church Council, the white tables and chairs may not leave the church property. **Also, all items used are to be returned clean and stored appropriately.**

Villas at Herscher Services

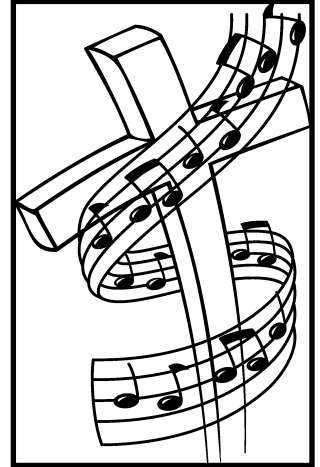
Worship services are planned for Villas at Herscher Mondays October 12th & 26th at 3:00pm.



Kantor's Korner

Reformation Hymn Spotlight: *By Grace I'm Saved* (LSB #566)

It's time to gear up for Reformation Day again! This means it's time to warm up our voices for "A Mighty Fortress" and "Thy Strong Word" and... what else? There are so many hymns in our Lutheran Service Book with such strong Reformation themes and messages that we don't necessarily think about this time of year. One such hymn is one we sang during distribution a few weeks ago. As I prepared *By Grace I'm Saved* for that service, I took note of a few things in the text I felt were interesting when considering the hymn's place in our church.



First, some context! The text for *By Grace I'm Saved* was written by Christian Ludwig Scheidt and the tune composed by Cornelius Heinrich Dretzel. Both Germans. In fact, C.H. Dretzel was a student of J.S. Bach's oldest son and even studied under Bach himself for a small stretch of time in 1716! How could you not write strong Lutheran-style music for a strong Reformation message-filled hymn when you had musical training with the greatest Kantor in the history of the Lutheran church?

One little note I can't help but point out is how similar the text is to the epistles we have from Paul in the New Testament. Think about how Paul sets up a lot of his points: he'll ask a rhetorical question and then immediately answer it. Firmly and emphatically. This happens multiple times throughout the book of Romans. Paul asks questions like...

Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? By no means! - Romans 6:1
Are we to sin because we are not under the law but under grace? By no means! - 6:15
What shall we say then? That the law is sin? By no means! - 7:7
Is there injustice in God's part? By no means! - 9:14

Then we get that same question - immediate empathic answer in our hymn, too! "Why stagger at this word of promise? Has Scripture ever falsehood taught? No!" and "Was it because of your own merit that Jesus died your soul to win? No, it was grace and grace alone..."

But what makes this hymn specifically worth an extra look during this Reformation celebration time in the church? As Lutherans, we are familiar with the 3 "Solas": Sola Fide, Sola Gratia, and Sola Scriptura (Faith alone, Grace alone, Scripture alone). This hymn centered on that Sola Gratia (Grace alone) theme. Every stanza begins with the words "By grace" either as the beginning of a thought in the stanza's first line OR as an exclamation ("By grace!"). The word grace is stated 16 times throughout the entirety of the hymn! However, the other Solas are present in this hymn, too:

Stanza 1, lines 3-4:

Has Scripture ever falsehood taught? No! Then this word must true remain: By grace you too will life obtain.

Stanza 4:

By grace! This ground of faith is certain; as long as God is true, it stands. What saints have penned by inspiration, What in His Word our God commands, Our faith in what our God has done depends on grace— grace through His Son.

These are the most obvious examples, but the Faith and Scripture ties are present throughout the hymn in more places. How many can you find?

-- Caleb Dehning

Little Lambs Preschool



October gets off to an exciting start this year, with the first two days of the month being our field trips to the Herscher Fire Department (weather permitting). The Herscher Police Department will also have two days— one for each class— to visit in the middle of the month. Besides being a chance for the kids to see things that are cool and meet *actual* firefighters and police officers (with stars in their eyes), it is a chance to teach our students several important lessons. We will also hold fire and tornado drills this month. Since the things we will talk about apply to every child, here is a quick rundown of some of the major points (this is far from detailed or exhaustive) for everyone reading the newsletter. You can keep these in the back of your mind when talking with your own children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews, and so on:

FOR EMERGENCIES, CALL 911! Do not use this number unless it is an emergency (e.g., someone is badly hurt, you can't wake someone up after trying really hard, there is a fire, etc.).

Fire Safety

Have a plan for how to get out of your house and where to meet your family.

Don't hide if there is a fire; it makes it harder for rescuers to find you.

Firefighters may look strange in their gear, but they are there to help you.

If you catch on fire, stop, drop, and roll.

Replace the batteries in your smoke detectors once or twice a year. (Time change?)

Do not play with matches or lighters. Do not play with or near fire.

Personal Safety

Ask permission from parents/trusted adult in charge before talking to strangers or taking anything from them (e.g., food, toys, etc.).

Don't go with a stranger. If one tries to grab you, yell "STRANGER!" and run away.

Don't get into a car or get close to strangers without your parents/adult in charge there with you.

People should not touch your body anywhere a bathing suit covers unless your parents know about it (e.g., during a checkup).

Secrets are different from surprises, and you don't keep secrets from your parents.

If you ever need to find or talk to a trusted adult, try looking for: teachers; doctors; police officers; or fire fighters/ EMTs.

If you get lost, stay where you are so that someone can find you. If you can, ask an adult to look for your family.

Learn your phone number, address, and your parents' names.

Use your car seat/wear your seat belt.

Wear a helmet when you are riding your bike, ATVs, skating, etc.

Real guns are not toys. Do not touch them without your parents being right there and giving you permission.

Community Safety

Some places are not safe to play: railroad tracks, grain bins, and grain elevators are a few examples.

When crossing streets, it is best to cross with an adult. If you ever cross alone, make sure you stop, look, and listen for cars. Always look both ways before crossing.

When you are around swimming pools, use walking feet. Do not get in without asking your parent/adult in charge first. Don't get close enough to fall in on accident.

If you find a gun or knife, don't touch it, and tell an adult right away. It might not be a toy.

Weather Safety

Stay inside if there is lightning, or if you can hear thunder.

Stay inside during strong winds. They can blow down tree limbs or cause flying debris.

A tornado watch means the ingredients you need for a tornado are present, but they're still just ingredients. A tornado warning means there is rotation— the ingredients are mixing together (it's like baking!).

If you hear sirens, take shelter first, and ask questions later.

Do not stay in your car if there is a tornado.

Campers, RVs, and mobile homes are not a sturdy enough to protect you during a tornado.

Do not try to outrun a tornado. Take shelter in a basement, storm shelter, or interior room on the lowest level of a building. Stay away from windows.

— Mrs. Brown

Board of Education

The October meeting date will be announced. Please contact Lynne Noffke with any questions.

Martha Circle Trinity Sewing/Quilting Group

Martha Circle will meet for breakfast Friday, October 2nd at 8:30am at the Herscher Restaurant.

Afterwards, we will go to church to display quilts on the pews. If you would like to help display the quilts stop by on Friday at about 10am. Sunday morning we will fold the quilts and place them at the end of the pews. Your help is welcome. Quilts will be boxed on Tuesday, October 6th during our normal quilting day. We will also be tying quilts that day.

QR Code

We are participating in a new test program on tracking the quilts and school kits. We can pack and mark boxes but cannot close until we prepare a QR Code for each box. It has been done for the school kits already. It is not time consuming but requires forms imputed into the computer on LWR.org tracking. Next year I have been told it will be easier as each church will be assigned their own QR Code to put in the box at the time of packing and closing the boxes. We will be able to report throughout the year where the items have gone. This past year 36% quilts and 40% school bags were sent inside the United States.

Connie Tranos

Church Council

The Church Council will meet Tuesday, October 13th at 7:00pm in the Parish Hall.

Herscher Council of Churches

Herscher Christian Church will distribute boxes from the Illinois Food Bank on Tuesday, October 13th beginning at 10:00am.

Our quarterly meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 27th at 6:00pm at the Herscher United Methodist Church.

Hannah Circle

Thanks to all of you who donated items for Operation Christmas Child. Through seed money from Thrivent Financial, we were also able to provide t-shirts, toys, and school supplies. We decorated 40 shoe boxes to donate as well. These items will be packed at the LWML Fall Rally on October 3rd at St. Paul Lutheran School.

We'll meet Tuesday, October 20th at 6:30pm in Trinity's Parish Hall. Lynne Noffke will serve as our hostess. Please read ahead chapter seven, Mary and Martha of Bethany, from THE WOMEN OF THE BIBLE SPEAK.

Looking ahead, we'll once again be selling Priestler's Pecans in November. This fundraiser will help aid our missions and ministries. Whether you purchase them for munching, baking or gift giving, we appreciate your support!

October Card Care: Barb Kruse

Dartball

Dartball games will begin in November. Schedules are on the counter in the Parish Hall. See Brian Noffke or Karl Kruse with any questions. Practices are scheduled for Mondays, November 2nd, 9th, and 23rd. Let Brian or Karl know if you would like any practices in October.

Raise Right Gift/Shopping Card Program

Trinity's Gift/Shopping Card Program through Raise Right—This program is available year-round.

All orders will be placed on Mondays, allowing for delivery usually by Thursday of the same week (online orders will be submitted with the paper orders). New customers please contact Diane Hart in the office for the enrollment code or with any questions. Go to raiseright.com for more information or ask for a printed list of vendors if you prefer.

**Thank you for supporting Little Lambs
Preschool simply by shopping!**



RaiseRight™

Simply the right way to fundraise

Member Birthdays



- 1 Jesse Shute
- 4 Alexandra Gross, Donna Ohrt
- 5 Katherine Hull, Gregory Kruse
- 6 Graham Anderson, Dayne Huston,
Kruse Johnston, Laura Peters, Michael Shifflet
- 7 Allyson Meyer
- 8 Charlotte Kruse, Dawn Rink,
Jane Schaumburg
- 9 Joanne LaChappell, Lisa Witheft
- 10 Kendall Janssen, Phillip Moritz, Brian Noffke
- 11 Vernon Gaus, Allyxis Marcotte
- 12 Doug St. Pierre, Merle Witheft
- 13 Adam Crane, Glenda Inouye, Tyler Varvel
- 14 Janet Mau, Kyle Whitlow
- 15 Alan Janssen, Madison Schultz
- 16 Thomas Royal
- 17 Jordan Lucht
- 19 J.D. Marquis
- 20 Jacqueline Chapman, Cameron Schwark
- 22 Victor Brown, Abigail Jackson
- 23 Kenzi Dehm, Craig Jensen,
Donnette Meyer
- 24 Ruth Kruse
- 25 Kylie Doss, Kamryn Shifflet
- 26 Jessica Kruse, Delaney Rogers, Kate Wagner
Josie Zirkle
- 27 Cristina Chico, Magdlen Noffke
- 28 Gloria Graham, Gary Kohl, David Malone
- 29 Sarah Kersten
- 30 Rebecca Doss, Aidan Knobloch,
Larry Sharper
- 31 Jeff Stutz

Please notify Diane in the church office if there are any errors or omissions. Thank you!

A Prayer on Your Birthday

Dear Jesus, today I give You thanks and praise for Your gracious care during the past year. Now, as I remember and celebrate my birthday, I ask Your blessing for the coming year. Help me grow in grace and faith and to follow faithfully in Your footsteps in the days to come. Jesus, I want to love others as You love me, giving myself in service as You gave Yourself for us all. Amen.

*Concordia Publishing House
Portals of Prayer
Oct.-Dec., 2026, pg 113*

Trinity Lutheran Church

August 31, 2026

Financial Summary

General

Beg. Balance	\$20,644.97
Revenues	21,094.37
<u>Expenses</u>	<u>26,625.84</u>
Ending Balance	\$15,113.50

Mission Fund

Beg. Balance	\$ 5,900.00
Revenues	2,380.00
<u>Expenses</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Ending Balance	\$ 8,280.00

Little Lambs Preschool

Beg. Balance	\$ 4,883.53
Revenues	2,481.74
<u>Expenses</u>	<u>5,073.00</u>
Ending Balance	\$ 2,292.27

Complete financial reports are reported at Quarterly Voters' Meetings held usually on the third Sundays of January, April, July and October.

Please contact Diane in the church office if you need to pick up your offering envelopes, have them issued, or wish to be removed from the offering envelope list.



Treasurer's Report

Online Giving

There are numerous ways to access online giving.

Type in this secure link:

<https://onrealm.org/TrinityLutheran76917/give/now>

No login is required. The link is also found on our website at

trinitylutheranherscher.org and on the Universal Church Photo

Directory App. You may also scan this QR code, or text

"TRINITYHERSCHER" to 73256 to give using your mobile device.

(This number will never send unsolicited texts to you. To cancel further messages, text STOP. If you need assistance with text giving, text HELP.

Standard text message and data rates may apply.

Privacy Policy - <https://help.acst.com/en/trust-center/policies/privacy-policy>

Terms of Service - <https://help.acst.com/en/trust-center/policies/terms-of-service>)

If you have questions relating to Online Giving for Trinity, please feel free to contact Diane in the church office.



It's in the Way that You Use It

Consider the humble baseball bat. It is a simple tool designed for a complex task. The batter needs a tool that can consistently deliver force to a small ball which may be thrown at over 100 miles per hour, but which might also come slanting across the plate as a slow curve. For a game like this, the founders of baseball had to redesign the old cricket bat, which is more of a flat paddle. The tool had to fit the job.

But even a specially-designed tool can be used for a different purpose. It turns out that some years ago in England, the home of cricket, baseball bats suddenly started selling like hotcakes. What were folks across the pond doing with all those baseball bats? Using them as clubs in riots!

A tool can be used, and it can be misused. It's all in the way that you use it.

The same is true with the things of God. The Second Commandment states that we should "not misuse the name of the Lord." In the Small Catechism, Luther goes on to tell us exactly what this misuse is, as well as the proper use:

"We should fear and love God so that we do not curse, swear, use satanic arts, lie, or deceive by His name, but call upon it in every trouble, pray, praise, and give thanks." (SC I)

The Lord has given us His name: He has placed it upon us in Holy Baptism and He has invited us to pray to Him as our Father. In this sense, the Lord's name is something for us to use. We should not misuse it ... and we should not fail to use it. The Pharisees of old were so afraid of misusing the name of God that they decided to simply never say the name of God (YHWH, Jehovah) at all! This non-use is just as bad as misuse. The Lord gives His gifts for our use.

A Christian steward is one who is called to use all of God's gifts for His purposes. This includes things like the Name of God, the Sacraments and the Word, and it also includes things like our family and friends, our talents and skills, our money and resources. Everything that God has given to you, He has given to you so that you may be blessed to use it for His kingdom.

It's all in the way that you use it!



Serving Our Lord This Month — October 2026

Elder/Communion Assistant

October 03*	<i>Available</i>
October 04*	Jeremy Thurston
October 10*	Jerry Brutlag
October 11*	Mike Bruner
October 17*	Jerry Brutlag
October 18*	Chris Knobloch
October 24*	John Varvel
October 25*	Dan Shute
October 31*	Stan Schwark
November 01*	John Varvel

*Denotes Holy Communion Served

USHERS

THIS MONTH

Usher Captains

Gerald Kruse (Sat.)

Dan Shute (Sun.)

Usher Team

Kevin Kruse

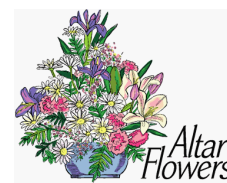
Don LaChappell; Jeff Stutz



Cheryl Brutlag
Pam Matern
Samantha Dehning

Altar Flowers

Oct. 03/04	<i>Available</i>
Oct. 10/11	<i>Available</i>
Oct. 17/18	The Heathers
Oct. 24/25	Norma Bell in memory of Ryan & Zack
Oct. 31/Nov. 1	<i>Available</i>



Trinity— October 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 Devotion on Facebook Live 8:00am	2 Martha Circle 8:30am @ Herscher Restaurant, then to church to display quilts	3 LWML Weekend LWML Fall Rally 8:30am @ St. Paul, Bourbonnais Communion Adult Bible Study 4:00pm Worship 5:00pm
4 LWML Weekend Communion Worship 8:30am Sunday School & High School Bible Study 9:30am Adult Bible Study 9:45am Confirmation 10:30am	5 Devotion on Facebook Live 8:00am	6 Devotion on Facebook Live 8:00am Quilt Tying/ Sewing Group 10:30am-3:00pm	7 Devotion on Facebook Live 8:00am Handbell Choir 6:00pm Vocal Choir 7:00pm	8 No School Devotion on Facebook Live 8:00am	9 No School	10 Communion Adult Bible Study 4:00pm Worship 5:00pm
11 Communion Worship 8:30am Sunday School & High School Bible Study 9:30am Adult Bible Study 9:45am Confirmation 10:30am	12 No School Devotion on Facebook Live 8:00am Worship Service @ Villas 3:00pm	13 Devotion on Facebook Live 8:00am Circuit Winkel @ Immanuel, Dwight 9:30am Council 7:00pm	14 Devotion on Facebook Live 8:00am Handbell Choir 6:00pm Vocal Choir 7:00pm	15 Devotion on Facebook Live 8:00am	16	17 Communion Adult Bible Study 4:00pm Worship 5:00pm
18 Communion Worship 8:30am Sunday School & High School Bible Study 9:30am Adult Bible Study 9:45am Confirmation 10:30am Lunch 10:45am Voters' Meeting 11:00am Pastor Appreciation	19 Devotion on Facebook Live 8:00am Little Lambs Picture Day 7:00am-1:00pm	20 Devotion on Facebook Live 8:00am Hannah Circle @ Trinity 6:30pm	21 Devotion on Facebook Live 8:00am Handbell Choir 6:00pm Vocal Choir 7:00pm	22 Devotion on Facebook Live 8:00am November Newsletter Deadline 9:00am	23	24 Communion Adult Bible Study 4:00pm Worship 5:00pm
25 Communion Worship 8:30am Sunday School & High School Bible Study 9:30am Adult Bible Study 9:45am Confirmation 10:30am 4-H 4-7pm	26 Devotion on Facebook Live 8:00am Worship Service @ Villas 3:00pm	27 Devotion on Facebook Live 8:00am Herscher Council of Churches @ HUMC 6:00pm	28 Devotion on Facebook Live 8:00am Handbell Choir 6:00pm Vocal Choir 7:00pm	29 Devotion on Facebook Live 8:00am	30	31 Communion Adult Bible Study 4:00pm Worship 5:00pm Trunk or Treat Time to be announced

**Deadlines for printing: Bulletin announcement deadline-Wednesdays 12:00pm
November Newsletter deadline-Thursday, October 22nd by 9:00am**