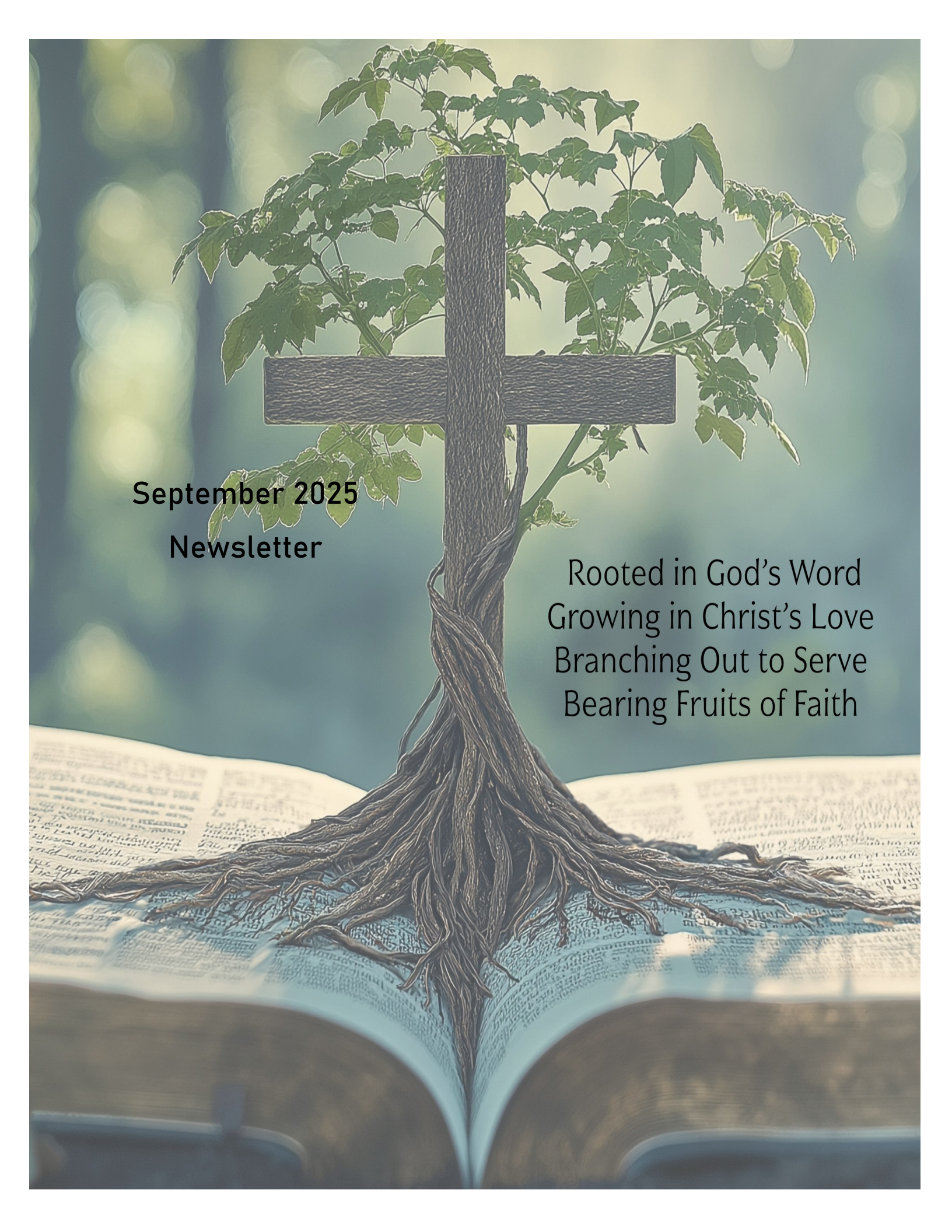




September 2025
Newsletter

Rooted in God's Word
Growing in Christ's Love
Branching Out to Serve
Bearing Fruits of Faith

“What Goes Around Now Comes With Jesus”

Parents already this month plenty of school pictures posted. It is nice to have memories of weddings, birthdays, and even funerals. Many devices let us save much of today unlike ages past. However, memories are not simply data or picture perfect. We are not immune to heartache and shame. The prophet Isaiah says, “You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You” (Isaiah 26:3). These words remind us that the depth of sin attacks even our memories or the mind. There are those moments that we do not talk about, like recorded, or want to remember. Some try to ignore what was evil and even imagine it never happened. Others try to resolve bad memories looking for revenge in the future. There are also those consumed by memories that can cause constant despair, and miss all the other blessings God still gives for life. What goes around comes around and memories keep arising whether good, bad, or the ugly.

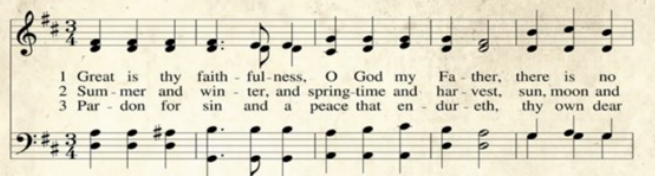
Psychology studies the mind helping us ways to think differently. While we cannot rewrite the past, the present is different. Yet, more than better management of self, God is mindful of sinners. The Father thinks of us in His Son and Christ remembers His place to be our Savior and Lord. Only in Jesus do harsh memories have relief under the redemption won by the cross. God’s faithfulness is what gave Joseph in the Old Testament a different way to see life. He said to his be-

traying brothers, “As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today” (Genesis 50:20). Joseph recognizes what happened to him when his brothers sold him into slavery. Yet, he refuses to dwell on such evil memories and let them consume him. Instead, Joseph by faith saw the Lord of grace cared for his life in the midst of his darkness. Moreover, what was beneficial to his well-being also supplied a way for saving many.

The Gospel won freely and fully by Christ is no mistake. God’s plan is to give “perfect peace” to troubled minds hurt in life by sin, death, and Satan. Being captivate to Christ is mindful of His forgiveness and faithfulness. St. Paul says, “Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good” (Romans 12:21). Jesus is good. The cross is good. God’s Word is good. No forgetfulness is with Christ. His death and resurrection has overcome all and the Father is mindful of His Son. The cross is the glory of God against all evil and what comes around now is Jesus for you. His Word not a memory but acts with power to give faith in Him. Baptism more than a rite, but holds God’s faithful promise upon your life. To remember what our Lord instituted in His Supper exceeds any good with God present for you against evil.

The Church has a one-track mind to keep attention on Christ. Minds soothed, trained, and purified by God and His Word do overcome evil. Bad memories die in Christ and good memories live on in His greater glory and gracious kingdom that comes. In September, many things kick into gear and there will be memories along with it all. In the good, bad and ugly Christ will not forget you and so we are mindful of Christ. He is worthy of praise and honor, since from the darkest of evil has come the best good from God for sinners. Great is His faithful at all times and the love of Christ is kept alive for many.

Great Is Thy Faithfulness



Being mindful of Christ for you,

Pastor Jerry Gauthier

Our Philosophy for Christian Education

St. John Lutheran School is committed to walk with families, “Helping children grow in Faith, Knowledge, and Service.” This happens ultimately with everything centered on Jesus Christ and His Word truth. Having a Christian education is to say “what we believe, teach, and confess” also comes through the lens of Lutheran Christianity. The Bible as God’s Word is the foundation while the Small Catechism is the tool that shapes and teaches (catechizes) what this means for life. It is there in weekly Chapel, prayer and devotions, music and art, and the faith applied to the daily task of academics. In order to be effective, the faculty receive doctrinally sound material, ongoing instruction in Lutheran teaching, and the attention of St. John’s pastor. This applies to called or non-called workers of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS).

As a church and school, it is really about God’s Holy Word and all the good things it would provide to help families grow in faith to God and love lived out in life. While “religion” typically gets treated as purely an academic among others, Lutherans know how the formational aspect of the faith matters most of all. Whether it is listening to Bible stories, memorizing Bible verses, singing hymns, daily prayer, and growth in the liturgy or catechism. What children learn by doing allows the Christian faith to go with them in life and is a blessing for the home, church, and society. Since we currently care for lower levels of instruction, children will receive the basic building blocks that will be a good foundation on Christ.



While a great deal can be done in a school day, the primary educators are the parents. This is clearly laid out in the fourth Commandment, “Honor your father and your mother.” Dads and moms serve uniquely as God’s representative for the daily task bestowed and to nurture human life. It means other authorities like our school support, guide, and encourage parents so that your child becomes a responsible member of society, hold to a good character for life as intended by God, and is brave in their witness to the Gospel. As a Lutheran hymn celebrates, “Oh, blest that house; it prospers well. In peace and joy the parents dwell, and in their children’s lives is shown how richly God can bless His own” (LSB 862).

January 19-25, 2025

Adult Instruction (Didache Class)

A new cycle of classes begins soon! It will go for ten weeks this time. Didache is for those Interested in learning about Lutherans, for those looking to become a member at St. John, and is also an opportunity for any current member to review the Small Catechism. Sign up by calling the church office or the sign-up sheet out at church. Those new to St. John will receive all material for free, but we ask members to give a donation to cover the course book (roughly \$15).

When: Mondays starting September 8th

Where: School Luther Room

Time: 6pm

All our welcome! Learn together and find refreshment from our Lord. Be rooted in the Word and grow in our Lutheran identity that unashamedly confesses Christ!

Monthly Book Club (Table Talk)

Pull up a chair and join the conversation! Our new book club, **Table Talk**, invites you to gather around God's Word and wise Christian writers for thoughtful discussion, mutual encouragement, and faith-filled fellowship. Each month we'll read and discuss a book that helps us grow as Christians in today's world. We will read the second half of "Embracing Your Lutheran Identity" for September. The new book starts in October "Has American Christianity Failed?"

When: September 23rd

Where: Church Fellowship Hall

Time: 6:30pm

Bring your book, your thoughts, and a willingness to learn together. Whether you're an avid reader or just looking for good conversation, you'll find a place at the table.

Confirmation 2025-2026

Class begins starting Sunday, September 7th at 11am. If you do not already have an ESV Bible or Small Catechism (2017 ed.), please let pastor know to make sure we have enough ordered. Workbooks for this year will be given out the first day of class.

When: September 7th

Where: Likely school

Time: 11am

Women's Bible Study will start back up on Wednesday, September 17, in the church from 9:00am-10:30am. ALL women are invited to join us. We will be using the Bible study book "Strong and Courageous-Studying God's Promises in Joshua", written by Donna Snow. I will be ordering books for those who have not already received theirs. Cost of the book is 18.50. Please let me know if you are interested by Sunday, September 14. Mary Warnke 989-798-5617.

Pre-Confirmation Class Begins Soon!

We are excited to begin something new at St. John which is Pre-Confirmation instruction for any 5th–6th grade students. This class helps prepare our young people for the study of Luther's Small Catechism in Confirmation with Pastor by grounding them in God's Word and the basics of the Christian faith.

What to Expect:

- Twice a month centered in Scripture and the Small Catechism
- Engaging activities and discussions
- Opportunities to grow in prayer and worship Foundations for living as baptized children of God

When: Starting Sunday, September 7th (Twice a month)

Where: Church

Time: 11am

Midweek Worship & Adult Bible Study

Take a break in the middle of your week to be refreshed in God's Word! Join us Wednesday evenings starting September 17th for midweek service that go for about half-hour having Scripture, songs, a homily, and prayer. Following worship, all are invited to stay for Adult Bible Study and we currently are going over the book of James. Dive deeply into God's Word, ask questions, and grow in faith as God strengthens us for our daily life and witness. Come for worship, stay for study—or join us for either! You are welcome. *"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly..."* (Colossians 3:16)

Any College Students Near or Far!!!

Campus Connect is a ministry effort of the Michigan District, LCMS. Our goal is to connect

recent high school graduates with local LCMS faith communities at their future colleges and universities. If you (or student's you know) are heading to a university not yet listed (see local church listing by scanning the QR code) please select "Other" and a Campus Connect representative will reach out to you and make every effort to connect you to a campus ministry. We pray this connection is beneficial to you in your faith journey.

LWML is collecting school supplies for Orphan Grain Train which are sent to places where even the few required school supplies may be more than a family can afford. The list of supplies are on the poster board in the gathering area. Get what you can find on sale. You don't need to furnish a complete kit. The cinch up backpack bags are being purchased with a Thrivent grant. There will be a container for these items under the hangers in the gathering area until our meeting to assemble the school bags on September 16th. Cash donations may be given to Gail Campbell. Thank you for your help. You are blessing many children in need.



Open Congregational Positions: Chairman, Treasurer, Financial Secretary, Auditing Committee, Board of Education, Board of Elders, Board of Stewardship, Board of Trustees, Endowment Fund Committee, Budget Committee, Finance Committee & Nominating Committee. If you would be willing to serve in any of these positions for the first time or for another term please reach out to Deb Hutter. For more information about the positions reach out to Deb or contact the office for a job description.

Generosity Matters It is a fact in today's world that tuition must be charged by our school and paid for by parents to have children receive a Christian based education. Tuition proves to be the single largest struggle for both parents and school administration. We have a couple new families coming to the school through our free preschool program and would really love to be able to bring their other children too but

unfortunately cannot afford the tuition. If you would like to assist with a financial donation to help with tuition you can call the Chairman of the School Board, Jill Loftus, at 989-714-3811 to link up with the Buddy Program for these families or you can simply use your normal offering envelope with **"Family Tuition Need"** noted under the special designation field. You can place the envelope in the offering plate or drop off at the school office.

Calling All Youth 7-12th grades Youth Potluck Sept 7th at 5pm in the pavilion. Please bring a dish to pass.

Wagon of Cheer We are still accepting donations for the Wagon of Cheer raffle! If you would like to donate something, you can leave it in the office or reach out to Jill Loftus 989-714-3811.

Coffee Hour If you, your family or your committee/group would like to host coffee hour please sign up on the sheet in the coffee hour area or let Molly know.

The **nominating committee** has gathered the following list of boards and committees in our congregation that will have open positions for the beginning of 2026. Please prayerfully consider donating your time and talent if you are asked to serve on a board or committee. Thank you!

- Chairman
- Treasurer
- Financial Secretary
- Auditing Committee
- Board of Education
- Board of Elders
- Board of Stewardship
- Board of Trustees
- Endowment Fund Committee
- Budget Committee
- Finance Committee
- Nominating Committee
- Kitchen Committee

A job description for all of these positions (except Board of Education and Board of Elders) has been posted on the bulletin board. If you would like a copy of the constitutions for a full



November 1, 2025
8am - 4pm
St. John Amelith Lutheran
Church and School
1664 Amelith Rd.
Bay City, MI 48706
989-686-0176

Scan here to register



We are hosting a seminar with Doxology presenting "Navigating Christian Sexuality in a Post-Christian Culture. With the legal redefinition of marriage, the confusion regarding gender, and rapidly changing sexual mores in society, biblical educators, pastors, singles, couples, and parents are looking for guidance in articulating and promoting a positive view of the Christian vision for marriage and sexuality. Please visit our website to register and save your seat. The conference will be featuring speakers Rev. David Fleming and Dr. Beverly Yahnke from Doxology. To register scan the QR code, go to www.amelith.org, see the event on Facebook or call Deb Hutter 989-316-8322

German Meal Tickets available to purchase today after church!

list, it is available on our website or email Molly at office@amelith.org for a copy.

OKTOBERFEST UPDATES:

Oktoberfest Bake Sale

We are starting to make calls and if you have not been contacted yet and would like to bake some goodies, please contact either Mary Revord (989-225-3172) or Ann Krauss (989) 737-3622 for more information.

Volunteers Still Needed How can I help? Why should I help? When can I help? Can I bring someone that doesn't belong to our congregation to help? Instead of doing physical work is there something that I can do? These are some of the questions that I get asked and am glad to answer YES! We will have a sign up sheet in the back of Church for the next couple weeks there will also be a google form link on our website Amelith.org. When you see our Facebook posts, please share, and there are flyers available for you to put in your favorite businesses. Please invite your neighbors and friends, a personal invite is the most valuable advertisement we could possibly offer. May God continue to bless our community. Vinny Revord (989-385-8352) Events@Amelith.org.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU to our sponsors! Through your donations; corporate, private and Thrivent cards our Oktoberfest has been fully funded!

Our corporate and private sponsors:

United Financial Credit Union
C&M Contractors (Robert Campbell)
Rohde Honey (Tom Rohde)
Bark of All Trades (Amy Gauthier)
Dutch Creek Creations (Vinny Revord)
Superior Carpet Cleaning (Matt Revord)
Artisans Landscape and Design
Franks Great Outdoors
Beech Hollow Golf Course
PCS Computer Systems
Pete & Sue Hauffe
Eleanor Hupfer
Wes Hupfer
Gary & Shelby Kloha
Vern & Ruth Kloha
Andy Krauss
Art & Ann Krauss
Robert & Jill Loftus
Jim & Jeanne Meddaugh
Ron & Gail Wieck

And all of our faithful supporters who donated Thrivent cards! The Thrivent cards alone have fully funded the German meal, Chicken dinner and concession stand!



2025 AMELITH OKTOBERFEST

September 13 & 14, 2025



St. John Amelith Lutheran
Church and School
1664 Amelith Rd.
Bay City, MI 48706
989-686-0176
www.amelith.org



GERMAN MEAL SATURDAY ONLY
WORLD FAMOUS AMELITH
CHICKEN SUNDAY ONLY
FULL CONCESSION STAND



CASH PRIZES FOR 1ST AND 2ND PLACE

Teams will be drawn at the end of sign up

Saturday Only
Sign up at noon
\$10 per person
Throw bags at 2pm

ARTS AND CRAFT
BAZAAR

Saturday 9am-3pm



THE FRANKENTROST BAND

Saturday 12-1pm & 2-3pm



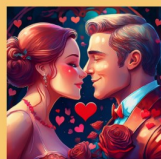
NOSE TO TAILS
PETTING ZOO

Saturday
12-4pm



LOVE AND MARRIAGE
SHOW

Saturday 3pm



WAGON OF CHEER
RAFFLE DRAWING

Saturday
8pm



GEMUTLICHKEIT VEREIN
SINGERS

Saturday 1-2pm



CHURCH TOURS

Saturday 4pm



DIVINE CHURCH SERVICE

9:30am Sunday



BAKE SALE

Sunday only
12pm until sold out



SIX
WHISKEY

Saturday
5pm-9pm



QUILT RAFFLE
DRAWING

Sunday
4pm

Quilt size 66 x 76



Picture of actual
quilt to be raffled

THE GROCHOLSKI
FAMILY TRADITION BAND

Sunday 12-4pm



September Prayer Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 September Birthdays	2 September Anniversaries	3 Congregational Chairperson	4 Board of Ed Chairperson	5 Head Elder	6 September Altar Guild Servers
7 Sunday School Teachers	8 School Principal	9 Shared Time Teachers	10 Finance Team	11 Preschool Staff	12 Nominating Committee	13 Oktoberfest Volunteers
14 Oktoberfest Volunteers	15 Stewardship Committee	16 Before/After Care Staff	17 Cemetery Crew	18 Youth Group Chairperson	19 Head Trustee	20 Pastor
21 Confirmand Students	22 Quilting group	23 SJA Teachers	24 Lawn Mowing Crew	25 Office Volunteers	26 Treasurer	27 Fund Development Team
28 Outreach Committee	29 Board of Ed	30 Elders	31 Trustees			

Every day, let us include the person/position/event mentioned in our prayers. You can pray for them, the job they do, those who receive or in whatever way you are led.