

# Newsletter Article for September 2025

The three Summer months of stepping back, relaxing, recreating, and regrouping are over. It is time to put our noses to the grindstone and get back to work or school. That ought to be the message of Labor Day, but sadly it is not. Labor day exists as a way for politicians to pander to big labor. It is a way to celebrate organized labor by taking the day off, being disorganized, and doing no labor—well maybe a Fall cleanup around the house. It is, after all, the end of Summer.

Still, the church can benefit from marking Labor Day. It is time for us to get back into our version of normalcy. This is especially true regarding the programs and activities we have suspended over the Summer. We have caved to the anticipated low attendance since early June. No more. As Henry 5 put it: "Once more into the breach."

We'll not exactly on the Sunday of Labor Day weekend. That would be a problem with so many taking advantage of the holiday and the three day weekend. We have transferred the concepts to Rally Day one week later. Rally Day, for us, is a time to put our noses to the grindstone and get back to being the church.

On Rally Day, we will have the blessing of the backpacks. It is not just for kids and adults associated with education. If you want to bring a toolbox, a briefcase, an attache case, a laptop computer, a Louis Vuitton bag, or even a small file cabinet, that would be swell too. Around Rally Day, we will restart our programming. Wednesday morning Bible Study will kick off on September 3 at 10am. We are going to move Church School for kids to Thursdays at 4pm. That will start on September 11.

Our first Geriatric Hiking Trip of the Fall will be Saturday, September 6th at 8am. We will most likely hike back to Pine Meadow Lake at Harriman State Park. The word Geriatric here means that there will be no rock scrambles.

Council meets on September 10 at 7pm.

The committee that does the work for Community Meal thinks that we ought to have our meals twice a month on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays. That will mean meals on September 13th and 27th at 11am.

We are working on a new telephone and address directory for members. It will be out in early Fall.

October will be our month of Renewal in Stewardship. Increasing our giving so that LCE can carry out Christ's mission in this part of the world is the easy part. Resetting our priorities so that our participation in the church is near the center of our lives and at the top of our "to-do" list is the more difficult part. We will work on that in October. We end the month with the festival of the Resurrection which is exactly what we need.

November will be book-ended by All Saints' Day and Thanksgiving/ Harvest/ Christ the King.

Christmas was so poorly attended last year that I am considering cancelling it this year. Maybe we could postpone it until after the holidays. People are so busy. We will have to see.

Yours in Christ,

John Shepherd McKenzie