

# *The Lantern – September 2026*

First English Lutheran Church, ELCA



*"Sharing the Light of Christ"*



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

## **STAFF AND CHURCH COUNCIL**

**Pastor: Reverend Mary E. Zupansic**

**[pastor@firstenglishlutheranwausau.org](mailto:pastor@firstenglishlutheranwausau.org)**

**Parish Administrator: Debra Kluetz**

**[parishadmin@firstenglishlutheranwausau.org](mailto:parishadmin@firstenglishlutheranwausau.org)**

Minister of Music: Daniel Larson

Pianist: Hal Osborn

Custodians: Shawn & Jenny Blaschka

Sunday School Superintendent: VerJean Detert

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## **Church Council Members**

### **Officers:**

**President:** Mike Vaningan

**President-Elect:** Sharon Hunter

**Past President:** Cindy Hermel

**Treasurer:** Marla Zumann

**Recording Secretary:** Sheri Fochs

### **Council Members:**

Jenny Blaschka

Angela Greenfield

Neil Juedes

Michael Klapperich

Jim Kraft

Paula Lorbiecki

Liz Oestreich

Kalynn Pempek

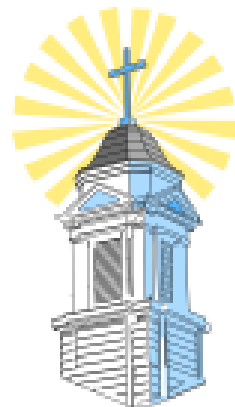
Dina Santangelo

Nicholas Schumacher

## **From Pastor Mary**

***"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers."***

(Acts 2:42) I love this description of the early church, and it feels especially fitting as we begin a new school year. Perhaps you have been away from church for much of the summer—traveling, vacationing, or enjoying weekend getaways.



You are warmly invited back to church on Sunday, September 13<sup>th</sup>, as we gather for worship: hearing God's Word, breaking bread, praying for the needs of all God's people, and beginning a new year of Sunday School and Confirmation classes. Throughout the year, we will have many opportunities to live as the early church did. We will devote ourselves to the apostles' teaching as we hear God's Word proclaimed and preached, gather for Coffee & Conversation after worship in the Fireside Room, introduce our children to a new curriculum that follows the Sunday scripture lessons, and accompany our Confirmation students as they study the Hebrew and Christian Testaments. We will also share in fellowship and service as we enjoy refreshments after worship, serve community suppers, support the Holiday Treasure Sale, participate in the Quilting Group, join the Fireside Book Club and Women's Circles, and so much more.

We will break bread together as we share Holy Communion each week. And, of course, we will pray for the needs of our church family and for all our siblings in Christ, both locally and globally.

***God's Peace,  
Pastor Mary***

**Your comments, questions and concerns are important to us. Feel free to talk to any member of our staff or Church Council.**



## September Worship Schedule

**Sunday, September 6: Pentecost 15**

Worship at 9:00 a.m.

**Sunday, September 13: Pentecost 16**

**Rally Sunday!**

Worship at 9:00 a.m.

Quilt Blessing

**Sunday, September 20: Pentecost 17**

Worship at 9:00 a.m.

**Sunday, September 27: Pentecost 20**

Worship at 9:00 a.m.

**Thursday Worship**

**September 3, 10, 17, 24 – 6:00 p.m.**

**in the sanctuary**

## First English Mission Statement

**Grow in faith,  
serve our neighbors,  
and support one another.**



## Fireside Book Club...

Fireside Book Club will begin again in September. New members are always welcome! We meet every other Tuesday at 11:00 a.m. Members nominate the books that we read and discuss. We read books on a variety of topics and have a good time! For more details about the book club contact Karen Briggs or any



current book club member soon so you can be ready to discuss our first book on September 8.

## Parish Records...August 2026

**Funeral:** *"...in the sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ, we commend to almighty God...*

- August 1: Chad Seivert

## Fall Into Fellowship: Church Life Is Back!

As summer winds down, we're gearing up for an exciting season of ministry and connection. Sunday School, small groups, youth nights, and more are all starting back up in September. There's a place for everyone to grow, serve, and belong!



## Regular Church Office Hours...

resume on Tuesday, September 8. Office is closed for lunch: Noon – 1:00 p.m.)



## Deadlines:

Bulletin: Wednesday afternoon  
Lantern: 20<sup>th</sup> of each month



## Congratulations, Students! ...

We are pleased to announce that the Pastor Jay Kamrath Scholarship Fund and our General Scholarship Fund have awarded six scholarships this year.

*Gracin Dittmar, Karli Kramer, Clarissa Krueger, Ella Radke, Abigail Schumacher, and Kate Schumitsch* will each receive \$1,000 for this upcoming school year.

Congratulations! We are very proud of our students and wish them the very best! May God bless them in their studies and future endeavors.



## Coffee and Conversation...

Sunday, Sept. 20 – 10:15 a.m. in the Fireside Room.

We will welcome ShyAnn Egwalata as she shares with us her life in Uganda with her family, along with their ministry to the people there.



## After Worship Coffee Hours...



The new sign-up sheet is in the narthex if you would like to provide after-worship treats on Sundays.

We extend our worship experience by staying after worship to share some fellowship with each other, especially with a treat! You don't have to provide fancy treats are just fine, and there is always someone around to help with making coffee! Thanks!

## The Quilters...

will resume on **Tuesday, Sept. 8<sup>th</sup>. Please meet in the sanctuary at 9:15 a.m.** We will be placing our quilts around the church for the Quilt



Blessing on Sept. 13<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to be part of this fun group of ladies, please come and join us! We would love to have you. No quilting experience is required. We meet each Tuesday, at 9:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall.

## WELCA...

Our women's circles resume in September. All women of FE are invited to come and join in fellowship and study!



**Charity Circle: Monday, September 14**

**10:00 a.m. in the Bethany Room**

**Shalom Circle: Thursday, September 17**

**6:45 p.m. in the Fireside Room**

## Our thanks...

to these members for designating their Thrivent Choice Dollars to First English for the month of August:

Thanks

- Nancy Henricks
- Pat Seivert
- Dean Radke
- Mike Vaningan
- Spencer Radke

## Envelope Packets

containing the 'special' envelopes

for Sept. and Oct. are in the narthex and church office.

In the packets are Food Pantry, Building Fund and ELCA Lutheran Disaster Response.

# COMMITTEE NIGHT



To all members who serve on a committee:  
Mark your calendars as we begin a new season of ministry together. **Our next committee night will be Tuesday, Sept. 1, 6:30 p.m.** We will first gather in Fellowship Hall and then proceed to our respective committees.

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## **Sunday, Sept. 13**

marks the kick-off for our Sunday School and Confirmation Classes. All classes run from 10:15-11:15 a.m. We are very pleased with our educational staff. Parents

and grandparents, please feel welcome to stop in and visit your child's class. Check with your child's teacher if they could use some help with projects, snacks, etc.

**Confirmation Students and Parents** are required to attend an orientation with Pastor Mary in the Youth Room.

### **A Sunday School Blessing**

O God, bless our children as they begin a new year of discovery. Fill their minds with wonder, their hearts with kindness, and their friendships with grace.

Bless our teachers with extra patience, wisdom, and joy as they lead. Remind every student here that they are safe, valued, and loved by You every single step of the way. Amen.

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### **Let Us Remember...**

those in our congregation who are confined to their homes or are in nursing home or assisted living facilities due to illness, rehab/therapy, or are just unable to attend worship or fellowship activities. They would love and appreciate hearing from their church family with a card, visit, note or phone call.

### **Cady Home**

**1805 N. 6<sup>th</sup> Ave., Wausau WI 54401**

- Michelle Detert Room 4

### **Mountain Terrace Senior Living**

**3402 Terrace Ct. Wausau WI 54401**

- Diane Zuelke Room 133

### **Primrose Retirement Community**

**2100 Townline Rd. Wausau WI 54403**

- Kathie Peterson Room 228

### **Rennes Health and Rehab**

**4602 Barbican Ave. Weston, WI 54476**

- Sue McKee #235

- Dennis & Laurayne Nicoliasen #121

### **Rennes Health and Rehab**

**4810 Barbican Ave., Weston, WI 54476**

- Ila Bartelt Room 409-1

### **Sylvan Crossings on Evergreen**

**1605 Evergreen Rd., Wausau WI 54403**

- Dolores Hintz Room 13

### **Wood Aven Living Community**

**1821 N.4<sup>th</sup> Ave. Wausau 54401**

- Gary Klingbeil Room 110

### **AT HOME...**

- **Sue Crone** 2901 N. 7<sup>th</sup> St. Apt. W-308

Wausau, WI 54403 715-581-8592

- **Audrey Fellbaum** 1204 Spruce St.

Wausau, WI 54401 715-845-9552

- **John & Karen Otto** 6401 Teagan Lane

Weston 54476 715-241-6369

- **Gary Pagel** 1508 Merrill Ave. #405

Wausau 54401 715-842-9784

- **Delphine Saeger** 151700 Fern Ln.

Wausau 54401 715-298-3210

- **Eleanor Thorpe** 2901 N. 7<sup>th</sup> St. Apt. W102

Wausau 54403 715-298-1865

## HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Women Build is a chance to use skills you have or learn something new while helping complete work on a Habitat home! Several 1st English members participated last year and had a great time. Each shift is only 4 hours. There are a few slots left on Wednesday morning, September 16 and Saturday morning, September 19. Dina and I signed up for the 16th. Let me know soon if you are interested and I'll walk you through the registration process. -- Lynne Santangelo

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## A Back-to-School Prayer...

Loving God, thank you for the rest and relaxation we enjoyed over the summer.

We pray for our children as they begin their new school year.

Bless them with joy at seeing friends, excitement at new experiences, and a love of learning.

Watch over all who learn, replacing fear with joy, anxiety with peace, and tiredness with energy.

Grant teacher wisdom, patience, and joy in serving their students. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

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**Worship Assistants - Ushers**  
**Communion Set-up and Assistants -**  
**Communionware Washers**  
**Greeters - Lectors - Acolytes**

## TO THOSE WHO ASSIST IN WORSHIP

FYI...this note is just to let you know Sharon Hunter is scheduling the weekly Thursday and Sunday worship service volunteers. If you cannot serve when you are scheduled, please find

someone to take your place and let Sharon know so the correct name is reflected in the bulletin. We truly appreciate everyone who helps to make our worship service meaningful. Reach Sharon at [shunteratdpi@msn.com](mailto:shunteratdpi@msn.com) or 715 212 1672.

## WORSHIP ASSISTANTS:

|               |                  |
|---------------|------------------|
| September 6:  | Kalynn Pempek    |
| September 13: | Connie Vaningan  |
| September 20: | Lynne Santangelo |
| September 27: | Pat Seivert      |

|             |                  |
|-------------|------------------|
| October 4:  | Kalynn Pempek    |
| October 11: | Connie Vaningan  |
| October 18: | Lynne Santangelo |
| October 25: | Pat Seivert      |

## ACOLYTES:

|               |                           |
|---------------|---------------------------|
| September 6:  | Kynslei Koehler-Dahlquist |
| September 13: | Kaedyn Hadley             |
| September 20: | Brooklyn Detert           |
| September 27: | Annabelle Oestreich       |

|             |                           |
|-------------|---------------------------|
| October 4:  | Kynslei Koehler-Dahlquist |
| October 11: | Kaedyn Hadley             |
| October 18: | Brooklyn Detert           |
| October 25: | Annabelle Oestreich       |

## LECTORS:

|               |              |
|---------------|--------------|
| September 6:  | Lette Becker |
| September 13: | Karen Briggs |
| September 20: | Sue Juedes   |
| September 27: | Sue Juedes   |

|             |                  |
|-------------|------------------|
| October 4:  | Dawn Kramer      |
| October 11: | Kalynn Pempek    |
| October 18: | Matt Schumitsch  |
| October 25: | Lynne Santangelo |

## LECTORS: (Thursday Evening Worship)

|               |                     |
|---------------|---------------------|
| September 3:  | Cheri Breneman      |
| September 10: | Maralee Moellendorf |
| September 17: | Bobbie Levine       |
| September 24: | Barry Levine        |

October 1: Marla Zumann  
 October 8: Cheri Breneman  
 October 15: Maralee Moellendorf  
 October 22: Bobbie Levine  
 October 29: Barry Levine

#### **GREETERS:**

September 6: Mike & Connie Vaningan  
 September 13: Matt & Dawn Schumitsch  
 September 20: Amy Abitz and Eli Akey  
 September 27: Shawn & Jenny Blaschka

October 4: VerJean Detert and Lois Stasko  
 October 11: Cindy Hermel and Linda Kittel  
 October 18: Dilynn Koehler and Deb Kufahl  
 October 25: Lonnie & LeAnn Lewis

#### **COMMUNION SET-UP:**

September 6: VerJean Detert  
 September 13: Deb Kluetz  
 September 20: VerJean Detert  
 September 27: Deb Kluetz

October 4: VerJean Detert  
 October 11: Deb Kluetz  
 October 18: VerJean Detert  
 October 25: Deb Kluetz

#### **COMMUNION ASSISTANTS:**

September 6: Lynn Schulz  
 September 13: Deb Kufahl  
 September 20: Emma Schumitsch  
 September 27: Sue Wolf

October 4: Jenny Blaschka  
 October 11: Shawn Blaschka  
 October 18: Joan Heahlke  
 October 25: Dawn Kramer

#### **COMMUNIONWARE WASHERS:**

September 6: Bob & Pat Seivert  
 September 13: Lynne Santangelo  
 September 20: Neil & Sue Juedes  
 September 27: Deb Kluetz

October 4: Bob & Pat Seivert  
 October 11: Lynne Santangelo  
 October 18: Lonnie & LeAnn Lewis  
 October 25: Neil & Sue Juedes

#### **ALTAR GUILD:**

September: Sue Juedes  
 October: Jane Schalow

#### **USHERS:**

September 6: Mike & Connie Vaningan / Sharon Hunter  
 September 13: Scott & Deb Kufahl / Steve Wendorf  
 September 20: Duane Chapman / Bob Lampe / Earl Zabel  
 September 27: Jenny Blaschka/Neil & Sue Juedes  
 October 4: Gene & Lynn Schulz / Deb Kluetz  
 October 11: Lori & Matt Heyne / Matt Schumitsch  
 October 18: Mike & Connie Vaningan/Sharon Hunter  
 October 25: Scott & Deb Kufahl / Steve Wendorf

**Subs:** Shawn & Jenny Blaschka, Lowanne Brokaw, Matt & Lori Heyne, Sharon Hunter, Sue & Neil Juedes, Deb Kluetz, Deb Kufahl, Mike Vaningan, Earl Zabel



***Be a rainbow in someone  
 else's cloud.***

***– Maya Angelou***

## Prayer of Remembrance for Patriots Day...

*O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come, our shelter through every storm, and our eternal home:*



### On this 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of 9/11, 2001...

We come before You remembering the lives lost on September 11, 2001. Though many years have passed, the sorrow of that day still lingers in the hearts of families, friends and a grieving nation.

O Lord, comfort those who continue to carry loss. Grant peace to the brokenhearted, strength to the weary and light to those walking through seasons of grief. Let Your presence bring hope where memories still ache.

Teach us to care for one another with compassion and courage. Help us to be a people who offer kindness to the hurt, encouragement to the discouraged and justice to those who suffer. Stir our hearts to live with mercy, humility and love for our neighbors.

Forgive us when our words are greater than our actions. May we strive each day to reflect the values of faith, unity and grace that honor You and strengthen our communities.

Thank You, Lord, for Your constant care and unfailing mercy. Even in tragedy, You remain our refuge and our hope.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## Thank You...

*"I would like to send a huge Thank You to my church family for the generous donations of supplies and money toward School Kits and Personal Care Kits. With your donations, and Thrivent dollars, I was able to assemble 120 Personal Care Kits and 83 School Kits this year! I greatly appreciate your support in this mission."*

-- Lori Heyne



## Time Is Sacred

Your next breath  
Your next thought  
Your next prayer  
Your next step  
Your next hug  
Your next kiss  
Your next text  
Your next phone call  
The blinking of your eyes.....  
Could be your last.

Be joyous and thankful as each second is recorded in your life story.

Love-Live-Celebrate the precious gift of each moment sent from God.

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## Thank You...

*"I would like to send a huge Thank You to my church family for the generous donations of supplies and money toward School Kits and Personal Care Kits. With your donations, and Thrivent dollars, I was able to assemble 120 Personal Care*

*Kits and 83 School Kits this year! I greatly appreciate your support in this mission."*

-- Lori Heyne

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## 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Diaper / Baby Hygiene Drive...

**September 14-25, 2026.**

All collected products and money raised go to the Babies' Place in Wausau which in turn goes to families in the area to help provide these basic needs for their children. The need continues to grow.

Most needed items: diapers (especially sizes 6 & 7), Pull-ups (sizes 4T & 5T), Baby Wash, and Diaper Rash Cream.

Watch for a collection box in the coat room beginning Sept. 14.

**FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH  
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES MONDAY,  
AUGUST 17, 2026, 6:00 P.M.**

**Members Present:** Sheri Fochs, Mike Vaningan, Marla Zumann, Neil Juedes, Liz Oestreich, Mike Klapperich, Jim Kraft, Cindy Hermel, Pastor Mary Zupansic, Paula Lorbeicki, Angela Greenfield, Scott Kufahl (guest)

**Members Absent:** Nicholas Schumacher, KaLynn Pempek, Dina Santangelo, Jenny Blaschka, Sharon Hunter

No opening devotions.

**Reports**

**Financial Reports:**

June reports presented. We are on track and everything is where it should be. Giving is a little down but that is normal for this point.

**Endowment Disbursement:** Endowment distribution recommendations were reported for the 1st quarter of 2026. The Endowment Committee recommended the first quarter distribution of \$10,123.30 to be distributed as follows: 10% reinvested (\$1013.00), up to 30% education option (\$510.30). The Benevolence Disbursements of \$8,600.00 as follows: ELCA Synod (\$1,000.00); ELCA Missionary (\$1000.00); Lutheran Social Services (\$800.00); Crossway Camp (\$800.00); ELCA World Hunger (\$800.00); Lutheran Disaster Response (\$800.00); Greater Wausau Christian Services (\$500.00); Homme Home Foundation (\$500.00); and NAOMI (\$400.00); Miscellaneous (\$2,000.00). Neil Accepts. Jim Second. Passed.

**Pastor's Report:**

**WORSHIP:**

Presided and/or preached 17 services (Sunday and Thursday)

**PASTORAL CARE ACTIVITIES:**

Funeral Prep – Seivert Family 7/27/26, Funeral – Chad Seivert. 8/1/26

2 Hospital visits, 3 Pastoral visits, Day-to-day conversations with members

**COMMITTEE MEETINGS & OTHER ACTIVITIES:**

Volunteered at the Fair Stand Wed, Fri, Sat, Sun  
Maintain the narthex monitor – updating on a regular basis

Assisted with Coffee & Conversation (in charge of technology i.e., video etc.) Met with:

Technology Team

Parish Ed Team

Stewardship Team

Oversee production of backpack tags for

Backpack Blessing Sunday

Review curriculum for Confirmation Classes

Meet with Mike K. and Deb for a refresher on

posting to website & Realm Meet every Tuesday

with a clergy group for support and sharing of

ministry ideas Webinar Elections & Civic

Engagement: What the ELCA Teaches & How

Congregations Can Engage, hosted by the

Lutheran Office for Public Policy in Wisconsin.

On call for Pastor Karoline S. Aug 2 – Aug 9

**CONFIRMATION**

Beginning with the 2026-2027 academic year

Confirmation classes will take on a more

structured pattern. I have put together a list of

requirements including worship attendance,

acolyting, sermon notes, service hours,

fellowship hours, and a recommendation to

attend summer church camp. These

expectations/requirements were reviewed by the

Parish Ed Team and approved.

Document provided to council.

**LOOKING AHEAD:**

Blessing of the Pets will take place on August 30 @ 1pm

Vacation planned for Sept 29 – Oct 6

**Parish Ed/Youth** – Looked over curriculum and confirmation expectations. Set dates for backpack blessings. Sept 13th is kick off for the school year.

**Technology**– Launched elimination of the mass mailing of the newsletter.

**Worship & Music** –Nothing to report

**Stewardship** – Discussed how easy time and talent would be on Realm. And to combine / shorten some of the options to make it easier. Discussed setting up a booth in the back of church to get more people involved in the groups.

**Church & Society** –Jim spoke. It's nice to have the coffee and conversation group going again. Get 9-12 people, which is a nice number to have speakers come in again.

**Property** –Nothing to report

**Wage & Policy** – Nothing to report.

**Fair Stand** – Nothing to report

**Treasure Sale** – Nothing to report.

### **Old Business:**

**Constitution Update**-Joan has it completed. Joan and Cindy will meet next week to go over bylaws to make sure they match up.

**Realm Update**-Next phase will come after the time and talent sheets are turned in and will begin to use realm for those groups.

**Directory**-Cindy and Mike will begin working on this.

**Office Printer**- Looking to replace the two copiers with one that can do it all. Would like it to be able to print in color but then monitor what is being printed in color. Scott will look into this.

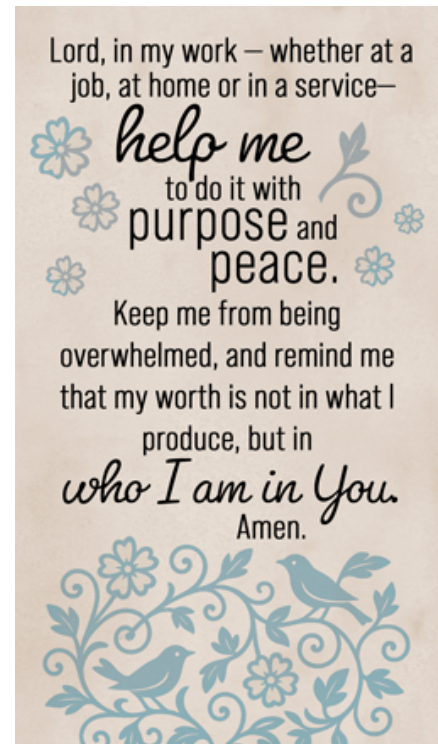
### **New Business:**

**Update Membership List**-There are many non-members that are on the list that are no longer members. Cindy and Mike will get started on this.

**Next Meeting Date:** Monday, September 21, 2026, 6:00PM

A motion to adjourn was made by Jim and seconded by Cindy. Meeting adjourned. Closing devotions were provided by Neil.

Sheri Fochs, Recording Secretary



“There’s only one way to succeed in anything, and that is to give it everything.”

— Vince Lombardi

We wish everyone a happy and safe Labor Day Weekend!



## September 2026

First English Lutheran Church – Wausau WI

*When I am afraid, I put my trust in you.” – Psalm 56:3*

| SUNDAY                                                                                                   | MONDAY                       | TUESDAY                                                                                                                                                     | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY                                                                            | FRIDAY               | SATURDAY |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|----------|
|                                                                                                          |                              | 1<br>6:30pm<br>Committee Night                                                                                                                              | 2         | 3<br><a href="#">6pm Worship</a>                                                    | 4<br>6:30pm NA Mtg.  | 5        |
| 6<br>9am Worship                                                                                         | 7<br>Church Office<br>Closed | 8<br>9am Quilting<br>11am Book Club                                                                                                                         | 9         | 10<br><a href="#">6pm Worship</a>                                                   | 11<br>6:30pm NA Mtg. | 12       |
| <i>Pentecost 15</i>                                                                                      | <i>Labor Day</i>             |                                                                                                                                                             |           |                                                                                     |                      |          |
| 13<br>9am Worship<br>10:15am Sunday<br>School                                                            | 14<br>10am Charity<br>Circle | 15<br>9am Quilting                                                                                                                                          | 16        | 17<br><a href="#">6pm Worship</a><br>6:45pm Shalom<br>Circle                        | 18<br>6:30pm NA Mtg. | 19       |
| <i>Rally Sunday</i><br><i>Pentecost 16</i>                                                               |                              |                                                                                                                                                             |           |                                                                                     |                      |          |
| 20<br>9am Worship<br>10:15am Sunday<br>School<br>10:15 Coffee and<br>Conversation<br><i>Pentecost 17</i> | 21<br>6pm Church<br>Council  | 22<br>9am Quilting<br>11am Book Club<br><br><i>First Day of<br/>Autumn</i> | 23        | 24<br><a href="#">6pm Worship</a>                                                   | 25<br>6:30pm NA Mtg. | 26       |
| 27<br>9am Worship<br>10:15am Sunday<br>School<br><i>Pentecost 18</i>                                     | 28                           | 29<br>9am Quilting<br>Pastor Mary on<br>vacation (thru<br>10/11)                                                                                            | 30        |  |                      |          |