



Bethel Lutheran Church

607 6th St. N

Wahpeton, ND 58075

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Our Mission

Bethel Lutheran Church in Wahpeton, ND is a community of believers called by God to:

Remember Bethel is online!

www.bethelwahpeton.com

Scan code on right to donate.



Sunday Worship Services

9:00 am Service

11:00 am Contemporary

Wednesday Services

Begin September 13

4:45 Supper Served

5:30 Wednesday School &

Confirmation

6:45 Worship Service



Bethel Beacon

September 2023

Volume 59 Issue 8

Upcoming Events

- Sept 4 Labor Day—Office Closed
- Sept 10 God’s Work our Hands
Sunday
- Sept 13 Wednesday Programming/
Confirmation Starts
- Sept 15-17 CastAway
- Sept 17 1st Communion Class
- Sept 18 Touch A Truck Event
- Sept 19 Discussion & Dessert
- Sept 22-24 CastAway
- Sept 24 1st Communion Class
- Oct 1 World Communion
Sunday
10am Sunday School Starts
- Oct 6 Lifeline Screening
- Oct 8 Consecration Sunday
- Oct 10 Discussion & Dessert
- Oct 15 Fall Festival Day/Soup
Sunday
- Oct 29 Reformation Sunday
- Nov 5 Pancake Breakfast
- Nov 14 Discussion & Dessert
- Nov 15 Soul Shop
- Nov 19 Thanksgiving Service
Ecumenical
- Nov 22 No Wednesday Class/Service
- Nov 23 Thanksgiving—Office Closed



Happy Birthday to Ruth!

Ruth Larson will be celebrating her 90th birthday on September 19th.

Ruth has been an active member of Bethel Lutheran for 45 years. She is involved in circle and quilting. She has also been a member of the choir.

Ruth has 5 adult children, 10 grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren, and 3 older siblings.

Ruth keeps busy with gardening, quilting, sewing, playing bridge, reading and attending events.

Please join us for coffee and doughnuts on Sunday, September 17th at Bethel in celebration of her birthday.

**Please join us on
September 10th
to celebrate
Connie Slettens
95th Birthday!
At 10:00am
in the Centennial
Room**



Please send in your pictures of births/special events to share with your Bethel family.



Food Backpack packing project—Bethel will be packing food backpacks on Monday, October 13th at 10:00 am. We will be getting the backpacks ready to go home with students on Wednesday, October 18th. Many hands are needed to make this project go quickly. Volunteers please sign up at the volunteer bulletin board in the hallway.



Message from Pastor Tom:

As we get ready to begin this fall and a new church year of programming, just know that I really appreciate you and being here but my hope is that you have a new pastor arriving by the holidays or early 2024. In the meantime, let's fill this place with a lot of joy and anticipation.

There was a lot riding on this past year. At the end of July, 2022, this parish's operating account was a little over \$70,000 in the red. At the end of July, 2023, that account showed a positive balance of \$5209. The leadership of this church made some hard decisions concerning the budget. The membership of this congregation took more seriously the stewardship challenge—and many engaged again on all levels, whether it be sharing one's time, talents or financial support, after dealing with COVID interruption and being in the midst of a pastoral vacancy. Isn't it fun to hear laughter in these halls? There was a lot riding on this past year. Good job.

There is also a lot riding on these next few years. You are going to have to keep striving forward. What are you passionate about when you think about being part of this community of faith? What can you do to help Bethel Lutheran thrive, going into the future of the next decade? You will always need people of vision and passion and those wanting to participate. Being a member of a congregation is not a spectator sport. Again, there is a lot riding on these next few coming years. You are an important part of this. Thanks.

You need to know that your surpassing a goal of \$650,000 with that Capital Campaign—that both addressed reducing the mortgage and establishing an Outreach Fund—that many thought was way too optimistic, speaks highly of your winning spirit here. The number of individual and family units that committed to pledging to this campaign exceeded the number from the previous campaign. That ownership was very encouraging. Good Job.

There is a growing "sweet, sweet Spirit in this place..." It's time to start believing and to "doubt one's doubts" - if that is where you are at. We can come together, young and old, families, couples and singles, new members and life-long members. The number of baptisms this parish has lined up in the next two months is exciting. Consecration Sunday is set for October 8th with the theme, "God's Calling. And I'm All In!"

You are very capable and competent as a parish. We all have struggles. How do we bounce back from them? That's the mark of an excellent organization—when we grow stronger. I enjoy you, the staff and this community. We still get to do some work together. Let's do it. Blessings. See you in worship, around the church, in town, or give me a call and invite me over for a visit.

Sincerely,

Pastor Tom



Memorial Gifts for August

FFS-Debt Reduction

- In memory of Liz Graalum/Given by Joe & Renee Speidel
- In memory of Terry Pehl/Given by Suzanne Pehl
- In memory of Terry Pehl/Given by Gary & Jody Friskop
- In memory of Terry Pehl/Given by Howard & Janell Jenson
- In memory of Terry Pehl/Given by Joan Pope
- In memory of Terry Pehl/Given by Scott & Terra Bigalk
- In memory of Terry Pehl/Given by Jerry & Barb Mohs
- In memory of Terry Pehl/Given by Denise & Perry Miller
- In memory of Terry Pehl/Given by Harvey & Gale Link
- In memory of Terry Pehl/Given by Jim & Trudy Jacobson
- In memory of Terry Pehl/Given by Linda Miler
- In memory of Terry Pehl/Given by Gloria Dohman
- In memory of Terry Pehl/Given by Stan & Marilyn Sirek
- In memory of Terry Pehl/Given by Hal & Diane Fisher
- In memory of Terry Pehl/Given by Marcia Pederson
- In memory of Terry Pehl/Given by Chuck & Ione Muralt
- In memory of Terry Pehl/Given by Michael & Colleen Pehl
- In memory of Terry Pehl/Given by Skip & Lynda Alfson
- In memory of Terry Pehl/Given by Marlys Haiby
- In memory of Terry Pehl/Given by Paige Wateland
- In memory of Terry Pehl/Given by Pat & Vicki Trappen

Faith Toolboxes

In memory of Charlene Clute/Given by Judy McDaniel

Quilting

In memory of Terry Pehl/Given by Linda Neuman
 In memory of Liz Graalum/Given by Sharon Kotnour

Youth

In memory of Florence Roeszler/Given by Marilyn Meline

Building

In memory of Terry Pehl/Given by Duane & Jean Smith

Endowment

In memory of Liz Graalum/Given by Marilyn Anderson

Eternal Candles and Altar Flowers
 Sign up on the Volunteer Board



During the month of **September, the Noisy Offering** will be donated to the Wahpeton High School “*Sources of Strength*” student organization. This program promotes youth mental health and suicide prevention. It’s designed to harness the power of peer social networks to create healthy norms and culture, ultimately preventing suicide, violence, bullying and substance misuse. The mission of Sources of Strength is to prevent adverse outcomes by increasing wellbeing, help-seeking, resiliency, healthy coping and belonging. Wahpeton students would like to use our donations to continue to create “blessing baskets” to gift to any students that might need additional encouragement and support throughout the school year.

Bethel - A place of purpose
Ecclesiastes 3:1

“For everything these is a season and a time to every purpose under heaven.”

Pastor Tom will be in the office on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. If you need to contact him, his number is: 218-770-9759



Bethel Children & Youth Ministries

by Lisa Bassingthwaite



Did you know we have a Children's library here at Bethel? The library is always open for our kiddos to check out books. The library is now located upstairs. When checking out a book, simply find the library card (found in the back of most books) fill in the date and your name, place the card in the basket. When you return the book just place it in the return basket provided.

Blessings and Breakfast was a hit! We got to bless many seniors on their last first day and some kindergarten kids who had their first, first day of school. The kids enjoyed it and our many volunteers loved being the love for our community.

BACK TO SCHOOL BLESSING & BREAKFAST

Sunday School will be held each Sunday starting October 1. We will be using the same curriculum the Wednesday school programs will be using.



Wednesday school will begin September 13!! Our evening schedule will be supper 4:45-5:30. Education 5:30-6:30. Youth lead worship at 6:45. All children preschool through 9th grade need to fill out a Christian education registration form found on our website. We will begin a two year study of the Books of the Bible. Starting with Genesis and ending with Revelations.

Confirmation will begin September 13 also! A confirmation calendar and confirmation requirements will be handed out at our parent/student meeting held on September 13 at 5:30 in the sanctuary. All parents, students, and guide leaders are encouraged to attend.

Planning for the **2024 National Youth Gathering** has started. If you are or have a 7th-11th grader, please contact Lisa ASAP.

Our meeting schedule is: September 17 at 6:30pm
October 8 at 6:30pm
November 19 at 6:30pm
December 3 at 6:30pm

Soul Shop speaker David Galvan will be here November 15. He will be speaking to the youth of Wahpeton/Breckenridge focusing on the issue of mental health and suicide prevention. The Wahp/Breck ministerial is sponsoring this event. We are encouraging all youth in grades 6th-12th to attend. Watch for more information on the website, Facebook and Instagram. Free pizza will be served.

The **Youth Advisory Committee** is made up of students in grades 3rd-12th. We will meet every other month.

Meetings will be at Bethel: September 24 at 6:30 pm
November 26 at 6:30 pm
January 21 at 6:30 pm
March 17 at 6:30 pm
May 12 at 6:30 pm

Members will help plan and execute events and activities.



VBS was held here at Bethel & it was out of this world! We had 58 kids registered. Thank you to all the volunteers & families that were part of VBS!!

1st Communion Classes:

Will be held September 17 & 24 starting at 4:00 here at Bethel. Pre-registration is required! Registration forms can be found on our website. First communion will be received during worship on October 1, World Communion Sunday!

The youth going to the gathering want to thank everyone that donated or shopped at our rummage sale. The youth raised a little over \$1500.00. We were also able to help many organizations and needs in our community.





DAYTIME BOOK CLUB

"Books and doors are the same thing. You open them and you go through into another world"
-Jeanette Winterson-

The Daytime Book Club met on August 14 to discuss the book "A Prisoner of Birth". This is not a new book and published in 2008. A mystery, if that's what you enjoy.

September 10

My Travels with Mrs. Kennedy

Clint Hill

This book could be considered a "coffee table book" because it is filled with many pictures and explanations of life with Jackie Kennedy. A book to check out and peruse

October 9

Fox Creek

William Krueger

November 13

A Quiet Life

Ethan Joella

December 11

Xmas book of choice

January 8, 2024

Survive the Night

Riley Sager

February 12

Beyond that, the sea

Laura Spence-Ash

March 11

Wednesday Sisters

Meg Waite Clayton

April 8

Home Front

Kristin Hannah

May 13

The First Ladies

Marie Bedit

It's not too late to join a book club; whether daytime or evening club. The Daytime Club meets monthly at 10:00 a.m. on the second Monday. Drop in and check us out!



EVENING BOOK CLUB

We meet the first Tuesday of every month at 7:00 pm at Bethel Lutheran. We read a wide variety of books chosen by members.

You can follow us on Facebook at **Bethel Lutheran Evening Book Club**. Please consider joining us every month or an occasional drop in, all are welcome.



"Jesus Never Leaves You"

Check out the September prayer station in the Sanctuary! Recite the prayer provided in the stands on the table.

Take one of the cards with you to help you to remember to pray always!



Tuesday Morning Bible Study—10:30

Pastor Tom leads the group in discussion on the bible texts for the upcoming Sunday worship. This is helpful time to think through and reflect upon these Scripture lessons in order that the message might be more meaningful.



Financial Report

Operating Fund Balance

12-31-2022	\$622.00
6-30-2023	-\$4,343.00
7-31-2023	\$5,209.00

Mortgage Balance

12-31-2022	\$878,683.50
6-30-2023	\$865,433.00
7-31-2023	\$788,175.00

Capital Improvement Fund (1st Campaign)

1-31-23	\$53,860.00
6-30-23	\$18,762.00
7-31-23	\$13,648.00

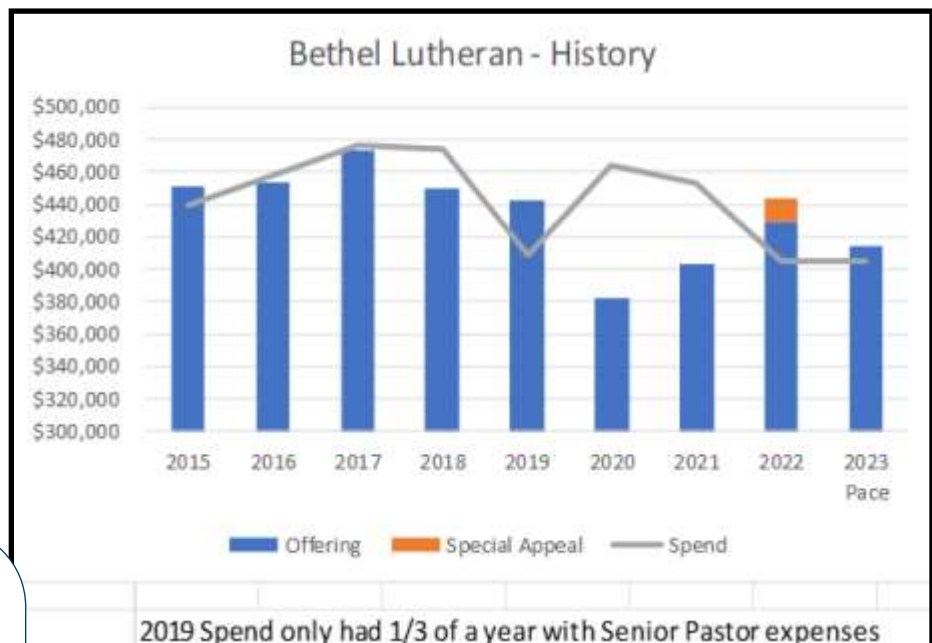
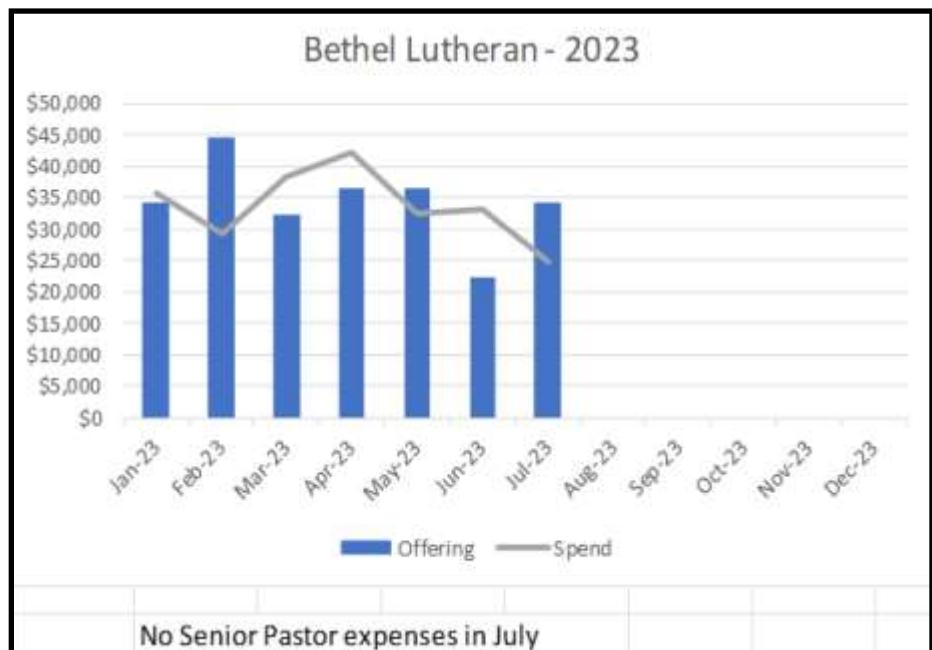
Capital Campaign (Forward in Faith & Service)

7-31-23 (after \$75,000 paydown and campaign expenses)

Campaign (90/10 split)	\$16,790.00
Debt Reduction	\$36,769.00
Outreach Fund	\$ 5,190.00
Existing Outreach Fund	\$15,010.00

Calling a New Pastor - Call Committee UPDATE

The call committee has recently had first interviews with 2 candidates. We have asked both candidates back for second interviews. As a reminder, this is a confidential process and the call committee cannot answer any questions about specific candidates. Please keep the call committee and candidates in your prayers.



Eastern North Dakota Synod Fall Gathering—October 8th

Bishop Tessa Moon Leiseth invites members of the Eastern North Dakota Synod to participate in this year's Fall Gatherings! Join others from around the synod for an afternoon of connections, conversation, and prayer. Here at Bethel Lutheran, we will be attending the Fall Gathering for the Wahpeton and Jamestown Conferences on October 8th, from 3:00-5:00 at St. John's Lutheran in Verona. These are informative and inspiring opportunities to get together with our Lutheran neighbors in this region of the state. Would you like to join us? You are invited. Let the office know and we will drive together. Thanks.



**Join Us for another series of Finding Hope, Humor & Heart Volume 2
With Elaine Sanchez.**

This is a four part series tentatively planned for October.

Topics include:

- Dealing with Depression and Grief
- So God, What are We going to do Today?
(a spiritual journey of caregiving)
 - Dementia: A different Reality
- Keeping Vulnerable Loved Ones Safe

For more information contact Joyce Johnson at 701-640-3599 or Muriel Hedrick at 701-403-3547.
This event is sponsored by Thrivent.



Make a Joyful Noise!!

Do you have a musical talent you would like to share with Bethel? All ages welcome!!

Contact Joyce Johnson @ 701-642-4472 and we can find the right fit for you.

God's Work Our Hands

Sunday, September 10th

10:00 am—12:00 pm

This is a fun way to serve our neighbors!
Everyone is invited to be part of this event.

If you need work done at your home,
please contact the church office at

701-642-4472



Discussion and Dessert

Join us for an afternoon of education and fellowship from 2:00-4:00 the 2nd Tuesday of each month.

Tuesday, September 19th—Pastor Jessica Miller—The Neighborhood Church

Tuesday, October 10th—Someplace Safe

Tuesday, November 14th—Mary Vetter—Veteran Services

Consecration Sunday is coming.

Congregations that approach financial stewardship from a biblical perspective do not view the money Christians give to their church merely as a way to pay its bills. Rather, such congregations see financial contributions as a way to help people grow spiritually in their relations with God by supporting their church’s mission and ministry with a percentage of their incomes.

Our congregations’ stewardship board has selected the *New Consecration Sunday Stewardship Program* as a way to teach the biblical and spiritual principles of generous giving in our stewardship education emphasis this year.

New Consecration Sunday is based on the biblical philosophy of the need of the giver to give for his or her own spiritual development, rather than on the need of the church to receive. Instead of treating people like members of a social club who should pay dues, we will treat people like followers of Jesus Christ who want to give unselfishly as an act of discipleship. *New Consecration Sunday* encourages people toward proportionate and systematic giving in response to the question, “What percentage of my income is God calling me to give?” During morning worship on Consecration Sunday, we are asking our attendees and members to make their financial estimate of giving commitments to our church’s missionary, benevolent, and educational ministries in this community and around the world.

Every attendee and member who completes and *Estimate of Giving Card* does so voluntarily by attending morning worship at the 9:00 or 11:00 service on Consecration Sunday, October 8th. We urge people to attend who feel strongly opposed to completing a card, as well. The procedure is done in such a respectful way that how one fills in that card is your personal statement.

We will do no home solicitations to ask people to complete cards. During morning worship, Pastor Tom will conduct a brief period of instruction and inspiration, climaxed by members making their commitments as a confidential act of worship.

We will encourage participation in Consecration Sunday events through the Consecration Sunday team and governing board members. Since we will make no follow-up visits to ask people to complete their cards, we will make every effort to inform, inspire, and commit everyone to attend Consecration Sunday worship, October 8th, and the Celebration Brunch between services.

Thanks in advance for your enthusiastic participation in Consecration Sunday events. We are moving forward with such a renewed positive spirit in this place!

Consecration Sunday Co-Chairs: Muriel Hedrick and Polly Withuski

Touch-a-Truck Event...Join us for a night of family fun on Monday, September 18 from 5-7pm in the Bethel North parking lot. Get up close and personal with a variety of vehicles and interact with the people who drive them. We will also be blessing the first responders and helpers in our community at 6:45pm. Bethel youth attending the 2024 National Youth Gathering will be serving a free will donation supper.



Lunch Buddies Needed at Wahpeton Elementary School and Breckenridge Elementary School!

You will meet with your lunch buddy 2 times per month for about an hour. The cost for the year is \$70 per year to cover the cost of your meals. What you gain is a wonderful relationship with a child that you help gain positive self-esteem and better social skills.



Lifeline Screening

Friday, October 6th

Bethel Lutheran Church

Call 888-653-6441 to set up your screening appointment.

Every 40 minutes someone in the United States has a stroke! 55,000 more women than men suffer a stroke each year!



Community Blood Screening

October 9th—13th, 2023

6:00-9:30 am

CHI St. Francis—Breckenridge, MN

Walk-In Clinic Entrance

By Appointment Call 218-643-0123

\$60 Guard Your Health & Your Wallet \$60

NO FASTING REQUIRED! Includes kidney & liver function, cholesterol, blood levels, complete blood counts, A1C & TSH tests.

This is a service of Wahpeton-Breckenridge Rotary Club, Essentia Clinic, Sanford Clinic & CHI St. Francis.

September Birthdays



9/1 - Emmy Hasbargen
Cooper Krause
Judy Smith

9/2 - Michael Blome
Lennon Cory
Jay Erickson
Jeffrey Kahler
Nathan Worrel

9/3 - Carter Hockert
Laura Swiontek

9/4 - Art Grochow
Dan Humble
McKenzie Klocke
Brooke Meyer
Kaitlynn Nettum

9/5 - Jameson Maas
Marla Mikesh

9/6 - Teri Bontjes
Jeffrey Hage
Marcia Pederson
Jocelyn Wagner

9/9 - Anne Retzlaff
Viola Score
Brittany Sherven
Michelle Steffens
Brady Wangler

9/10 - Bryer Anderson
Grace Hunt
Joell Mattis
Marcia Richman
Constance Sletten

9/11 - Aidan Bohn
Lance Darwin
Levi Hagelstrom
Bridger Hansen
Grant Manock
Brooke Rosenberg

9/12 - Leland Grego
Marc Johnson
Susan Roehl
Gail Williams

9/13 - Jeannie Bjore
Mark Homes
Tylee Irwin
Isabella Lemoine
Darla Thimjon

9/14 - Stanley Sirek

9/15 - David Erlandson

9/16 - Stephanie Beyer
Jason Flack
Harper Krump
Jeremiah Silvernail

9/17 - Brianne Bjore
Andrew Bouressa
Ava Jorshumb
Anna Miller
Jaxon Pfingsten
Molly Rosemore
Scott Steffens
Riley Thimjon
Samuel Trappen

9/18 - Bruce Bergo
Quinn Brevik
Shawn Kearns

9/19 - Christopher DeVries
Ruth Larson
Luann Zaun

9/20 - James Facey
Elizabeth Mauch
Jesse Stiller

9/21 - Suzanne Anderson
Kristin Blome
Kylee Dohman
Sandra Gilbertson
Parker Kern
Brandon Mitchel
Trese Saar

9/22 - Stephanie Boll
Erik Buboltz
Kallie Davis

9/23 - Angie Cleveland
Samuel Cruff
Erllys Skoog

9/24 - Stacy Busta
Gary Carlson
Muriel Hedrick
Devon Heinis
Marcellah Heitkamp-Dahlen
Jordyn Kahler

9/25 - John Grueneich
Shelby Olson
Andrew Tillmann

9/26 - Shaina Kinneberg
Ian Plummer
Jerrick Townsend

9/27 - Joseph McGarry
Alex Rowland
Michael Stone

9/28 - Brody Bakewell
Wade Gilbertson

9/29 - Sheila Dolan
Elaine Klocke
Esther Krause
Braden Meyer
Judy Peterson
Chad Sheeley
Paige Ward

9/30 - Justine Braun
Trym Heggum
Avery Mitchell



September 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 9:15am - 11:30am Coffee Hour 10:00am Worship Service w/Communion	4 Labor Day Office and Building Closed 5:30pm - 6:30pm Call Committee	5 10:30am - 11:30am Tuesday Adult Study 1:15pm - 2:15pm Staff Meeting 6:30pm Cub Scouts 7:00pm - 8:30pm Evening Book Club	6 9:30am Bethel Coffee at the Fryn' Pan 9:30am - 11:00am Wahpeton MOM's 1:30pm Library Committee 4:15pm Board of Stewardship 5:15pm Wed. School Teacher & Confirmation Guide Training/Board of Ed 5:30pm Call Committee	7	8	9
10 Fair Hills God's Work Our Hands Sunday 8:00am Choir Practice 9:00am Worship Service 10:00am Praise Band Practice 11:00am Contemporary Worship 5:30pm - 7:00pm Boy Scouts	11 Fair Hills Patriot Day 10:00am Book Club 5:15pm - 6:15pm Bells Practice 5:30pm - 8:00pm Cub Scouts 6:00pm - 9:00pm PEO Meeting	12 Fair Hills 7:00am - 8:30am TBC Meeting 10:30am - 11:30am Tuesday Adult Study 5:15pm Board of Lay Meeting 5:15pm Board of Outreach 6:00pm - 7:00pm Exec Board Meeting	13 Fair Hills 10:30am - 11:30am Staff Meeting 4:45pm - 5:30pm Supper Served 5:30pm - 6:30pm Wednesday School & Confirmation - Programming Starts 6:45pm - 7:30pm Worship Service	14 9:00am - 4:00pm Quilting 5:30pm - 6:30pm Planning Council 7:00pm - 8:00pm Board of Stewardship	15 Beacon Articles Due	16
17 8:00am Choir Practice 9:00am Worship Service w/Communion 10:00am Praise Band Practice 11:00am Contemporary Worship w/ Communion & Baptism 12:00pm - 2:00pm Knox Baptism Celebration 4:00pm - 6:00pm 1st Communion Class 6:30pm National Youth Gathering Mtg	18 5:00pm - 7:00pm Touch A Truck Event 5:15pm - 6:15pm Bells Practice	19 9:00am Circle 1 10:30am - 11:30am Tuesday Adult Study 12:00pm - 1:00pm Soul Shop 2:00pm - 4:00pm Discussion and Dessert 5:30pm Board of Education Meeting	20 9:30am - 11:00am Wahpeton MOM's 10:30am - 11:30am Staff Meeting 11:00am - 12:00pm Circle 5 4:45pm - 5:30pm Supper Served 5:30pm - 6:30pm Wednesday School & Confirmation 6:45pm - 7:30pm Worship Service	21 5:00pm - 7:00pm Spuds & Splits	22 CastAway Retreat (6th-9th grades)	23 CastAway Retreat (6th-9th grades) First Day of Autumn
24 CastAway Retreat (6th-9th grades) 8:00am Choir Practice 9:00am Worship Service 10:00am Praise Band Practice 11:00am Contemporary Worship w/ Baptism 4:00pm - 6:00pm 1st Communion Class 5:30pm - 7:00pm Boy Scouts	25 5:15pm - 6:15pm Bells Practice	26 7:00am - 8:30am TBC Meeting 10:30am - 11:30am Tuesday Adult Study 1:15pm - 2:15pm Staff Meeting	27 4:45pm - 5:30pm Supper Served 5:30pm - 6:30pm Wednesday School & Confirmation 6:45pm - 7:30pm Worship Service	28 9:00am - 4:00pm Quilting	29	30