



Pastor's Message—Pastor Ale Tulu

Forever Young

“Rejoice, young man, while you are young and let your heart cheer you in the days of your youth.” Ecclesiastes 11:9

Ah Summer! What a beautiful season. It's a season when the sun is warm by day and the stars are bright by night. A time when the grass in our yards and flowers in our gardens are pretty. It's a time when streams are flowing into rivers and lakes are crowded with people. Summer is a time of picnics and outdoor activities, a time when we are surrounded with the beauty of creation and joy of life. May we never take for granted all of this season's beauty, for they are God's gift to us to cherish. So let us enjoy it with a grateful heart before all that beauty fades away.

The summer season symbolizes a young adult's life. A time when our days of life seem long and endless. A time when life is full of beauty and strength. We love youth because it offers us so much hope and dreams. That's why we all search for the fountain of youth yet in vain.

The prophet Isaiah says, “Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.” Isaiah 40:30

Do you want to be young forever? Then live in the promise of God and no matter how old you are, you will always have a bright future in store like a young person and that would make your spirit joyful all the days of your life.

Thanks be to God for his promise to be with us through all the seasons of our life. Enjoy your summer days.

Pastor Ale



Church Events

- Tuesdays & Fridays at 9:30 am—Coffee with the Staff
- Thursdays at 7:00 am—Men's Breakfast at the Fry' Pan
- August 1-4, 4:45pm to 7:15pm VBS at Bethel Lutheran Church
- August 10, 6-8 pm—Pool Party at Breckenridge Aquatic Center
- August 17, 7 pm—Evening Quilting Interest Group
- August 18, 6:30 pm—LYO Meeting
- August 24, TBD—Outdoor Summer Service/Ice Cream Social

Contact Information

301 6th St N
Breckenridge, MN

218-643-4892

Office email:
officebrecklutheran@gmail.com

Pastor's email:
pastorbrecklutheran@gmail.com

Office Hours:
9:00-3:00 Mon-Thur

If you have had a recent change to your address, phone number or email address, please be sure to let the church office know!



Vote!



Newsletter Name Entries

We received some really good entries for re-naming the newsletter. Please contact the office and let us know which one you vote for!

Breckenridge Lutheran
Monthly Manna
Life & Love at BLC
Pews News
Gospel Gab
Solely Holy
Articles From The Ark

A Joyful Word
The Guided Light
The Steering Wheel
Kindred Spirits
The Beacon
The Grapevine
Flock Talk

The Story Money Tells con't

In the account of the poor widow, Mark writes, "Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury" (Mark 12:41). Notice that it doesn't say, "Jesus happened to see . . ." No, he deliberately watched to observe what people were giving.

How close was Jesus to the offering box? Close enough to see that some people put in large amounts. Close enough even to see two tiny coins in a shriveled old hand and to identify them as copper (Mark 12:41-42). Jesus was interested enough in what people were giving to make an object lesson for his disciples (Mark 12:43-44).

This passage should make all of us, who suppose that what we do with our money is our own business, feel terribly uncomfortable. It's painfully clear that God considers it his business. He does not apologize for watching with intense interest what we do with the money he's entrusted to us. If we use our imaginations, we might even peer into the invisible realm to see him gathering some of his subjects together this very moment. Perhaps you can hear him using your handling of finances as an object lesson. The question is this: What kind of steward are you?

Stewardship—Orrin Ausen

Money: Why Is It So Important to God? (A continuation from the June newsletter article.)
"Jesus Christ said more about money than about any other single thing because, when it comes to man's real nature, money is of first importance. Money is an exact index to a man's true character. All through Scripture there is an intimate correlation between the development of a man's character and how he handles his money." Richard Halverson

How could the Bible's Author and Editor justify devoting twice as many verses to money (about 2,350 of them) than to faith and prayer combined? How could Jesus say more about money than about both heaven and hell? Didn't he know what was really important?

Were we the Bible's editors, we might be tempted to cut out much of what it says about money and possessions. Anyone can see it devotes a disproportionate amount of space to the subject, right? When it comes to money and possessions, the Bible is sometimes redundant, often extreme, and occasionally shocking. It turns many readers away, making it a hard sell in today's marketplace. It interferes with our lives and commits the unpardonable sin—it makes us feel guilty. If we want to avoid guilt feelings, it forces us to invent fancy interpretations to get around its plain meanings. If the Bible were written today and judged by what it says about money and possessions, it would never be published. If it were published, it would be mercilessly panned by its reviewers and not see a second printing.

We come to the Bible for comfort, not financial instruction. If we want to know about money, we're more apt to pick up the Wall Street Journal or Fortune, Forbes, or Money magazine. Scripture should concern itself with what's spiritual and heavenly. Money is physical and earthly. The Bible is religious; money is secular. Let God talk about love and grace & brotherhood, thank you. Let the rest of us talk about money and possessions—and do whatever we want with them.

The sheer enormity of Scripture's teaching on this subject screams for our attention. And the haunting question is this -why? Why does God give us so much instruction on money and possessions? Considering everything else he could have told us that we really want to know, why did the Savior of the world spend 15 percent of his recorded words on this one subject? Why did he say more about how we are to view and handle money and possessions than about any other single thing? Why? What did he know about money and possessions that we don't?

The Story Money Tells

The study of Zacchaeus, the rich young ruler, the poor widow, the rich fool, and many other Bible characters shows that our handling of money is a litmus test of our true character. It's an index of our spiritual life. Our stewardship of our money and possessions becomes the story of our lives. If this is true of all people in all ages, doesn't it have a special application to us who live in a time and place of unparalleled affluence? We live in a society where almost everyone enjoys comforts and conveniences that King Solomon never dreamed of. We live in a country where the "poverty level" exceeds the average standard of living of nearly every other society in human history, past or present.

Take for example a man or woman who works from age twenty-five to sixty-five and makes "only" \$25,000 a year. Forget for the moment the huge added value of health and retirement benefits, interest, pay raises, and other income sources, including inheritance or Social Security. Even without these extras, this person of modest income, by our standards, will receive a million dollars. He or she will manage a fortune. "Because we all will eventually give an account of our lives to God" (Romans 14:12; 2 Corinthians 5:10). One day everyone must answer these questions: Where did it all go? What did I spend it on? What has been done for eternity through my use of all this wealth?

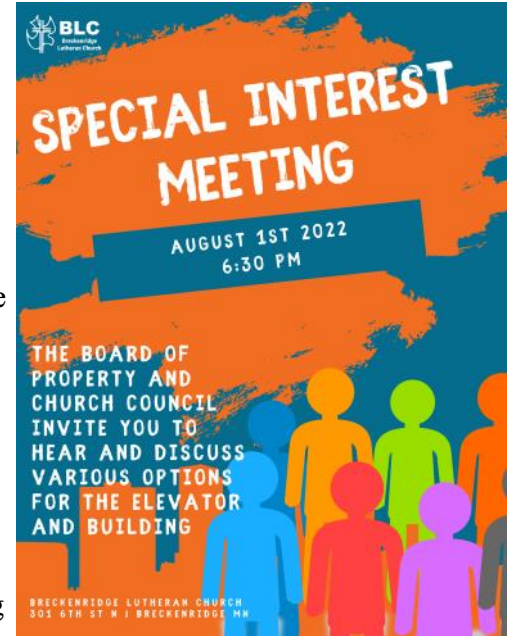
President's Message—Jill Ockhardt Blaufuss

Dear BLC Family,

Summer has been busy with work and family, and things at church feel just as busy. Here are some things I'd like to highlight.

Special Meeting: August 1, 6:30pm

We are having a special meeting for the congregation on Monday evening, August 1, at 6:30pm to discuss issues and ideas about how to manage the dilemma created by a new problem that arose with our elevator. This summer, after Schindler completed the upgrades that essentially provided us with a new elevator car and traveling system, the hydraulic jack (responsible for raising and lowering the load – and not a part of that upgrade) failed a “full-load” compliance test. This was deemed most likely due to a pin-hole leak that has developed over time due to corrosion. This jack extends down in the ground two stories. In the 80s it was not commonplace to encase an elevator jack in PVC piping to protect it. With our area's water table, this type of failure is not unheard of, and insurance has informed us they will inspect the jack once removed (which we are required to do - regardless if we fix the elevator or not), but that most likely it will be deemed “normal wear and tear.”



At this meeting we will:

1. Discuss the costs associated with replacing the hydraulic jack.
2. Chellee Conzemius will provide estimates for remodeling or adding on to our current main level space would cost. The point of this being to re-imagine our church so cooking/dining could take place on the main level.
3. Any other ideas may be brought to the table. Though please note, if you do have other ideas, please bring your research and numbers as to costs associated with your ideas. If other churches have inspired your idea, please reach out and find out as many details as possible. We can only seriously discuss options that we have all the information for.
4. Come to a conclusion as to how we will move forward, as we will need to schedule a congregational meeting to vote on the concluded recommendation.

Our Budget

Meeting our budget is a concern this year. If you currently do not give, would you consider giving \$10 a month through your bank's bill pay (no fees attached for anyone), or monthly auto-withdrawal (we call it Simply Giving). If so, please call Lois in the office Monday through Thursday, 9am-3pm, at 218-643-4892 and she will guide you through the easy process.

Wednesday Meal/Worship/Education

We will be starting our second year of Wednesday Meals, Worship, Children's Programming and Confirmation on September 14. All are welcome to worship and education. If you know anyone who wants to attend church or join a class, all they have to do is show up. And if you would like to help with education, grades Pre-K through Confirmation, we can use your help. Bri Allison, Deb Berndt and Pastor Ale are all great folks to speak to. Call the church office for their contact info. 218-643-4892

I hope to see many of you at the special meeting Monday, August 1. Please contact me if you'd like to run new ideas by the council, or have anything added to the church council agenda. We meet every second Tuesday of the month at 7pm.

Thank you!

BLC Church Council President

218-779-9012

heringji@yahoo.com



Memorials and Gifts

In memory of:	Given by:
Choir Fund	
Linda Dietz	Barb Couillard
Elevator	
Ray Trower	Mike & Diane Belseth, Bryan & Cindie VanTassel
Food Pantry	
Ray Trower	Gail Pearson
General	
Betty LeNoue	Dan Julie Aigner, Cleo Reitan, Jane Fick, Joel & Melanie Herder
Linda Dietz	Gary & Evie Fox, Marlys Haiby, Michael & Vernae Hasbargen, Ronald & Debra Knudtson, David & Mary Nelson, Kenneth & Cleo Reitan
Dave Thoennes	Stephen & Kay Klein
Jean Gullickson	Joel & Melanie Herder
Marquita Carlson	Joel & Melanie Herder
Vivian Juckar	Cleo Reitan
Ray Trower	Clark & JoAn Dybdahl, Marvin & Joyce Aarons, Mark & Colleen Engebretson, Kenneth & Cleo Reitan
HVAC	
Linda Dietz	Virginia Lankow
Quilting	
Betty LeNoue	Jan Michels
Linda Dietz	Jane Fick, Jan Michels

Fun Fact / Did You Know

August is National Catfish Month. Farm-raised catfish not only provide improved opportunities for employment, but the tender white meat is flavorful and abundant. These filets make for wonderful conversations while sharing time-honored recipes and around the dinner table enjoying the feast!

Belzoni, Mississippi is known to be the "Catfish Capital of the World" because of its industry of US farm-raised catfish. Wahpeton, North Dakota, houses the "World's Largest Catfish" at Kidder Recreation Area. The biggest catfish ever caught was nine-foot-long and weighed an astounding 646 pounds as reported by Guinness Book of Records.

How will you observe this "holiday"? Go fishing for catfish or just purchase some to cook up and eat. Try a new way to make catfish, like the recipe below for Smoked Catfish Dip.

Ingredients:

4 U.S. Farm-Raised Catfish filets
 2 tablespoons olive oil
 2 teaspoons chipotle powder
 1 tablespoon smoked paprika
 1 cup mayonnaise
 1/2 cup sour cream

1 tablespoon Creole Seasoning
 1/2 teaspoon onion powder
 1/2 teaspoon garlic powder
 1 teaspoon hot sauce
 1/4 cup green onion, chopped

PREHEAT the oven to 375° F. PLACE the catfish on a sheet tray, drizzle oil on each side of the filets, and season with chipotle powder and smoked paprika. BAKE for 12 minutes, remove from oven and allow to cool slightly before breaking apart into chunks. In medium-size mixing bowl, COMBINE remaining ingredients. STIR in the catfish. COVER, and chill before serving.



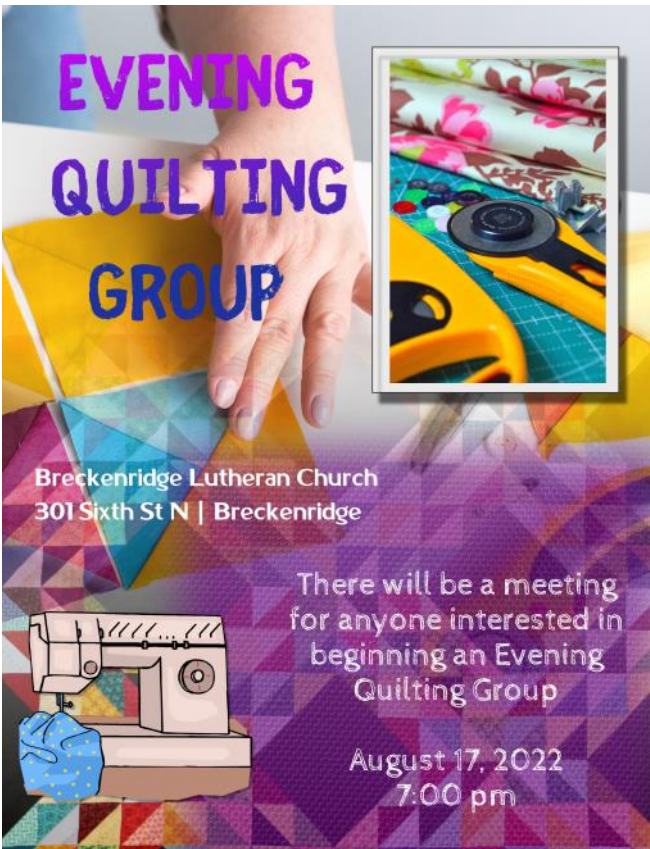
Financial Summary (as of June 30, 2022)

June Financial Summary	
General Account Income in June 2022	\$17,228.75
General Account Expenditures in June 2022	\$20,964.80
Cash Loss for the month	(\$3,736.05)

Weekly Giving—June 2022	
June 5	\$3,210
June 12	\$5,994
June 19	\$4,989
June 26	\$1,825.75
Total	\$16,018.75

Year to Date Income	Year to Date Expenses	Year to Date Net Loss	Monthly Budget	Weekly Budget
\$115,285.36	\$131,389.82	(\$16,104.46)	\$24,680	\$5,696

Upcoming Events



EVENING QUILTING GROUP

Breckenridge Lutheran Church
301 Sixth St N | Breckenridge

There will be a meeting for anyone interested in beginning an Evening Quilting Group

August 17, 2022
7:00 pm



10 August

6:00-8:00 pm
Breckenridge Aquatic Center
FOOD | FUN | FELLOWSHIP

POOL PARTY

For all members of Breck Lutheran (An adult must accompany any child 12 and under) Bring a friend to swim!

BLC
Breckenridge Lutheran Church



Northwest Minnesota Synodical Convention

Women of the ELCA

Registration due September 1, 2022
Forms available on the bulletin board

September 16-17
Bethlehem Lutheran
102 W Junius Ave
Fergus Falls, MN

Mission Report

Our mission focus for July is a crucial resource in our own backyard—Valley Lake Boys Group Home. Started in 1975, this private, non-profit organization is licensed through the MN Department of Corrections. It provides 24-hour supervision and individualized programming for boys ages 12-18 years of age who need a safe and secure setting in which to work through the conflicts connected to their severe behavior problems. Each resident has an individualized treatment plan that may include academic credit recovery, equine therapy, community service/restitution and/or on-site chemical dependency treatment. Programming is designated toward facilitating a change in attitudes and behaviors that will allow a youth to function in their own community. Please consider making a donation to support the important work that is accomplished at Valley Lake. Donations earmarked for Valley Lake may be sent to the church office or made through the church website. Thank you for your continued support of our mission outreach efforts!

Planning Council Minutes—June 14, 2022

Present: Pastor Ale Tulu, Jill Ockhardt Blaufuss, Teresa Pearson, Ashley Johnson, Lois Fenske, Joel Herder, Kennedy Niska, Orrin Ausen and Deb Berndt

Absent: Connie Jensen

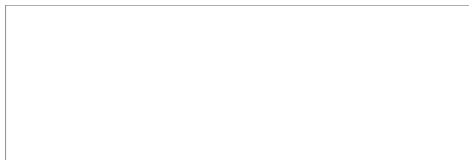
- A. President Jill welcomed to visitors Kyle and Tucker with Schindler Elevator Corporation, they were present to update the council on the recent problems with the elevator. They explained that when the updates were complete, they were conducting a full pressure test before the elevator could be deemed ready to use. They discovered that the piston that lifts the elevator was failing. They will not be able to determine the cause of the problem until they pull the shaft out of the ground. The shaft is in the ground with no protection from water. It could just be corrosion from normal wear and tear and exposure to water, or there could be a hairline fracture. An insurance claim will be filed, and Tucker stated after talking to them that they can not make any determination on liability until the shaft has been pulled out of the ground. There will be a letter sent from the State of Minnesota that the elevator is not safe for use at this time. They presented a bid for the work that would be needed to pull out the shaft, chip out the cement, drill hole fill with sand, clean up the leaking oil. When they replace the jack this time (it will be an 80-year jack), they will put a PVC pipe around it to protect it from ground water, it will be bolted to the ground. This will be a labor-intensive job and will take some time. The estimated bid is about \$92,000. Tucker stated he would be happy to come to a congregational meeting to discuss the issue. He also stated that they have financing available.
- B. Jill had to leave, and Orrin called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.
- C. Pastor Ale opened the meeting with devotions reminding us that to whom much has been given, much is expected. To get a job done we need to have volunteers. Are we all living up to our responsibilities?
- D. Consent Agenda:
 1. Minutes:
 - a. May Council Meeting minutes were handed out at the meeting.
 2. Financial Reports: Financial reports for May 2022 were handed out. They included a Profit and Loss Statement for the month and a Balance Sheet dated May 31, 2022, which were handed out to all members present.
 - a. Motion: A motion was made by Joel to approve the minutes and the financials as presented.
 - b. Second: The motion was seconded by Kennedy.
 - c. Action: The motion was passed with no opposition.
- E. Old Business:
 1. Weekly Envelopes for 2023. The bill for 2022 envelopes was over \$700.00 and we didn't even use half of the amount ordered. Lois suggested printing our own envelopes that can be given to people who request them. They can add the date and their envelope number to the outside.
 - a. Motion: A motion was made by Teresa to stop ordering the envelopes that we have been offering, envelopes created by Lois, to the people that would like them. People can keep their previous numbers if they want.
 - b. Second: The motion was seconded by Ashley.
 - c. Action: The motion was passed with no opposition.
 2. Lois also suggested that people are informed that they can also talk to their banks about having an automatic payment come out of their checking account which would not cost them or the church a processing fee. Jill had also asked about getting reimbursed for the signs she had made at Bold Print for the Simply Giving campaign. Teresa said she thought we had already approved that, and it was decided to reimburse her.
- F. New Business:
 1. Pastor's Report –
 - Pastor Ale reported that Senior Recognition Sunday was held on May 22, 2022, and all but two students were in attendance. He also wanted to thank Joel for encouraging the kids to attend while he saw them at school
 - He will be having a service at St. Catherine's once a month.
 - Pastor went to Valley Fair with the kids and chaperones on June 10th
 - On June 22nd there will be a mentor/ student meeting for the kids who will be getting confirmed in the fall.
 - July 4th thru July 11th, Pastor will be gone for Continuing Ed, Rene will preach on July 10th.
 2. President's Report
 - i. Newsletter Name – Lois suggested that we ask for ideas from the Congregation for a new name for the newsletter. Lois will ask for suggestions through bulletins or the online newsletter.

Planning Council Minutes—continued

- ii. New safe in the office. Lois and Teresa both reported that the old safe is getting harder and harder to open. Lois suggested if we got a safe with a drop box that it can be stored in the extra office and then the offerings can be counted in there on Sunday and then just put in the drop box. It was felt that we should have a safe that is water and fireproof to protect the items in there. Lois noted that we had received some gifts in Memory of Tom Dietz that were undesignated and maybe we could use those funds to purchase the safe. Lois had found a safe with a keypad lock that is 80 lbs. and cost \$429.00.
 - A. Motion: A motion was made by Kennedy to purchase the safe that was described above using undesignated gift funds given in memory of Tom Dietz.
 - B. Second: The motion was seconded by Teresa.
 - C. Action: Seeing no further discussion the motion passed.
 - iii. Roy Marohl / Checklist Maintenance (1 hr/week) – The breakdown of checklist items that Roy would be handled by Roy was passed around. Teresa wondered if she had not been doing a good enough job because several of these items were covered by her. Several members stated that it might just be another set of eyes on potential problems. Teresa had talked to Jim, and he was okay with this idea.
 - A. Motion: A motion was made by Joel to hire Roy to perform the checklist duties as listed on the sheet for approximately 1 hour per week.
 - B. Second: The motion was seconded by Teresa.
 - C. Action: Seeing no further discussion, the motion passed with no opposition.
 - iv. Ethiopian Night –Pastor Ale and Sunny will serve some of their traditional foods. We will find a date in the Fall. We are hoping to use this as a fundraiser to help pay for the elevator. Jill found out that we could use the Wahpeton Community Center for \$150.00. Other suggestions are having music and entertainment specific to their culture. Pastor Ale would like his sister to help with the preparations and she will be gone later in October so we decided that October 8th, 2022, might be the best date.
 - v. Chili Cookoff – The whole council thought this sounded like a good idea and decided that November 19th would probably be the best date from 4 until 7 pm. More discussion will continue at the next meeting.
3. Building Committee – The main concern of the Property committee right now is the elevator resolution. They will get another bid from Otis for the Jack replacement. The elevator will also need to have a connection to the fire dept. They are still waiting on a bid for the rain gutter additions and for the heat tape and potential insulation under the roof. Lois will follow up with Janet Gagelin at Immanuel in Wahpeton regarding their sound system. Teresa will talk to the youth about moving the pavers away from the building so more soil can be brought in. Orrin volunteered to help with the landscaping, Teresa stated she will set up a meeting in the next week.
- a. Motion: Joel made a motion that we hire a plumber to come in and plug the drains and the toilets before the rain falls again to proactively prepare for potential problems
 - b. Second: Ashley seconded the motion.
 - c. Action: The motion passed with no opposition.
4. LYO Report – Joel reported that the LYO went to Valley Fair (33 went altogether) and cleaned the highway (14 in attendance) the week before. There is a family swimming night set for August 10th which will be open to families and kids too. Hopefully we will be able to get kids to walk in the parade and hand out water bottles and candy for the Headwater’s Day parade. We might possibly have an activity the night of the Wednesday service in August.
5. Youth Education Update – Ashley reported that we have been invited to VBS at Bethel the first week of August. We hope to have a planning meeting to discuss the curriculum for the next year.
6. Finance update – We all thanked Orrin for his bulletin messages and messages in the newsletters about giving.
7. Worship and Music – Kennedy announced that he had taken another job in another city and would be resigning from his position as music director as of the end of August 2022.
- G. Church Pulse
1. Lois stated that she has free COVID tests available in the Church Office.
- H. Pastor Ale led us in the Lord’s Prayer to close out the meeting.
- I. Adjournment –
- a. Motion – A motion was made by Joel to adjourn the meeting.
 - b. Second – Motion was seconded by Teresa.
 - c. Action – Motion carried.



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Breckenridge Lutheran Church

Located at 301 6th St N | Breckenridge, MN

Our Mission

Learning to be disciples and to make disciples,
Reaching out to witness and support our community,
Welcoming all to worship and serve Jesus Christ!

Worship Schedule

Worship Service—Sundays at 9:30 am | Fellowship at 10:30 am
Holy Communion on the 1st and 3rd Sunday



August 2022

August 2022							September 2022						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
7	1	2	3	4	5	6	4	5	6	7	1	2	3
14	8	9	10	11	12	13	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
21	15	16	17	18	19	20	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
28	22	23	24	25	26	27	25	26	27	28	29	30	

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Jul 31 9:30am Worship Service 10:30am Fellowship	Aug 1 4:45pm VBS at Bethel 6:30pm Meeting re: Bldg/Elevator	2 9:30am Coffee with Staff 4:45pm VBS at Bethel	3 4:45pm VBS at Bethel	4 7:00am Men's Breakfast-Fryn' Pan 4:45pm VBS at Bethel	5 9:30am Coffee with Staff	6
7 9:30am Worship Service 10:30am Fellowship	8	9 9:30am Coffee with Staff 7:00pm Council Meeting	10 6:00pm Pool Party	11 7:00am Men's Breakfast-Fryn' Pan 9:00am Conference Meeting	12 9:30am Coffee with Staff	13
14 9:30am Worship Service 10:30am Fellowship	15	16 9:30am Coffee with Staff	17 7:00pm Evening Quilting Interest Group	18 7:00am Men's Breakfast-Fryn' Pan 6:30pm LYO Meeting (Luther Room)	19 9:30am Coffee with Staff	20
21 9:30am Worship Service 10:30am Fellowship	22	23 9:30am Coffee with Staff	24	25 7:00am Men's Breakfast-Fryn' Pan	26 9:30am Coffee with Staff	27
28 9:30am Worship Service 10:30am Fellowship	29	30 9:30am Coffee with Staff	31	Sep 1	2	3