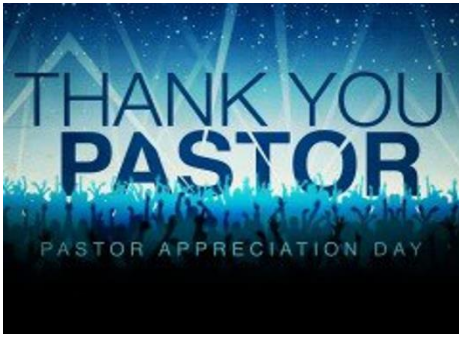


October 2020

VOLUME 61

ISSUE 10



THE ZION ZEALANT

Zion Lutheran Church, 101 E. North St., Columbia City, IN

Phone: 244-5513 Tonya Stanford, Secretary

E-Mail: zionccdq@embarqmail.com

Web Page: <http://www.zionlutherancc.com/index.html>

Facebook: www.facebook.com/ZionColumbiaCity

Cell Phone: 260-415-9078 (text if easier)

Email: revrittner@reagan.com

PASTOR's Corner

Greetings in the Name of the Lord!

The month of October is best remembered in the Church as the month we celebrate the Reformation. In October 2017, we celebrated the 500th Anniversary of The Reformation, and we will again remember this blessed date in the Church Year of the Lutheran Faith on October 25th of this year.

“The CROSS alone is our theology.” As Luther spoke those words during his lectures on the Psalms which took place between 1519-1521, he spoke words which utterly summed up the battle he was experiencing. This was about the cross of Christ. It was about the total inability of man to earn any of his own merit before God. It was about Jesus earning the salvation of all mankind as He was hanged, cursed on the bloody instrument of the tree of death.

Our Three-Year Lectionary prescribes the Gospel of St. John 8:31-36 for Reformation Day:

“So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” They answered him, “We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, ‘You will become free’?”

Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.”

Jesus had been speaking to a large crowd of the Nation of Israel, Jews. Of all people, the Jews should have known Jesus to be the Christ, based both on His teaching and Prophecy. We are much like them, continuing to be poor, miserable sinners and incapable of fully believing Jesus as our Lord and Savior. The Jews balked greatly at Jesus' proclamation of Salvation is only through Him! And oh, how many today yet balk at Him Who has rescued them from sin, death, and the devil. We see it on TV; we see it in our news programs; and we see it in the empty pews on Sunday mornings.

The Sunday following our observance of The Reformation is All Saint's Day. We will lift up our voices in song and praise for both those who have gone before us and each other – being ourselves both saints and God's dear children. And then... the month of November goes out with the beginning of the Season of Advent.

Our focus this coming Advent season will be a resource from Concordia Publishing House entitled: "**Jesse Tree**", where we'll rejoice in God's salvation plan that weaves us into His family tree. I hope you will plan to attend these special mid-week Advent services beginning December 2nd.

We continue to pray for our country fighting disasters of fire and flooding; and for calm amidst the unrest in so many of our cities.
See You in Church, Soon!

Pastor Phil Rittner



Church Council Meeting

September 15, 2020

Meeting called to order by Scott Woodhouse with 8 members and 1 vicar present. (Pastor Rittner, Steve Smith, Jill Coons, Phil Coons, Chuck Cooper, Vicar Tim Benzinger, Judy Gilbert, Katie Rittner). Pastor Rittner opened the meeting with a reading from 2 Samuel 7 and prayer.

Minutes: Steve Smith made a motion to accept the August 2020 minutes printed in the September 2020 Zealant with no correction. Phil Coons seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Receiving Treasurer: reported by Chuck Cooper

	August 2020	YTD
Unrestricted Offering Receipts	\$ 7,058.00	\$ 52,598.50
Restricted Offering/ Miscellaneous Offering Receipts	\$ 25.00	\$ 12,792.59
On-Line Giving Receipts	\$ 2,250.00	\$ 20,285.00
Dividends	\$ 304.98	\$ 5,022.10
Interest	\$ 2.29	\$ 22.71
Total Unrestricted Receipts	\$ 9,308.00	\$ 72,508.50
Total Restricted Receipts	\$ 25.00	\$ 13,167.59
Total Receipts	\$ 9,640.27	\$ 90,720.90

Katie Rittner made a motion to accept the report as presented. Jill Coons seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Disbursing Treasurer: reported by Jill Coons

Check/Savings as of **August 31, 2020**

General Checking/Savings	\$ 39,221.53
Youth	\$ 9,619.72
Restricted Funds	\$ 12,623.91
Lehmburg Legacy/ Kyler Endowment	\$178,514.38

Statement of Activity

	August 2020	YTD
General Budget	\$ 2,969.88	\$ 8,840.46
Non-Budgeted/ Reimbursed	\$ 250.26	\$ 10,846.29
Youth	\$.10	\$ (131.24)
Net Revenue	\$ 3,220.24	\$ 19,555.51

Chuck Cooper made a motion to accept the report as presented. Judy Gilbert seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Elders:

Meeting held September 9, 2020

Meeting was opened with prayer.

Order of business:

Discussed the idea of Trinity church of Larwill wanting to use our gym for their services. Due to too much interference with Zion's schedule and the comments received from members not in favor of doing this, it was decided to deny Trinity's request.

Red Cross will be here on September 17.

Sunday school and Wednesday evening will start again on October 4th and October 7th. Pastor will confirm with Board of Education.

Confirmation will begin on August 31 with 6 children participating via the internet (Zoom).

It was decided to have a service on Christmas Day again this year.

Pastor and Vicar Tim Benzinger will be gone on October 19 – 21 to attend the Indiana Pastoral Conference.

Elders has prepared their part of the 2021 budget. Members should note there are many changes compared to last year due to Pastor's retirement and having a Vicar here.

Average attendance for August was:

Sunday's 34

Meeting was closed with prayer.

Respectively submitted,
Stephen Smith (Sec.)

Trustees:

New projector for the Sanctuary has been ordered.

Mediacom installation will be on September 25, 2020. The delay is due to Centurylink refusing to release the church phone number until that date.

Parking lot lights need to be looked at. The electric company that has been working with the church will be contacted.

Board of Education: Judy Gilbert

Prepackaged luncheon will be held on September 20 to welcome Vicar Tim and his family to Zion.

Board of Christian Outreach: No Report

Board of Stewardship:

Need to talk to Concordia Plan Services regarding Pastor's retirement and if Zion still needs to be contributing.

Board of Youth: No Report

Pastor:

1. New Board of Director's Constitution and Bylaws

a. Attached is an email from the Indiana District – LCMS CCM Committee Per discussion with a member of the Indiana District C & B (Constitution Review Committee), the new Constitution will be presented on November 10 for final approval. With no issues being found at this time, and the new officers will not be installed until January 1, 2021, Zion can go ahead and proceed with elections as per the new Constitution and the placement of the Board of Directors.

Additional Copies of the new Constitution can be made if needed by anyone

2. **Whitley County Energy Assistance Fund** seeks donations from area churches (The fund is supported entirely from Whitley County churches donations and is administered by the Salvation Army.)
 - a. Attached is an email received concerning the need
3. The **Sanctuary Projector** replacement is underway, the new one has been ordered by the contractor
4. **Student Aid to Concordia Theological Seminary Fort Wayne** students
 - a. Previous Church Council discussion was postponed until this month.
 - b. Both Thompson Marin and Scott Woodhouse need our support
 - c. Both the Lehmberg Legacy and Kyler Endowments are for this aid
 - d. Attached is the letter received from the Seminary detailing the need
5. We have “**Active**” Youth, the Confirmation Class youth need a Youth Director
6. Update on **Mediacom Installation**
 - a. September 25, 2020 is the tentative date.
7. **Red Cross Blood Drive** dates for 2020 – 2021
 - a. Needs Church Council Approval
 - b. Attached is email from Red Cross with dates

Pastor made a motion to approve the Red Cross 2021 dates of 1/12, 3/9, 5/4, 7/27, 9/21, and 11/16. Steve Smith seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

8. **Indiana District – LCMS Convention** is next year.
 - a. Attached are details concerning dates and forms for making Nominations
 - b. Pastor and Zion’s Lay-Representative (yet to be found!) ask for suggestions for voting during the next District Convention
 - c. Pastor has the forms for Nominations if needed

Vicar:

1. **Work week-** I am trying to keep a normal work week schedule. For the time being, as I grow into more experience in Vicarage, this will slowly start to shift into taking on more responsibilities. I begin each day with some Administrative items, like emails and personal devotions, then the current schedule I have for myself is as listed below. *(The schedule has been subject to change depending on what is going on for the week. The past weeks have been full of trying to get Zoom off the ground and building a schedule with Confirmation and contacting parents and trying to coordinate getting the proper materials with the students.)*
 - a. **Monday-** sermon prep (study pericope’s- read English and take notes) // study pericope’s and write prayers of the church
 - b. **Tuesday-** sermon prep (Study the Greek and begin outline and start sermon writing).
 - c. **Wednesday-** Write and finish sermon with Pastor’s approval of manuscript
 - d. **Thursday-** Hebrew studies for seminary, and Confirmation study

2. Confirmation-

- a. **Zoom-** As of Monday September 14th, we successfully had our 2nd online vicarage class via Zoom. I have a total of 6 students, I am keeping an attendance record of the participants that present each week. My end of day Wednesdays and most of the day Thursday I devote to studying and writing the Confirmation materials using various books, reference material, and “Luther’s Small Catechism,” in accordance with a schedule which was created by the Pastor and me.
- b. **Syllabus & Schedule-** Confirmation is based on a 30 week agenda, that works through the school year with mandatory assignments as follows
 - i. Reading Assignment -Specific pages of the Small Catechism are required for reading before class each week.
 - ii. Notebook Assignment- Assignments that pertains to the notebook provided by our Church. Notebook assignments are designed to help the Catechumens focus their prayers and learn to pray more fervently. This is done by helping the Catechumens pray for one another in prayer requests that we take each week, writing out their prayers- to journal their thoughts, and taking sermon notes on Sundays.
 - iii. Topical discussion assignment- I.e. This next week, September 21st, we will be studying the O.T. historical timeline, and I am requesting that the Students learn the order of the books of the Old Testament from Genesis – Malachi.
- c. **Email parents weekly-** After each Zoom meeting, either than night or the next morning in the office, I am sending out an email so the Parents stay informed about; what the students are learning in Confirmation, what assignments are due for the following week, and any news or changes that take course as Confirmation progresses. The Pastor is included in these emails, so he is able to stay on board with the progress through the year.
- d. **Catechumens-** Our Confirmation class has a total of six students they are as follows;
 - **Jakob Dye**
 - **Kaden Decker**
 - **Ethan Crutchfield**
 - **Lucas Conrad**
 - **Krista Foster**
 - **Emerson Knuth**

3. **Hebrew studies-** Per seminary requirements as of 2019-2020 Vicarage, we now have to successfully pass 40 different Hebrew quizzes accompanied with a video lecture. My Thursday morning personal devotion time is when I am building this in my schedule.
4. **Church sign-** I am looking for sign suggestions. I am attempting to change the sign weekly – biweekly

Catechism Schedule

Zion Lutheran Church Columbia City: CONFIRMATION: MONDAY @ 7PM				
DATE	WEEK (31)	LESSON	ASSIGNMENT: (For that Monday)	DONE
31-Aug	1	Introduction: What is catechism?	none	
14-Sep	2	Christian Faith and how to read Bible	Read Pg 37-53	
21-Sep	3	Overview of the Old Testament	Read Pg 354-357, 369- 376	
28-Sep	4	Overview of New Testament	Read Pg 351-353	
5-Oct	5	Distinction of Law and Gospel	Read Pg 362	
12-Oct	6	1st Commandment	Read Pg 52-66	
19-Oct	7	2nd commandment	Read Pg 67-73	
2-Nov	8	3rd Commandment	Read Pg 74-80	
9-Nov	9	4th Commandment	Read Pg 81-84	
16-Nov	10	5th Commandment	Read Pg 85-92	
23-Nov	11	6th Commandment	Read Pg 93-104	
30-Nov	12	7th Commandment	Read Pg 105- 109	
7-Dec	13	8th Commandment	Read Pg 110- 114	
14-Dec	14	9th Commandment	Read Pg 115-119	
4-Jan	15	10th Commandment & Conclusion	Read Pg 120-127	
25-Jan	16	Creeds: Purpose	Read Pg 128-132	
1-Feb	17	1st Article Creed	Read Pg 133-163	
8-Feb	18	2nd Article Creed	Read Pg 164-194	
15-Feb	19	3rd Article Creed	Read Pg 195- 230	
22-Feb	20	Review of Creed and Oral (Midterm) Q	Review for Midterm oral quiz	
1-Mar	21	Lord's Prayer: 1st-5th Petitions	Skim Pg 231-268	
8-Mar	22	Lord's Prayer: 6th & 7th w/ Conclusion	Skim Pg 269-280	
15-Mar	23	Quiz Lord's prayer & Means of Grace	Read Pg 281-284	
22-Mar	24	Baptism Part 1	Read Pg 285- 296	
29-Mar	25	Baptism Part 2	Read Pg 297-305	
19-Apr	26	Confession & Absolution	Read Pg 306- 313	
26-Apr	27	Office of the Keys & Oral Quiz	Read Pg 314- 321	
3-May	28	Sacrament of the Altar- Natue & Benefit	Read Pg 322- 334	
10-May	29	Sacrament of the Altar Power and how to receive - taste test	Read Pg 345-345	
17-May	30	Prayers/ Duties/etc	Read Pg 346-350	
24-May	31	Brief Review and Final Exam.		

Weekly Journals- Sermon notes from Sunday, Prayer requests, class notes, questions for next Monday class.

Oral Quizes - example: "What is the first commandment? What does it mean?"

Memorization is not manditory, learn by heart what the Catechism is saying, and be able to answer in your own words.

The colors reflect the colors of the church year (Pg 377)

Green- represents the Christian life and growth in the faith.

Blue- Reminds us of the blessed eternal hope that is ours in Christ.

Purple/Violet- Reminds us of our need for repentance and preperation for the celebration of Easter.

Black- Reminds us of our sorrow at Christ's suffering.

Red- Represents the blood of Christ shed for our forgiveness.

Vicar Timothy Benzinger- 260-244-5513 (church)

Unfinished/Old Business: None

New Business:

From the Nominating Committee (Ralph Brooke and Pastor Rittner):

- An individual has been asked to fill the position of President. Scott Woodhouse has asked to vacate since he is now a full-time seminary student.
- An individual has been asked to fill the position of Elder. Steve Smith wished to vacate his role as an Elder.

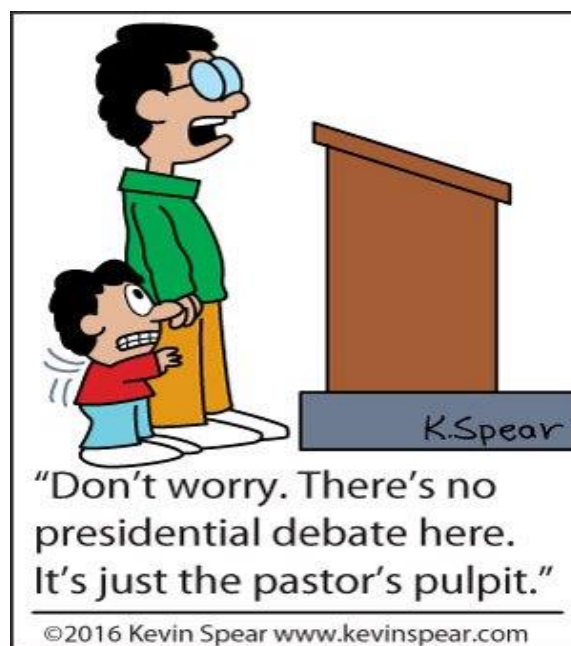
Dave Wiehe has asked to be released as Recording Treasurer for Zion. Per the new Constitution, there is no Recording Treasurer position. Since many people do not meet the IRS requirements to take their charitable contributions thanks to the increase of the Standard Deduction, the need for year-end statements is greatly diminished.

If there are any who do still need the year-end statement, in lieu of a Recording Treasurer, the Board of Directors can appoint a person to do the year end statement for those who need one, but they will need to make know their need before January 1, 2021. Jill Coons, Chuck Cooper and one other person will schedule a meeting with Dave Wiehe to find out the extent and details involved and to begin investigating options for recording.

With no further business, Steve Smith made a motion to adjourn. Phil Coons seconded. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned.

Pastor Rittner closed the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Katherine (Katie) Rittner, Recording Secretary



MEMOIRS OF A VICAR

If you have ever received an email or a letter from me, you may have noticed that I, almost always end my letters with the phrase, +Te Deum+. Te Deum [Tay Day-um] is found in the LSB 223. **Te Deum** is short for Te Deum Laudamus, Latin for "Thee, O God, we praise." Te Deum, is not only a Confession, but it is also a praise, and a prayer. It was typically sung during occasions of public praise towards the Triune God. The history behind it is long and drawn out with some debates of how it came into being, but it took place around 4th Century A.D. around the time of the Nicene Creed.

The words are as followed in the hymn;

- “1.) We praise You, O God; we acknowledge You to be the Lord. All the earth now worships you, the Father everlasting. To you all angels cry aloud, the heavens and the powers there in. To You cherubim and seraphim continually do cry;
- 2.) Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sabaoth; heaven and earth are full of the majesty of Your glory. The glorioius company of the apostles praise you. The goodly fellowship of the prophets praise you.
- 3.) The noble army of martyrs praise You. The holy Church throughout all the world does acknowledge you; The Father of infinite majesty; Your adorable, true, and only son; also the Holy Ghost, the comforter....”
- 4.) You are the king of glory, O Christ; You are the everlasting Son of the Father.
- 5.) When You took upon Yourself to deliver man, You humbled Yourself to be born a virgin. When You had overcome the sharpness of death, You opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers.
- 6.) You sit at the right hand of God in the glory of the Father. We believe that You will come to be our judge.
- 7.) We therefore pray You to help Your servants, whom You have redeemed you’re your precious blood. Make them to be numbered with Your saints in glory every lasting.
- 8). O Lord, save Your people and bless your heritage. Govern them and lift them up forever. Day by day we magnify You. And we worship Your name forever and ever...”
- 9.) Grant, O Lord, to keep us this day without sin. O Lord, have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us. O Lord, let Your mercy be upon us, as our trust is in You. O Lord, in You have I trusted; let me never be confounded.

+Te Deum+ has become one of my favorite sayings in life. I often use it as a greeting, especially when I am around some certain guys at the seminary; “Teee- Deeeuummm.” Living a life of praise is not always easy to do, but this moniker helps to keep that focus, and that ALL things come from God, this is the 1st Article of the Creed. “*He has given me my body and soul, eyes, easrs, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them.*”

May you find comfort in these words and prayer as I have.

+Te Deum+

Vicar Timothy Benzinger

++There has been some requests for me to write about my tattoos and the meanings behind some, if you are interested let me know and I can start discussing them in the Zealant. ++

++Vicar Timothy

**Zion Lutheran
Church
September**

2020 Budget

Attend #	Tithing	Actual (Received)	Budget (Needed)	Difference
Sun Wed	Unrestricted Offering			
32 COVID	Sun Sept 6	2484	2,018.37	466
49 COVID	Sun Sept 13	2919	2,018.37	901
44 COVID	Sun Sept 20	1680	2,018.37	(338)
45 COVID	Sun Sept 27		2,018.37	(2018)
Total Operating Income		7083	8073	(990)
	Restricted Offering	Pew cushions, field workers, Maintenance, Missions etc.	\$12,658	

UPCOMING OCTOBER EVENTS

October 3rd Oktoberfest at Dan & Barb Knuth's home. From 4-8pm Rain or Shine.

Bring lawn chairs and individually wrapped treats to eat for everyone. Hot Dogs and Hot Chocolate, water

October 4th Return of Sunday School and Catechism Class

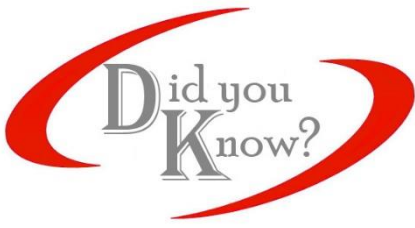
October 6th American Red Cross Blood Drive- Appts made online @ redcross.org or call

October 7th Beginning of WEDNESDAY NIGHT services! 7pm

Thursday Night Bible Study At 7pm at the Church

October 18th 11:30am VOTER'S MEETING following worship services. Important items being discussed.

October 25th 10:15am Reformation Service



Welcome Aaron Ferguson who was assigned to Zion this past Monday as our new Field Worker. He will be with us while classes are in session for the next 2 years. Aaron is from Hyannis, Nebraska and is the youngest of 3 children. He graduated from Concordia University Nebraska with his Bachelor in Theology. Please be sure to greet him and welcome him to our Zion family.

Scott Woodhouse and Thompson Marin also received their Field Work assignments this past Monday. Scott will be serving at Faith Lutheran Church, Churubusco and Thompson will be serving at Emmanuel Lutheran, Fort Wayne.

PowerPoint and Music – with Scott serving at Faith Lutheran, Churubusco, we will no longer have anyone other than Katie to run the PowerPoint during worship weekly. Also, if Katie is called away for Seminary business (like she is this week), there will be no one to run the computer with the music for worship. If anyone is interested in helping out, please let Pastor Phil or Katie know.

Call for Nominations. If you are interested in serving on the Board of Directors, please see Ralph Brooke or Pastor Rittner (the nominating committee) for more information.

Voters Meeting will be October 18 immediately following worship (11:30am). Please plan to attend as we will also be voting on the 2021 budget for Zion as well as the election of new officer for the Board of Directors as stated in the new Constitution.

**Bible
Study**



Thursday @ 7:00 P.M at Church



Andrew Hart
 Violet Klopfenstein
 Lois Duffy
 Jacob Bills
 Jack Foldenauer
 Gilliana Knuth
 Kenneth Knuth
 Laura Mullett
 Jill Coons
 Kirby Coons
 Riley Coons
 Rachel Ditzig
 Kathleen Reese
 Michael Sexton
 Lilly Lane



1 Laura Mullett
 2 Jim Mullett
 2 Jacob Mullett
 3 David Wiehe
 8 Heather Decker
 21 Caleb Roark
 22 Mary Sexton
 24 Lydia Childs
 24 Jennifer
 Foldenauer
 27 Amanda
 Crutchfield
 27 Ervin Doehrman
 28 Martha Williams
 29 Daniel Knuth
 29 Linda Williams



Please remember in your daily prayers our Members in Nursing Homes and those at home:
 John & Lois Duffy, Linda Hobkirk, Gene & Janice Klopfenstein, Hela Ziegler, Dortha Marsh, Maxine Lott, Bill Niedermeyer, Tim & Sandra Rueger, John Myers, Willie & Karen Scheumann, Jeannine Slavicek, Jack & Joanne Lane, Shane Hoffman (brother of Cari Knuth), Ralph & Barbara Keiper, Mark Forrester and Lynn Kyler.

Those serving our Country in the Armed Forces:
 Joshua Rittner, Jason & Ashley Weatherly.



4 Spencer & Jessica Rossow
 5 Rick & Sara Sawyer
 16 Jim & Laura Mullett



Office Hours are mostly 8:30am-12:30pm

October 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 7pm- Bible Study	2	3 OCTOBERFEST 5pm-8pm Pastor's Day Off
4 9am - Sunday School 1015am-Worship Service with Holy Communion 1130am Board of Outreach	5 Pastor's Day Off	6 Red Cross	7 7pm - Worship Service	8 7pm- Bible Study	9	10 Pastor's Day Off
11 9am - Sunday School 1015am-Worship Service Board of Education	12 Pastor's Day Off	13	14 7pm - Worship Service with Holy Communion 8pm - Elder's Mtg	15 7pm- Bible Study	16	17 Pastor's Day Off
18 9am - Sunday School 1015am-Worship Service with Holy Communion <u>11:30am - VOTER's MTG</u>	19 Pastor's Day Off	20	21 7pm - Worship Service	22 7pm- Bible Study	23	24 Pastor's Day Off
25 9am - Sunday School 1015am-Worship Service Reformation Day Board of Youth	26 Pastor's Day Off	27	28 7pm - Worship Service with Holy Communion	29 7pm- Bible Study	30	31 Halloween