

Graceline

A monthly publication of Grace Lutheran Church



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Grace Lutheran Church

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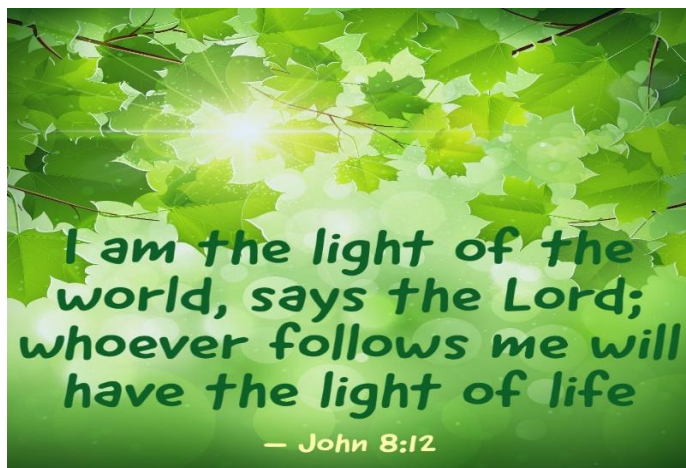
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How Can I Know My Religion is the Right One?



Every person who tries to make sense out of life through adherence to a formal religion or some form of private (“I have my own beliefs about God.”) must eventually wrestle with this question: “Am I believing correctly about this life and the possibility of a life to come?”

Belief of some kind is inescapable to humans. It is readily apparent that humans will literally place their hope of understanding this life and the next anywhere, even in nothingness. Belief in a god is existentially innate to humans. This hope is verifiable through anthropology. But does one’s beliefs, regardless of their origin, reflect reality? This is the essential question.

Consider the Christian faith:

At its core, the Christian faith is more than a religion. Christianity however, as reflected in the organized and visible church, is only the scaffolding around its core life changing teachings. Historically, at times the church has failed to reflect these teachings. But is it possible it is the one and only true way to believe about this life and the possibility of life beyond the grave?

The Christian faith separates itself from other beliefs and religions by the following objective facts. They point but cannot prove. But once these truths are understood, accepted and acted out in one’s life then subjective truths will also become a confirming strength and reality. Jesus said, “Happy are those who have no doubts about me.” (Matthew 11:6) (Bible verses quoted are illustrative and not exhaustive.)

How can I know the Christian faith is the right one?

- 1) Because of all the world’s religious leaders and founders, Jesus is the only one who claimed exclusivity as the way to God: “I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” (John 14:6-7) The Christian faith is therefore, by this and other declarations of Jesus its founder, the only one and therefore must be the right one. In other religions, exclusivity may be implied by its adherents but is not affirmed with such irreconcilable clarity by any founder.

- 2) Because Jesus is the only religious founder who publicly prophesied that He would die and further that He would also rise from death. (Mark 8:31) Both events are well documented in the authentic historical records of eye witnesses.
- 3) No other religious founder willingly sacrificed His life for all of humanity. Jesus is unique. (John 3:16))
- 4) Because the whole story of the Christian faith from beginning to end, from the Bible's book of Genesis to the Revelation of John, appears preposterous. Its events and message are beyond the realm of common human experience. The Bible presents a God who is initially not easily believable. The Biblical story has been authored by a God who, it would appear, deliberately made it unlikely so as to get our attention. This unique story of God revealing Himself on earth in Jesus of Nazareth clearly separates the God of the Bible from the clutter of common convictions.
- 5) Because God's continuing faithfulness to what He created is clearly illustrated to all of humanity. For example, the sun continues to rise and set every day like clockwork and new life occurs for plants, animals and humans, etc. God is faithful to maintain what He created. (Romans 11:36) In addition, God promised over 3,000 years ago (Isaiah 65:8-9) to be faithful to preserve His chosen tribe of Judah. They were once small in number but are still here today and are now so numerous that worldwide Judaism is the world's fifth largest religion. Their continued presence is an unavoidable testament to all of humanity that God is faithful to keep His word and will be true to his every promise and his every warning. (II Timothy 2:13)
- 6) Because the Christian faith is the only religion that states that God loves us and for our own good seeks and requires a personal relationship with us through Jesus. (Matthew 11:28-30)
- 7) Because it is the only religion to demonstrate it has the power through the Spirit of God to radically change lives for the better. (II Corinthians 5:17)
- 8) Because, throughout the history of the world, Christianity has accomplished more for the good of all humankind than any other religion.
- 9) Because the Christian faith has the capacity to satisfy at the deepest level our questions as to the meaning and purpose of human existence. (Is.43:6-7, Ps 139:16, Eph. 4:32)
- 10) Because, Christianity alone affirms that human attributes such as love, justice, mercy, patience, truth, etc., reside in God our creator. (Psalm 86:15, Romans 2:4, John 14:6) It is clear that at creation God endowed humans with His likeness. In God however, all His attributes are perfect. (Matthew 5:48) What other source could there be for the attributes we cherish and require so that human society can peacefully thrive? Matter cannot produce these qualities. Additionally, how is it humans are able to be self-aware so as to

apprehend our existence? And what is the source of the mysterious energy that gives life in the womb and keeps hearts pumping? The God, who has made His power and glory known to all humans in the creation of the world and cosmos and who then revealed His character and attributes in Jesus of Nazareth, answers the essential questions of life.

- 11) Because much of the Biblical story is affirmed in the historical writings of other cultures and authors of the time. It is also confirmed archaeologically.
- 12) Because of all the world's religions and private belief systems, Christianity engages and effectively answers the perplexing question; 'Why is there evil in the world?' It corrupts the goodness God created. (Genesis 1:31) *Submitted by Rev. Jim Statham*

His Eye Is On the Sparrow, and I know He Watches Me

A Letter of Thanks from Karen Arend



It has now been seven months since I found out I will die of esophageal cancer this year.

From totally healthy, to months of medical appointments and planning for the biggest and most eventful journey of my life.

What a gift to be given, this special time with family and friends. It has been a great summer of trips to the beach, visits with everyone including many new people traveling this journey with and alongside me.

I can't even grasp how wonderful my support has been, and while I would like to thank each person individually, I know there are so many, and I don't want to miss anyone.

I have really gotten to know the blessing of family.

My children have been so helpful in talking out the important decisions, planning, and final preparations.

They have escorted me to many tests and trips to appointments. They have advocated for me and for my healthcare choices. While we wait for appointments, we spend time visiting and sharing the joy of good and hard memories.

I am also very blessed to have a devoted and loving sister who has been my companion on this journey. Judy has been at my side and very supportive to my children. I am so blessed to have her come to Kelowna and be with me. My cousins and nieces and nephews from Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia, have made an extra effort to visit.

To My GRACE CHURCH FAMILY—so many cards and prayers! Thank you so much! I didn't know there were that many people in our church. When you are prayed for at Grace, you know it is happening. There are lessons I have learned from my church family. When they say they want to do something for you they do! For example, offering rides to appointments or bringing over a pot of soup to share with visitors arriving from out of province. It may seem small but has been so appreciated.

Frieda Berg started our coffee fellowship years ago, and it has been such special time to get to know people and catch up with friends and their families. I am so grateful for the recognition, encouragement, reassurance, hugs and good wishes I received during fellowship. I encourage each of you to prioritize fellowship. It is such an important element that feeds our soul with the love and supports that we seek through our Christian Walk with Christ. Please consider devoting even 10 minutes to attending the coffee fellowship time and/or other fellowship opportunities.

For those of you who are sick, in pain or struggling, don't be too proud to say so. Lean into your church family for support, ask for prayer.

This week I pray about important decisions as our Lord opens doors and closes others revealing His path before me. It is all in His time and by His plan. I pray for my family and my friends; I pray for Grace congregation and thank each of you for being with me on this incredible journey. I have been so blessed in this life and looking forward to being with each of you again in paradise and not one to be left behind.

Your Sister in Christ
Karen Arend



We thank God for the beautiful Summer season we experienced this year. Praise the Lord for the much-needed rain we received this Summer. Now we enter September and Autumn is the season leading up to our harvest of fields, fruits, grains and vegetables. After the harvest the fields & gardens have a much-needed rest. Come to me all who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest. Matthew 11:28
September Start-Ups Abound! After a brief Summer rest, there are a lot of things starting up again at Grace:

Sunday School resumes on September 8th at 10:15AM and all children between the ages of 3-12 are welcome!

Grace Choir resumes on Thursday September 12th at 7:00PM. We prepare a choir anthem for the 2nd & 4th Sundays at 11:00AM. Since the anthem is right at the start of the 2nd service, even those who attend the 1st service can sing the anthem and then go home! Everyone is welcome!

Ladies Bible Study resumes on Wednesday September 18th at 9:30AM. Liliias Statham is leading the study on the Sermon on the Mount this season (Matthew 5-7) All ladies are welcome!

Monday Night Zoom Bible Study resumes on September 16th at 7:00PM with Jim Statham;

Weekly Tuesday Bible Study with Pastor David will be starting up again on October 1st at 1:00PM

Recognition Sunday will take the form of a joint service on September 29th at 10:30AM with a luncheon to follow in the Fellowship Hall.

Coming in October Our Tuesday weekly Bible study will start up again on October 1st at 1:00PM with Pastor David. We will be studying Jesus' Parables. Mark it on your calendars!

New Faces Are Welcome! There are new faces in the pews each Sunday and we are so happy that you are here and hope you make Grace your home church. If you have any questions or are interested in becoming more involved at Grace, please call Pastor David or the Church Office at 250.769.5685 and we will be happy to answer your questions.

It is so good to hear and see more people in the church during the week and on Sundays. If there is an area where you would

like to help out in the church or in the worship services, please contact the pastor or the office and let us know what you would like to do. If you are still undecided about coming out for Sunday worship, please consider it; we miss seeing you!

Sound Booth Help Received! Our dedicated sound booth team has grown thanks to the generosity of kind members who have volunteered to help. Thank you and God Bless you!

Grace Choir will resume practices on Thursdays at 7:00PM in September starting on **September 12th**. If you love to sing, please consider coming out to join us. We sing an anthem at the very start of the 11AM service on the 2nd & 4th Sundays. (So, even if you attend the 9AM service, you can still participate!)

Full of Grace is the singing group leading the 11:00AM worship hymns and who perform an anthem in the 11:00AM service once a month. We could use a bass singer so if you love singing and can sing the bass-line, please contact Miriam in the office at 250.769.5685.

Men's Breakfast Second Saturday of each month 8:30AM in the Fellowship Hall unless otherwise notified.

Online Services We continue to record one Sunday worship service each week, and our sound booth team makes it ready for viewing on Sunday afternoon or on Monday. If you have provided the Church Office with an email address, the video link will be sent to you on Sunday or Monday. If you do not receive it in your email box, it might have gone into Junk Mail or spam folder.

Special Occasions Are you celebrating a milestone birthday or anniversary and would like to share your happy day in a picture that we could include in our monthly newsletter, please send it to info@gracelutherankelowna.com with a brief description of the momentous occasion.



COMPASSION CORNER

Pray for everyone in our church family who mourns including the Heise, Lazaroff, Werner and Bateson families. Pray for those recovering from surgery including, Len Weber. Pray for those at home, including Beth Steiger, Alma Pasker, Robert Shopland, Kris Gering, Maria Heise, Karen Arend, Jim Szabo, Louise Shopland, Nedra Schuler, Gerald Schuler, Penny Pfahl, Emily Hughes Fran Schmidt, Joan Ulmer, Coco Heebner, Helene Hack, Lorraine Wentland and Ferne

Sather. *"Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, and he saved them from their distress. He sent out his word and healed them; he rescued them from the grave." Psalm 107:19-20*

Recognition Sunday

Sunday September 29th

**Joint Worship Service 10:30AM
with Luncheon to Follow**

There are a lot of people at Grace Lutheran Church who faithfully work behind the scenes to keep our services running smoothly and to keep the church running smoothly. What better reason to have a luncheon than to show our appreciation. *Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving. Colossians 3:23-24*

Healing Service

**NO September Healing Service
NEXT Service – October 15th at 7:00PM**

"COME TO ME, ALL
YOU WHO ARE WEARY
AND BURDENED, AND
I WILL GIVE YOU
REST."

— Matthew 11:28



For everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven.

STARTUP'S *September*



Calling all singers! Do you miss singing in a choir? Grace Choir is looking for new voices to sing in our four-part chancel choir. If you love to sing - we would love to have you join us. **Thursdays at 7:00PM** starting on **September 12th**. See you then!

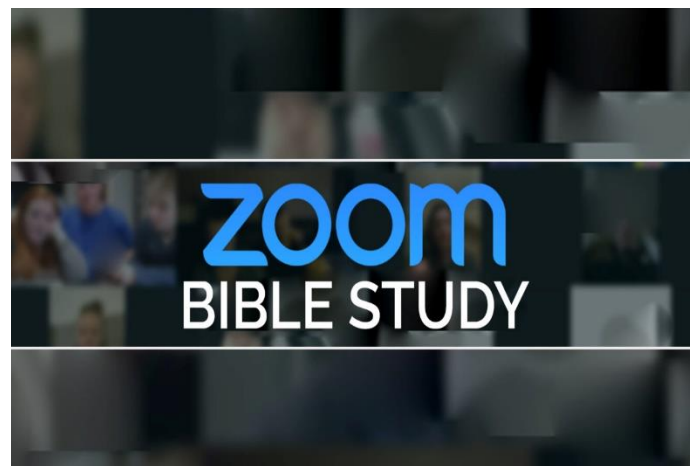


Sunday School starts up again on **Sunday September 8th at 10:15AM**. All children are welcome! See **Marilyn Donison** for more information.



Confirmation

ZOOM CONFIRMATION CLASSES will begin soon.
Please contact Pastor David for more information:
250.317.6502



Monday Night Zoom Study resumes on Monday September 15th at 7:00PM. Contact Jim Statham for a Zoom Invitation at: jhwstatham@shaw.ca

LADIES BIBLE STUDY



The Ladies Bible Study resumes on **Wednesday September 18th at 9:30AM**. Liliastatham is leading the study on the Sermon on the Mount this season (Matthew 5-7) All ladies are welcome!

Congregational Life

Christian Education

Sundays - Sunday School –
Resumes on September 8th at
10:15AM.

Mondays - Bible Study at
7:00PM via ZOOM resumes on
September 15th.

Wednesdays - Ladies Bible
Study at 9:30AM resumes on
September 18th.

Thursdays - Choir practice
resumes on September 12th at
7:00PM. Choir will sing an anthem
at the 2nd & 4th Sunday service at
11:00AM.

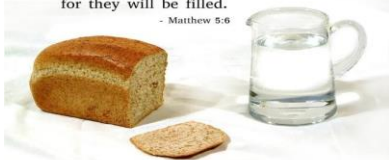
SO VERY
grateful
INCREDIBLY
thankful
UNBELIEVABLY
blessed

Serving Others

**Volunteer at the
Kelowna Gospel Mission
251 Leon Ave, Kelowna, BC**

On the 4th Tuesday of every month
a team from Grace Lutheran goes to
the Kelowna Gospel Mission. They
help in the kitchen with lunch
preparation and serving. If you
would like to serve in this way,
please contact Corinn Lutz at
250.869.8092 or by email:
timcorlutz@gmail.com

Blessed are those who
hunger and thirst for
righteousness,
for they will be filled.
- Matthew 5:6



Men's Breakfast

**Saturday September 14th at
8:30AM**

**All Grace men are invited to attend for
faith fellowship, good food and good
conversation. Bring a friend!**

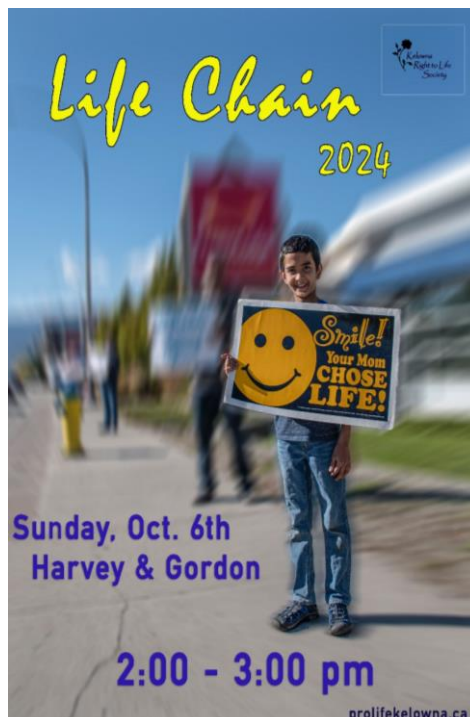


Healing Service

3rd Tuesday in October

7:00PM

Next – October 15th



GRACE COFFEE SOCIAL

People of Grace are encouraged and welcome to join us
in the Fellowship Hall on Sundays between 10:10-
10:50AM for coffee, a snack and fellowship with other
Grace members. This is a great opportunity to reach out
and meet with one another. We chose this time slot in
order for people from both services to attend. If you
would like to help out with the coffee, minimal setup and
cleanup is involved, so please contact Erika Burt for more
information at 250.768.5912.

Council Meeting

September 24th at 7:00PM

September Blessing

May God Turn—

Your can't's into can's

Your confusion into clarity

Your burdens into blessings

& Your stress into peace.

May God Bless You with—

**Joy – Love – Happiness – Prosperity &
a Heart for God**

& May God—

**Provide a shield of protection over
you and your family during the
month of September and always.**

HAPPY SEPTEMBER!

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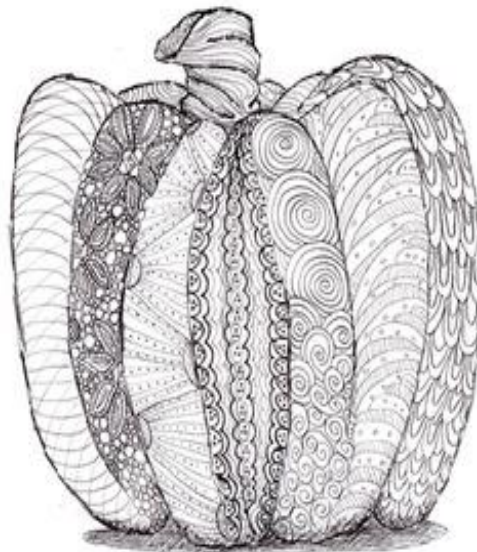


Fall

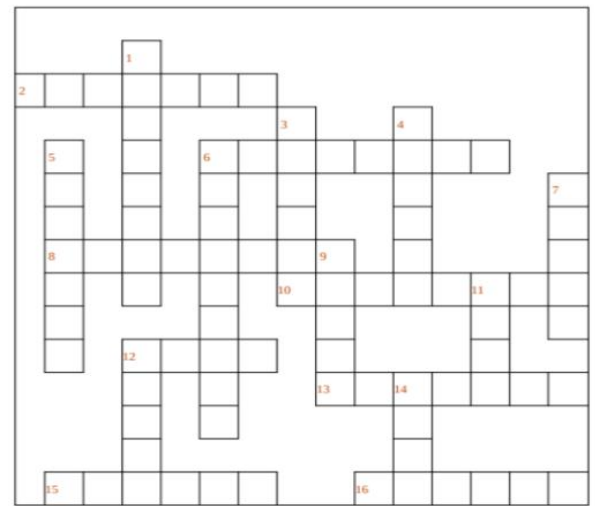
Jesus Loves ME!

The Bible tells me so!

Remember to come to Sunday School at
10:15AM! See You There!



*the grass
withereth,
the flowers
fade,
but the*
WORD
of our God
WILL STAND
Forever
ISAIAH 40:8

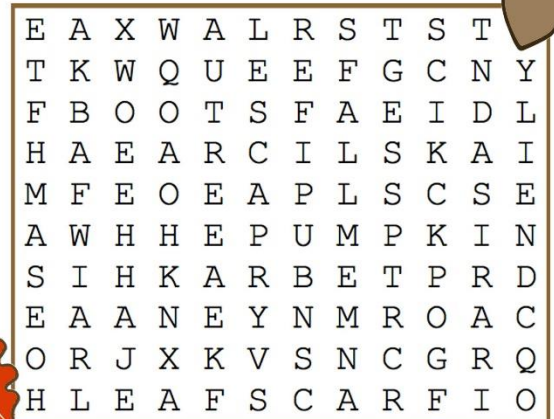


ACROSS

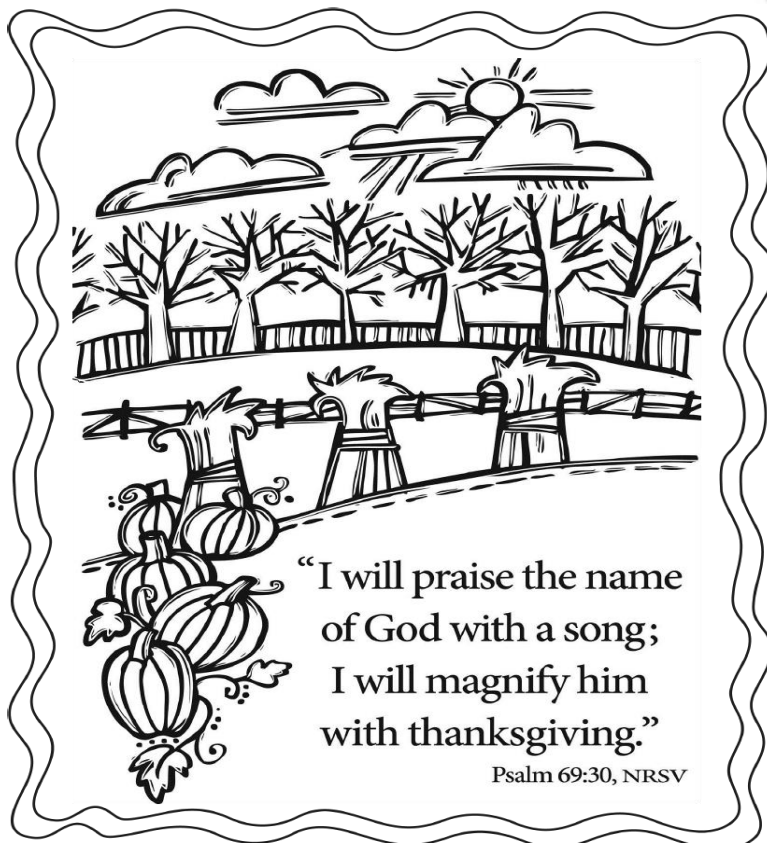
2. Month following September
6. Rodent that hordes nuts
8. People of the first Thanksgiving
10. Month following October
12. Yellow vegetable that grows on stalks
13. To gather farm crops
15. Popular Thanksgiving dish
16. They fall from the trees

DOWN

2. Sport that uses a brown ball
3. Fall's other name
4. A colour and a fruit
5. Autumn pie favourite
6. Keeps birds away from fields
7. Nut from an oak tree
9. Where birds fly for the Winter
11. Bundles of hay
12. Drink made from apples
14. Tool used to clean up leaves



SCARF	APPLE	BOOTS
TREE	FALL	RAKE
ACORN	PUMPKIN	PIE
HAY	SWEATER	LEAF



September 2024 ~ Grace Lutheran Church

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 PENTECOST 15 9:00AM Contemporary w/Holy Comm 10:10AM Coffee Social Fellowship Hall 11:00AM Traditional w/Holy Communion	2 -Office Closed-	3 2:00PM Lakeview Lodge PD	4 2:00PM Brookhaven Chapel PD	5	6	7
8 PENTECOST 16 9:00AM Contemporary 10:10AM Coffee Social 10:15AM Sunday School RESUMES! 11:00AM Traditional	9	10	11	12 7:00PM Choir Practice Pastor David Away	13	14 8:30AM Men's Breakfast 1:00PM Finnish Service 2:00PM 4-H Fireside
15 PENTECOST 17 9:00AM Contemporary 10:10AM Coffee Social 10:15AM Sunday School 11:00AM Traditional –Rev Jim Statham	16 7:00PM Zoom Bible Study Resumes w/ Jim Statham	17	18 9:30AM Ladies Bible Study Resumes 2:00PM Brookhaven Chapel FOG	19 7:00PM Choir Practice	20	21 2:00-6:00PM 4-H Fellowship Hall
22 PENTECOST 18 9:00AM Contemporary 10:10AM Coffee Social 10:15AM Sunday School 11:00AM Traditional-Pastor Ed	23 7:00PM Zoom Bible Study with Jim Statham	24 2:00PM Village at Smith Creek Chapel FOG	25 9:30AM Ladies Bible Study	26 7:00PM Choir Practice	27	28 6:00-7:30PM Youth Event Scandia Mini-Golf
29 PENTECOST 19 10:30AM Joint Service Recognition Sunday with Luncheon to follow in the Fellowship Hall	30 Truth & Reconciliation -Office Closed- 7:00PM Zoom Bible Study with Jim Statham					

