

THE ANGELUS

THE NEWSLETTER OF ST. LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, LEBANON, PA

Volume 13 No. 9

Do Justice. Love Mercy. Walk humbly with God

September 2023

Rector's Corner: The Masterpiece Within by Father David Zwifka



Father Zwifka at Westminster Abbey after Sunday worship

Dear Friends in Christ,

It's good to be home!

Over the last few weeks, I have spent time meeting with the wonderful folks that provided such great leadership in our community during my sabbatical journey. Even though I was away "in the body" I was with you in spirit every moment – holding you in prayer and in my thoughts. There were many moments when I yearned to be with you, as when you collectively mourned the loss of significant members of our parish family or welcomed new ones in the joyous celebration of baptism. I was deeply moved by the outpouring of support for the You Are Loved celebration that opened the Lebanon Pride celebrations in the creativity and the heartfelt spirit of outreach rooted in the love of Christ for all God's children. I continue to pour over the outcomes of the Sabbatical Journey Vision Meetings and await Vestry's final report. In all this your faith and confidence in the Spirit's leading and willingness to risk for the sake of the gospel are evident. I am both proud and deeply humbled to be the pastor of this richly blessed community of faith.

But time presses on and we are on the cusp of a new program year. The principal focus of my sabbatical studies was the broad topic of Christian formation, but more specifically, formation for ministry.

Mention "minister" and most people think of an individual who has been specially trained, usually for several years at university or seminary, and more often than not, ordained by a church for this "specialized" task. Ministry for the last century or so has been seen as one of the professions – like law or medicine. That understanding, however, is a rather modern phenomenon in the life of the Church. If we look to our earliest sources, the Scriptures, we see a different understanding: ministry is the duty, the work of every Christian. This is the understanding that permeates the Epistles: that each one works for the sake of the kingdom according to the gifts that they have received from the Holy Spirit. And what binds these gifts together is the greatest gift of all: Love. All Christian formation, then, is formation for ministry. It begins with our baptism and is lifelong.

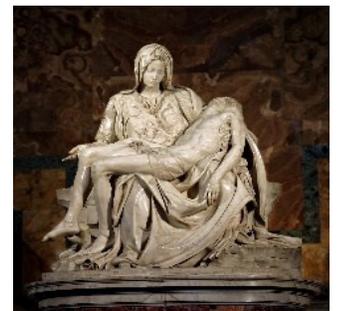
Formation is something that affects the whole person, not merely the brain, so it is more than merely education. There is an aspect of the root meaning of the Latin root of this word (*forma*), which focuses on the beauty of an object. True Christian formation should be a process whereby the unique beauty of each person is drawn out, namely, the beauty of the image of God that is in them. Whatever their divine calling, that is the form that will emerge, each one truly individual and full of their own particular life, but also growing up into that distinctive charge which God is placing upon them.

The great Renaissance sculptor Michelangelo is to have said, "The sculpture is already complete within the marble block before I start my work. It is already there; I just have to chisel away the superfluous material." Michelangelo saw sculpture as the art of taking away from something rather than adding to it (as painting adds to a blank canvas) - in essence he was trying to bring into existence the form beneath the stone block in front of him. To do this he produced detailed sketches, but his own spiritual passion within him and his own desire to bring to life the beauty of marble were the driving forces of his talent. In a way, this is the work in which we engage in Christian formation. We help the beauty that is within each individual emerge for the sake of all, and when it does the Body of Christ is strengthened and enriched.

What is the beauty in you that has yet to emerge? What superfluous material needs to be chipped away? How can we help? How can you help do this for others? We all share in this great work. We are all called.

Still walking with you as a companion on The Way,

David +



Michelangelo's Pieta

Blessed Backpacks Delivered to Harding Elementary

by Steve Doster, Senior Warden



St. Luke's parishioners delivered more than 50 donated backpacks to Harding Elementary in time for the first day of school on August 28th. The backpacks were donated by parishioners as part of St. Luke's annual "Blessing of the Backpacks" service. The backpacks will be distributed to students in need of a

new backpack for the 2023-24 school year. Thank you to everyone that participated in this outreach effort.

Harding Elementary is still in need of additional volunteers to tutor students one-on-one or with small groups. The subject matter is basic reading and math skills. If you would like to sign-up to become a tutoring volunteer at Harding or would like to learn more, please visit the Harding Elementary Outreach page on our website <http://stlukeslebanon.org/harding-elementary/> and complete the online form, or scan the blue QR code below.

St. Luke's is also continuing to build its Harding School Fund that will be reserved for the purpose of helping the school nurse provide personal care items to students in need. If you would like to contribute to this fund, you can either mail a check to St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 22 S 6th Street, Lebanon, PA 17042 with "Harding School Fund" in the subject line, or contribute online via our PayPal account. [IMPORTANT NOTE – If paying via PayPal, please click on the optional "Write a Note" feature under the dollar amount and write "Harding School Fund" in the box to ensure this online donation is directed to the correct account.] Our PayPal account can be accessed via the red QR code below. Thank you to those who have already contributed to this effort.

L Harding Elementary Outreach

Tutor:

Donate:

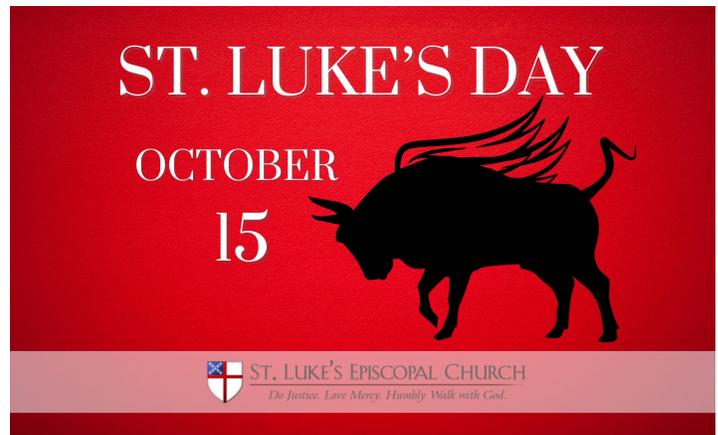


The LGBT Center of Greater Reading is opening a satellite office at St. Luke's. Please join LGBTQ+ Community members and allies for a potluck dinner to celebrate the opening of the Lebanon location and learn more about the supportive programming for LGBTQ+ youth and adults.



Please consider registering using the QR code to help us determine how many people might attend (registration is not required to attend). Also, please use the registration portal to sign up to bring a food item if you are able. We look forward to seeing you!

Scan to register or visit stlukeslebanon.org/lgbtq-lebanon/



Save the date for St. Luke's Day! There will be only one Eucharistic service that weekend, at 10:00 AM on Sunday, with a festive luncheon to follow. Join us that evening for our first Evensong of the year at 6:00 PM, followed by an organ recital by Thomas Melon. A reception will follow the recital.



Stewardship: Christian Formation

by Father David Zwifka



When most people think of stewardship, they think about money. Stewardship campaigns usually focus on pledge

drives. Good stewardship usually focuses on financial management. No doubt that these are important elements of any understanding of Christian stewardship. But when it comes to Christian formation, we need to think beyond financial capital – how much we can raise or spend. We need to think about *spiritual capital*.

For a long time, stewardship literature has addressed the “three Ts” (Time, Talent, Treasure). Unfortunately, it is usually a strategy to lessen the emphasis on the last T rather than to emphasize the first two! *Spiritual capital* deals primarily with those two elements – our time and our talents – the gifts with which we have been graced by the Holy Spirit. Our efforts in Christian formation count heavily on these elements.

First, we need to spend time on our own spiritual growth and development – time in prayer and study, deepening our relationship with God. Only when we invest our time here will we be able to discover the gifts within – the *charisms* – that God has given each of us for the sake of the kingdom. Once we discover them, the next level of investment lies before us – the time we need to develop these gifts so that God can use us effectively in the Church and in the world.

Sometimes, those charisms will be given for the sake of helping others discover their own gifts. In other words, to help in the process of their own formation. Is God calling you to be an agent of Christian formation in our community? Is it possible that your spiritual development is leading you into ministry as a teacher or teacher’s helper in our formation program? a tutor at Harding Elementary School? a nursery helper? an administrator? an acolyte? a lay reader? a minister of hospitality? What is that call? Everyone has one. What is yours?

Bible Study

10 AM Thursdays in our ZOOM room at
<https://zoom.us/j/190727051>

Find the readings for each Sunday on the homepage of our website under “This Week at St. Luke’s,” “Online Bible Study.”

<http://stlukeslebanon.org/>

**The parish office will be closed Monday,
September 4, for Labor Day.**



On Saturday, October 28. St. Luke's will be partnering with the Chestnut Street Community Center to host a fall block party for our neighborhood surrounding 6th & Chestnut Streets and beyond. The event will feature "treat tables" hosted by families and community organizations, enchanting entertainment provided by St. Luke's choir members, activities for kids and, of course, food and drinks. We will be looking for volunteers to sponsor and host treat tables as well as volunteers to help with other aspects of the evening. More information and details on how to sign up as a volunteer will be coming soon. Please plan to come out and meet the neighborhood!



from Lebanon County Christian Ministries

Join us for our first annual FIVE LOAVES 5K and Fun Walk. This year's FIVE LOAVES 5k and FUN WALK will be held on September 9. Enter the park on the Lincoln Avenue side and find us at the pavilion near the bathrooms.

The run/walk will be held on the South Hills trails and will start at 8 a.m. The event will be an amateur-timed event. This is a fun event that is being held to raise some dough for LCCM and our programs.

You can find out more about these programs here and the incredible impact your support has on supporting your neighbors in Lebanon County.

To register go to:

<https://www.lccm.us/five-loaves-5k.html>

Christian Formation

by Mother Mary Kisner

Real People

Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist

September 21



Matthew, one of Jesus' disciples, is probably to be identified with Levi, a tax collector ("publican") mentioned by Mark and Luke. In the Gospel according to Matthew, it is said that Matthew was seated in the custom-house when Jesus bade him, "Follow me." When Jesus called him, he at once left everything, followed the Master, and later gave a dinner for him. Mark and Luke

also note that Levi was a tax collector. In all three accounts, Jesus is severely criticized for eating at the same table with tax collectors and other disreputable persons.

Tax collectors were viewed as collaborators with the Roman State, extortioners who took money from their own people to further the cause of Rome and to line their own pockets. They were spurned as traitors and outcasts. The Jews so abhorred them that pious Pharisees refused to marry into a family that had a publican as a member. Clearly, Matthew was hardly the type of man that a devout Jew would have had among his closest associates. Yet Jesus noted that it was the publican rather than the proud Pharisee who prayed the acceptable prayer, "Lord, be merciful to me, a sinner." There is frequent favorable reference to publicans in the many sayings of Jesus in the Gospel according to Matthew.

Matthew was called early in Jesus' ministry, but that he wrote the Gospel that bears his name is seriously doubted by scholars. It is, however, generally accepted that his "logia" or "sayings of Jesus" have been included in that Gospel.

It may be that the author of the First Gospel took from Matthew's work some of the numerous parables and comments that make that Gospel so popular a source for homilies and teaching. Through this Gospel, especially, Jesus speaks not only of faith and eternal life, but of duties toward one's neighbors, family, and even enemies.

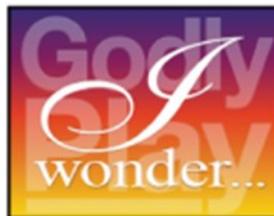
Tradition has it that Matthew, having converted many persons to Christianity in Judea, traveled to the East; but there is no certain evidence for this. He has been venerated as a martyr, but the time and circumstances of his death are unknown.

© Holy Women, Holy Men, The Church Pension Fund, 2010.

Wednesday Healing Services
10 AM in Holy Trinity Chapel

Christian Formation for Children and Families

A brand new year begins this month with the start of some new programs in Children and Youth Christian Ed.



Godly Play continues for children from pre-K through grade 5 on Sunday mornings (9 to 10:15 am). These children will be divided into two groups (pre-K to grade 2, grade 3 - 5). On occasion students in grade 6 and older

will be helping to tell the stories to the Godly Play classes. Otherwise Middle School and older students will be meeting at a different time.

Sunday classes will assemble in the Auditorium at 9 am for a brief Chapel time (10-15 minutes). Children will take turns processing with the cross and candles. There will be a short Scripture lesson and a time to pray. They will process back to the starting place and then be dismissed for class time.

Middle School and High School will meet for classes that will prepare them to receive the sacrament of Confirmation next spring. Students who have already received the sacrament will find that there are other topics and opportunities available here to help nurture their Christian lives. Along with our other studies we will be looking at one of the Gospels in depth, working at different service projects, and participating actively in various aspects of life here at St. Luke's and in our surrounding community.

As with any of our offerings, all classes for children are open to both members and non-members alike.

Parents Meeting - Sunday, September 10, 9:15 am, Auditorium

Mother Mary invites all parents of school age children to an important meeting. Our programs for children and families are important to the life of the parish. It is vital to our continuing success that we have your input and help in forming our youngest generation of Christians.

All who wish to help out in our program are also invited to come. We especially need teachers and helpers in our classrooms. When we have 6 or more people to help each Sunday, we can rotate days you serve, so that no one needs to be teaching/helping every Sunday.

If you have a special love for children and their faith development, come and see who we are and what we need.

Do you need to attend via ZOOM? Email Mother Mary and ask for a link.: youth@stlukeslebanon.org

See the back page of the Angelus for our full fall schedule.

St. Luke's Organists and Choirmasters, Part I

by Terry Heisey



1. ORGANIST to Apr. 1876:
SELENA ELLEN ABEL
(RICHARDSON) (1844-1877)
St. Luke's first organist was
the sister of our founding
rector, Alfred Abel. I do not
know when she came to
Lebanon from Philadelphia to
assist her brother and her aunt,
Angelina Conklin, in ministry
here. The original St. Luke's

church was built in 1863 and the original rectory in 1867. Angelina worked with Fr. Abel from the beginning of this ministry here, and Selena may have joined them when the church was built or when they could move into the rectory. I think it is likely that she brought the first organ used at St. Luke's (a parlor reed organ wound by the organist pumping foot pedals while playing) with her from Philadelphia and lent it to the church for its use.

Besides playing the organ and teaching in Sunday School, Selena taught in the Fairview (Public) School across Chestnut Street from the church (the site is now a parking lot). In April 1876 she resigned her posts at St. Luke's upon her marriage as his second wife to a Philadelphia and Reading Rail Road station agent named William A. Richardson and moved to his home in Shamokin, taking the organ with her. A daughter, Selena Ellen, was born in St. Luke's rectory, but the mother died from complications of pregnancy on January 2, 1877. Fr. Abel and Miss Conklin undertook the care of the child, but she died suddenly of cholera on July 18, 1877, in the rectory. After our current church was built, Selena's brother, Fr. Abel, memorialized her with a stained-glass window—the easternmost window in the north aisle of the Madonna and Child

2. ORGANIST Apr. 1876-Mar. 1877:
MARGARET WEAVER WOLF (1809-1886) After Selena's departure the parish purchased from the Miller Organ Co. of Lebanon a larger "church model" reed organ of 2 manuals and 16 stops with a handle on the side to allow it to be pumped by a boy hired to do so. Margaret Wolf was the wife of the church's janitor, Abraham Wolf (or he was the husband of the organist—I do not know who was hired first). They lived a block south of the church on Walnut St. Our first record of payment to an organist is to Mrs. A. Wolf. Abraham was still church janitor when he died suddenly and unexpectedly on Jan. 1, 1878 (according to the Lebanon Daily News [LDN] he was at the fire at Patrick Reilly's stable in good health the evening before but took sick and died on Jan. 1). Margaret lived until 1886.

Praise to the Lord, the King of Creation

by Terry Heisey

This Sunday (Sept. 3) we will use "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty" (no. 390) as our Hymn of Praise. This has consistently been one of the most popular hymns across denominational lines for many years, yet it did not enter Episcopal hymnody until the Hymnal 1940!

In this case our story begins with the tune. It burst into written history in the 1660s, but the tune is slightly different in each early printing, strongly suggesting a history of oral transmission as a folk tune before being captured in print. The earliest printed version of the melody appeared in Part II of the *Stralsund Ernewertes Gesangbuch, Darinnen 408 Geistreiche Psalmen und Lieder* (Stralsund, 1665) associated with a text later used by Bach for one of his cantatas: Have you then, dearest Jesus, hidden your face from me. Within 2 years the same text appeared with another variant of the melody in P. Soren's *Praxis Pietatis Medica* (Frankfort, 1667) and then in other hymnals. It also appears (in another form) in an early printed collection of secular songs collected at an unknown date by Johann Heck with a text based on a poem by Johann Rist (1607-1667). So, this stirring tune was widely known by the time Joachim Neander wrote this hymn for another variant of it in less than 20 years later in 1680.

Joachim Neander (1650-1680) was a German Reformed theologian and pastor. The early death of his father prevented him from attending a university, but he studied in his hometown of Bremen before tutoring privately, then teaching in a Latin school in Düsseldorf from 1674-1679. While living there, he often spent time in a valley of the Düssel River that was later renamed Neanderthal [Neander valley] in his honor. He became pastor of St. Martin's church in Bremen in 1679 and died of tuberculosis one year later.

Neander wrote about 60 hymns and provided tunes for many of them. Our Hymnal includes his text *All my hope on God is founded* (no. 665) and his tune "Unser Herrscher" set to the Easter text "He is risen, he is risen" (no. 180). He is regarded as the outstanding hymnwriter of the German Reformed Church. The hymn "Lobe den Herren" [Praise the Lord] was first published in the author's *Alpha und Omega: Joachim Neandri Glaub- und Liebesübung* (Bremen, 1680) in 5 stanzas in a meter to match the existing tune. J.S. Bach based a cantata on Neander's text with tune and quoted the tune in several other works. Catherine Winkworth translated the hymn for *The Chorale Book for England* (London, 1863). The version in *Hymnal 1982* is a revision of Winkworth's text improved by closer attention to the original German text.

Choir rehearsals resume Tuesday, September 12.

ECW News

New Year, New Plans for ECW

by Laurie Daub

ALL the women of the church are invited to a "potluck" dinner on Tuesday evening, September 19. Bring your favorite supper offering to share, as we return from our summer hiatus, and enjoy a "Welcome Back" social. Dinner will begin promptly at 6PM. Over the summer we asked our women for direction and focus for the ECW 2023- 2024 year. We will be discussing those results, as our evening programming. Exciting ideas have emerged for local charity work, fundraising, and enrichment classes, and even a new meeting time moving forward. Join us to hear the plans for this year's ECW!

Here is a taste of what we have coming up this fall:

Tuesday, September 19 at 6 PM in the Fellowship Hall

Welcome Back Social

Potluck dinner and the results of Appreciative Inquiry

Hostesses- ECW officers

Sunday, October 8 at 9AM in the Fellowship Hall

Plan the Halloween block party and

vote for local charity support

Sunday, November 12 at 9AM in the Fellowship Hall

Christmas stocking, prep, Easter candy sale discussion, and bazaar set- up

Saturday, November 18 at 9 AM - 2 PM

in the Fellowship Hall

Annual Holiday Bazaar

Saturday, December 9 at 5:45 PM

in the Fellowship Hall

ECW sponsored open event for the entire congregation. Join us for a light supper followed by "Christmas carols" with the singing group One A-Chord in the Auditorium.



by Beth Yocum

Just an update on our Christmas Stockings. We have collected 60 items that were needed during the months of July and August. We now have September and October to collect the remainder of the items. We have someone collecting toothbrushes and Kleenex, and we now have all the chapsticks. Here are the items that we still need.

1. Toothpaste – samples size
2. Lotion – sample size, preferably unscented
3. Deodorant – sample size, unisex

Get a baggie in the elevator entrance to the church. Return the completed baggie to the tub when you have found the items. We CANNOT take hotel/motel samples. These have been outlawed by the “powers in charge”. You can get more than one baggie. Take a couple of baggies and spread out during the next 2 months. RETURN those baggies!

THANK YOU to St. Luke’s members who are helping with this project.

REMEMBER...you can get more than one baggie!

Flan Sale Update



by Laurie Daub

“Not all of us can do great things, but we can do small things with great love.” —Mother Teresa

The income from Olga Ortiz’s flan sale and cooking class reduced the price of the adult tickets for the Sight and Sound trip from \$70.30 to \$44.00. And 5 fortunate women now also know how to make Olga’s delicious flan! Thank you to Olga for her generosity in sharing her time and skills!

**SUMMER
MUSIC
SERIES**

AT
**ST.
LUKE'S**

September 3 - Eric Pope
September 10 - Anna Heitmann



Holiday Bazaar Craft Sessions

by Laurie Daub

COMING SOON: weekly craft sessions for the Holiday Bazaar to be held on Saturday, November 18. Crafting sessions, will be held every Tuesday morning at 10 AM in the Fellowship Hall, beginning Tuesday, September 26. Anyone who enjoys crafting may join in! All projects have been planned and supplies purchased. No need to bring anything to these sessions, just a willingness to take direction. All levels of ability are welcome!

We are again accepting donations for the craft booth, of any handmade items that you may wish to share. Knit and crochet items are always popular. You will find a plastic box marked "dish cloths" in the kitchen for those particular donations. Donations may be brought into the church at any time until the bazaar. To make arrangements, or if you have any questions, please contact Laurie Daub 717-413-1821.

Join us for these fun morning sessions of relaxing fellowship!

P.S. We currently could use pieces or remnants of "Alpine" or "polar" fleece. Donations may be left in a marked bag (crafts) in the kitchen. Thank you!

Holiday Bazaar Raffle Items

by Beth Yocum

If you would like to donate a raffle basket for the bazaar please contact Beth Yocum, 717-273-0347, during September. That gives me an idea on how many baskets I am planning for the booth. Thank you for your donations to this booth.

Coffee Hour




by Eileen Sidelnick

Coffee Hour is being held on **SUNDAYS** in the **Fellowship Hall** from **9 AM to 10:30 AM**.

If you would like to be a coffee host, please contact Lisa in the Parish Office (717-272-8251), Eileen Sidelnick (717-926-4238), or Matt Haag (717-273-6249).

You can also sign up online at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4BAAA92BA4FACE9-coffee#>

by scanning the code above, or on the sign up sheet by the parish office. If you need help making coffee, please contact Eileen or Matt and they would be happy to assist you. Thank you!



Happy Birthday to . . .

Youth

Annabelle Cook	9/2
Damian Andrews	9/14
Titus Centeno	9/19

Adults

Diann Shultz	9/3
John Groh	9/4
Karl Kern	9/5
Frances Bova	9/7
Richard Thrapp	9/7
Chris Brown	9/7
Megan Bergonzi	9/8
Joseph Schubert	9/9
Betty Jane Tonini	9/10
Ian Bowser	9/11
Katherine Brewer	9/13
Marc Swavely	9/14
Erin Bowser	9/16
Mary Blyler	9/19
Kathy Yohn	9/21
Rob Box	9/21
John Gross	9/22
Daniel Bowers	9/22
Collin Boehler	9/22
Kathy Brown	9/23
Janice Standish	9/24
Madeline Brewer	9/24
Rose Brown	9/25
Beth Yocum	9/27
Lee Clawser	9/28
Fieldon Daubert	9/29
James Gates	9/30

Happy Anniversary to...

Barry & Bethany Lyter Jr	9/9
John & June Thomas	9/10
Christopher & Catherine Spayd	9/17
Richard & Kathy Thrapp	9/18
Steven & Lisa Kristovensky	9/21

Schedule of Responsibilities

September 2023

	8:00 AM	10:30 AM
<i>September 3rd</i>		
LECTOR	Diana Hynson	John Feather, Jr.
CRUCIFER (10:30)		Ryan Schies
TORCH/ACOLYTE	Bryan Bowser	William W. Claxton
TORCH/ACOLYTE		David Dowhower
<i>September 10th</i>		
LECTOR	Beth Yocum	Rob Box
CRUCIFER (10:30)		David Dowhower
TORCH/ACOLYTE	Wiley Parker	Bryan Bowser
TORCH/ACOLYTE		Samuel Bowser
<i>September 17th</i>		
LECTOR	Sue LeBaron-Tonini	Katherine Hoopes
CRUCIFER (10:30)		David Dowhower
TORCH/ACOLYTE	Wiley Parker	Bryan Bowser
TORCH/ACOLYTE		Samuel Bowser
<i>September 24th</i>		
LECTOR	Pamela Weaner	John Shott
CRUCIFER (10:30)		William W. Claxton
TORCH/ACOLYTE	Bryan Bowser	David Dowhower
TORCH/ACOLYTE		Ryan Schies



Church School Calendar - Fall 2023 - all Sundays

Sept. 10	Parents' Meeting	9:10 am Auditorium
Sept. 17	Godly Play	9:00 am Auditorium
Sept. 24	Godly Play	9:00 am Auditorium
Oct. 1	Godly Play	9:00 am Auditorium
Oct. 8	Godly Play	9:00 am Auditorium
Oct. 15	St. Luke's Day	<i>No classes</i>
Oct. 22	Godly Play	9:00 am Auditorium
Oct. 29	Godly Play	9:00 am Auditorium
Nov. 5	Godly Play	9:00 am Auditorium
Nov. 12	Holiday Bazaar Set Up	<i>No classes</i>
Nov. 19	Christmas Pageant Practice	9:00 am Auditorium
Nov. 26	Godly Play	9:00 am Auditorium
Dec. 3	Godly Play	9:00 am Auditorium
Dec. 10	Godly Play	9:00 am Auditorium
Dec. 17	Godly Play	9:00 am Auditorium

Date for Christmas Pageant to be presented - to be decided

