

**St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Smithfield**

139 Craig's Meadow Road

East Stroudsburg PA 18301

570-223-9422

E-mail: [stpaulscraigsmeadow@verizon.net](mailto:stpaulscraigsmeadow@verizon.net)

Web Site: [stpaulscommunitychurch.com](http://stpaulscommunitychurch.com)

Facebook: St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Smithfield



**Pastor Deb Staniszewski**

**Everyone is Welcome**

# **ST. PAUL'S CALL SEPTEMBER 2025**

**Check out our new Instagram:  
[st.pauls\\_smithfield](https://www.instagram.com/st.pauls_smithfield)**

## **OUR MISSION:**

**To be a beacon of faith guided by the Holy Spirit.**

**Growing in Christ, we share God's grace through witness,  
love, and service.**

**JOIN US: FOR PRAYER, WORSHIP  
AND FELLOWSHIP**

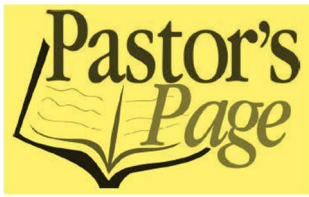
**SUNDAY SERVICES  
8:30AM AND 10:00AM**

**LIVE STREAMING AVAILABLE 10:00AM SERVICE.**

**Connect to Facebook direct or go to our web site FB tab.**

**A PDF of the 10:00am service bulletin is on the web site.**





September Greetings friends!

The sunflowers are in full bloom! It's finally time for pumpkin spice and apple everything! For all of us who have been waiting since last fall, we made it! The leaves are starting to change, and God's artistry is on full display. This is a time of year that we often reflect on the beauty of nature, and the miracle of creation. Just look out at the glorious sunflowers in the garden at St. Paul's! The Psalms are wonderful place to find poetry celebrating and praising God, and in Psalm 96 the writer calls on people and creation itself to praise God.

### Psalm 96 (The Message)

<sup>1-2</sup> Sing GOD a brand-new song!  
Earth and everyone in it, sing!  
Sing to GOD—*worship* GOD!

GOD made the heavens—  
Royal splendor radiates from him,  
A powerful beauty sets him apart.

<sup>7</sup> Bravo, GOD, Bravo!  
Everyone join in the great shout: Encore!  
In awe before the beauty, in awe before the might.

<sup>8-9</sup> Bring gifts and celebrate,  
Bow before the beauty of GOD,  
Then to your knees—everyone worship!

<sup>10</sup> Get out the message—GOD Rules!  
He put the world on a firm foundation;  
He treats everyone fair and square.

<sup>11</sup> Let's hear it from Sky,  
With Earth joining in,  
And a huge round of applause from Sea.

<sup>12</sup> Let Wilderness turn cartwheels,  
Animals, come dance,  
Put every tree of the forest in the choir—

<sup>13</sup> An extravaganza before GOD as he comes,  
As he comes to set everything right on earth,  
Set everything right, treat everyone fair.

Take some time to join with all of creation in the praise and joy of this Psalm! Witness to God's awesome power as the colors of fall start to pop out everywhere, whether you are celebrating sweater weather and pumpkin spice or are pining for hot weather and watermelon to return! Shout to the Lord, God is Good!

Your Sibling in Christ,  
Pastor Deb

**St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Smithfield**  
**Income and Expense Statement (UNAUDITED)**

**Operating Funds**

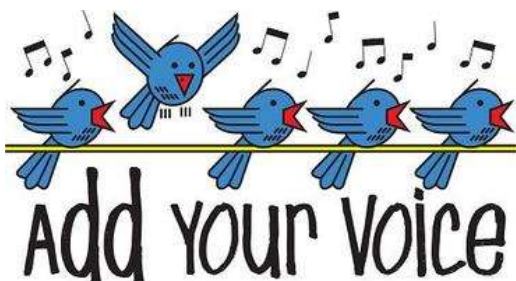
	July <u>2025</u>	Year to <u>Date</u>	Year to Date <u>Budget</u>
<b>CHURCH INCOME</b>			
GENERAL INCOME	\$8,314.95	\$65,727.96	\$70,262.57
BENEVOLENCE INCOME	180.00	1,058.00	1,458.38
MISCELLANEOUS INCOME	1,100.19	12,717.37	11,200.00
INTEREST INCOME	5.76	1,618.81	2,356.62
TOTAL INCOME	<u>\$9,600.90</u>	<u>\$81,122.14</u>	<u>\$85,277.57</u>
<b>CHURCH EXPENSES</b>			
STAFF	\$9,190.00	\$63,621.52	\$65,872.24
BENEVOLENCE EXPENSE			
Benevolence (Synod)	583.33	4,083.33	4,232.06
PARISH ADMINISTRATION	361.33	3,695.21	3,850.00
WORSHIP	334.26	1,721.29	3,228.68
LEARNING	248.81	632.20	1,312.43
PROPERTY	1,985.94	30,066.88	24,374.63
DEBT PAYMENTS	1,229.00	8,364.00	8,202.81
STEWARDSHIP	0.00	271.40	408.31
OUTREACH	0.00	275.00	291.62
WITNESS	75.00	75.00	338.31
SOCIAL FELLOWSHIP	73.18	222.74	670.81
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>\$14,080.85</u>	<u>\$113,028.57</u>	<u>\$112,781.90</u>
EXCESS INCOME/(EXPENSES)	<u>(\$4,479.95)</u>	<u>(\$31,906.43)</u>	<u>(\$27,504.33)</u>

**Special Funds**

<b>SPECIAL FUNDS INCOME</b>			
<b>BENEVOLENCE</b>			
Pantry/Good Samaritan	\$315.00	\$2,177.90	\$0.00
Pastor's Discretion	0.00	25.00	0.00
DESIGNATED SCHOLARSHIP	0.00	500.00	0.00
MEMORIAL INCOME	0.00	1,005.00	0.00
INTEREST	0.00	124.38	0.00
COMMUNITY GARDENS	0.00	500.00	0.00
PLAYGROUND	20.00	20.00	0.00
TOTAL SPECIAL FUNDS INCOME	<u>\$335.00</u>	<u>\$4,332.28</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
<b>SPECIAL FUNDS DISBURSEMENTS</b>			
<b>BENEVOLENCE</b>			
Pantry/Good Samaritan	\$0.00	\$2,029.63	\$0.00
Pastor's Discretion	437.20	884.21	0.00
Postage (Pantry)	0.00	14.60	0.00
Scholarship	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00
MUSIC	0.00	56.99	0.00
TOTAL SPECIAL FUNDS DISBURSEMENTS	<u>\$1,437.20</u>	<u>\$3,985.43</u>	<u>0.00</u>

**Cash Accounts**

Operating Checking Account	\$6,486.67		
Special Funds Checking Account	<u>14,357.92</u>	\$20,844.59	
Operating Funds in Thrivent Financial	\$66,378.85		
Special Funds in Thrivent Financial	<u>5,628.59</u>	<u>72,007.44</u>	
<b>Total Cash</b>			<u>\$92,852.03</u>



**JOIN THE CHOIR**

**Contact Kathy Ertle**

**REHERSALS STARTING THURSDAY SEPT. 4<sup>th</sup>**

**CHOIR WILL BE BACK IN CHURCH ON THE 21<sup>st</sup>.**

***JUST A REMINDER***  
**QR CODE INFORMATION**

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

- Individuals can contribute to the church through Paypal Donations (QR Code, link, etc.).
- Paypal Donations can be made via a contributor's Paypal account and/or through a Debit or Credit Card. The Paypal account is the most efficient for the contributor as there are less keystrokes needed.
- This option would not eliminate the regular contributions from our members such as contributions by check, cash, or ACH automatic withdrawals. This will be in addition to these options.
- The Paypal Donations can be marketed for specific events, put in the bulletin in the event we have visitors and/or members who forgot their checkbook/wallet, specific campaign fundraising, etc.
- Cost would be 1.89% of donation amount plus \$.49 per transaction. Donor has the option to pay the fee during the transaction.
- There are no ongoing expenses for this service. Only pay when the donations are made.
- Ways to donate:
  - Shareable link: [https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted\\_button\\_id=K8ZKNHW5V48WS](https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=K8ZKNHW5V48WS)
  - QR Code:



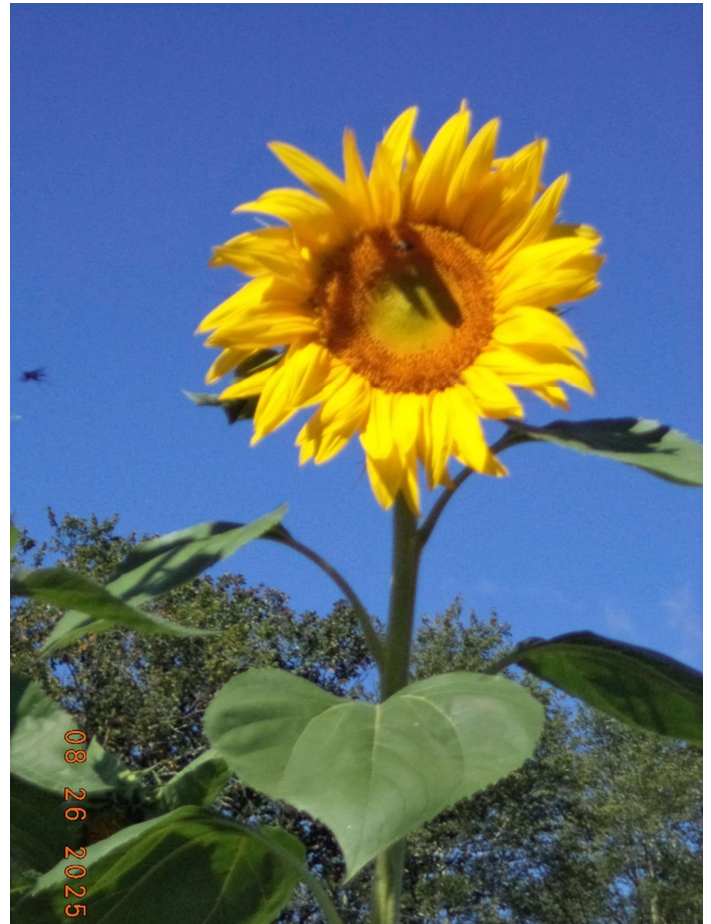
- The above options are live. Give it a shot and you can donate to the church.



## BEE, BUTTERFLY & BIRD GARDEN



Look close you'll see one of our garden bee's on the sunflower!!



PLEASE WALK AROUND IN THE GARDEN AND SEE ALL THE BEAUTIFUL FLOWERS AND WONDERFUL JOB OUR GARDEN GROUP DID.



## **MONTH OF SEPTEMBER**

We will be collecting items for the folks in the community that will be transitioning from Prison to a Rehabilitation Facility.

**List of personal items needed include:**

### **MEN'S & WOMEN'S**

SOCKS / UNDERWEAR

TOOTHBRUSHES & TOOTHPASTE

SOAP / DEODORANT

SHAMPOO & CONDITIONER

BRUSHES / COMBS

**Tub for items will be in the Narthex for the Month of Sept.**

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**THANKS FOR ALL YOUR DONATIONS**

**IN AUGUST WE COLLECTED DOG ITEMS FOR  
CAMP PAPILLON**



[www.camppapillon.org](http://www.camppapillon.org) Open daily 11am -5pm (no visitors between 1:00 - 2:00 as our residents are eating during this time). 128 Brainerd Lane Stroudsburg, PA 18360 (570) 801-6166



# Hike for Betty: Fighting Dementia, one step at a time

Tracey Lasslett, a member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church is taking the hiking trip of a lifetime to bring attention and awareness to Dementia and how it affects families.

Tracey will be hiking in Scotland between September 9 and 23.

Tracey's mother, Betty, is living with dementia. She was an avid hiker in her time and loves the outdoors. Tracey is honoring her mother by bringing awareness to the needs of families affected with dementia by literally taking a hike!



Between August 4 and September 23, St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Smithfield will be accepting donations for the specific purpose of spreading awareness of Dementia including resources and support for families in Monroe County.

You can donate to "Hike, for Betty" Via PayPal where you can donate with a credit card.

Make sure to put "Hike for Betty" in the notes section.

Or in person at St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Smithfeild



Join Us



# Conni's Cafe



**September 18th 1-3pm**  
**St. Paul's Lutheran Church**  
**139 Craigs Meadow Road**  
**East Stroudsburg, Pa 18301**  
**Celebration Hall**

The Memory Café is a place to meet with others living with Mild Cognitive Impairment (MCI), Alzheimer's or other related dementias and their Care Partner in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere.

**RSVP: Barbara Van Nortwick**  
**570.236.3380**

It's a place to talk with others and to learn,  
"You are not alone."



**WILL BE MEETING EVERY 3<sup>rd</sup> THURSDAY 1-3**





**Next Pantry is Thursday SEPT. 4th**

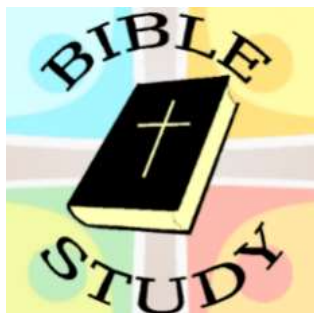
**9:30am – 12:00noon**

**The food pantry needs:** Peanut butter and jelly, cereal, spam and canned fruit.

**Anything else you would like to donate is appreciated** - It must be non-perishable in can, box or bag. Please check the "best by" and expiration dates, we cannot accept anything past the best by or expiration date.

**Future Pantry Dates:**      **October 2<sup>nd</sup>**  
   **November 6<sup>th</sup>**  
   **December 4<sup>th</sup>**

**Any changes will be announced.**



**Every Tuesday      11:30am to 12:30pm.**  
**JOIN US**

**(will resume on Sept. 9<sup>th</sup>)**

## **FRIDAY LADIES**

**Friday's 9:00 – 12:00 noon**



**The ladies make lovely lap robes that they share with hospitals, nursing & retirement homes plus our newly baptized babies go home with one. They are always appreciated and if you know of someone that might need one, please let Edie know.**

**Donations always welcome of clean cotton fabric printed or solid. Large pieces of fabric for backing, quilting thread or just ask the ladies if you have something they might use.**

**Feel free to come on Friday and Join in.**







**Come join us for Pickleball in Celebration Hall!**  
**Beginners and more experienced players welcome.**

Download the app TeamReach and use the code STPAULS. Once in the app you can look at the calendar for times.

ANY questions text or call Laura Biddulph.  
570-369-0359



**Hello Church Youth Families,**

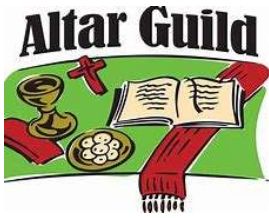
**SUNDAY SCHOOL WILL BE STARTING  
SEPT. 21<sup>st</sup> Contact Alisa or Pastor**

Blessings always,  
Christian Education Team  
Alisa Nixon (908) 279-5242



Pastor Deb (570) 350-5115

# VOLUNTEERS NEEDED !!



**Please see Nancy Fritz or leave your name in the office.**

**No experience necessary you will be instructed and helped as much as you need. Assistance is needed for a month at a time.**

## FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE



Sunday Coffee Hour

Help with Funeral  
Luncheons



**Contact Jeannette Richardson or Faye Jones  
if interested.**



**Contact Wanda Richardson. Faye, Noreen or office  
If you would like help with the Food Pantry**

## SUNDAY SERVICE



**If you would like to help on a Sunday contact  
Kathy Ertle or office. Ushers and Lay Readers**

**Contact Pastor direct.**

**If you are interested in leading a service on one of  
Pastor's Sundays when she is away.**

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## **Sponsor Opportunities** Sign up sheets on Narthex Bulletin Board

### **Be A Worship Sponsor!**

For \$22.00, or split with another, you can sponsor a worship service. The money goes towards expenses for web sites used in bulletin preparation, copyright for songs and supplies like paper and toner. Checks can be given to Dana Strohl or Secretary Lynne Williams.



### **Altar Flowers**

The flower sign up sheet is on the bulletin board. Celebrate a loved one with a fresh flower arrangement from Floral Boutique. Please find someone to share with you if you'd like to. Order forms and checks may be given to Dana Strohl or Lynne Williams.



# FUNDRAISER OCTOBER 2nd

PLEASE JOIN US AND INVITE YOUR FRIENDS!!!



*Red Robin® will give*

**20% OF FOOD SALES\*  
BACK TO**

## ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH OF SMITHFIELD CRAIGS MEADOW

Show this flyer or simply mention the fundraiser to  
your server to have your sales counted.

### FUNDRAISER DETAILS

1792 N. 9th St, Bartonsville, PA 18321

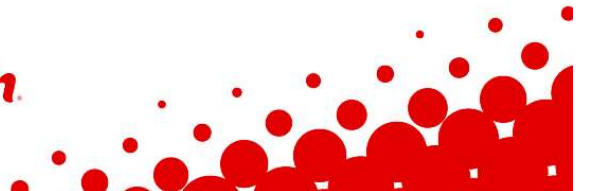
October 2, 2025 4PM - 8PM

If ordering online, please follow these instructions:

- 1 Start your order at [redrobin.com/order](https://redrobin.com/order) and select the restaurant above.
- 2 In the menu, go to the category labeled "Fundraisers (To-Go Only)" and click on that item.
- 3 Click the "add" button, and then "add to bag."
- 4 Add your meal items and check out.
- 5 Arrive at Red Robin, come in, say hi, grab your food and be on your way! If your location has curbside pick-up, we can bring it to your car too!

\*Donation based on all eligible net dine-in and to-go food sales only. Excludes sales from catering (at select locations), 3rd party ordering and delivery sites, alcohol, gift cards, retail, tax and gratuity. Offer void if flyer is distributed in or near the restaurant during fundraiser day & hours.

*Red Robin*



# CELEBRATION HALL RENTALS

**Please share with friends. For information contact  
SONJI PATRICK (CALL OFFICE FOR PHONE #.)**



Celebrate Your Event



- Full Commercial Kitchen
- Seating: 160 Banquet Style  
180 Assembly
- Parking: Up to 75 Vehicles
- Handicap Accessible
- Wi-Fi Ready

- Weddings
- Birthday Parties
- Anniversary Parties
- Banquets
- Meetings
- Workshops



**Sweet 16 Party**







## Spirit-Led Summers at Bear Creek Camp

*Written by: Stacey Burke, Communications and BCC NEPA Synod Representative*

"I'm always struck by the simple but profound technologies that camp employs to build healthy, loving, Christ-centered community: silly songs and deep conversations, skits and games, shared meals and rituals." These words from Pastor Inge Williams of Friedens Lutheran in Shartlesville, a 2025 summer chaplain at Bear Creek Camp, reflect the deep joy and quiet transformation that unfold in the woods each season.

*All Together* was the theme this summer, focusing on growing stronger through love and service, grace-filled faith, and belonging and community. Pastor Inge witnessed this connection firsthand early in the summer



when she served as one of the camp chaplains during Family Camp. Pastor Inge shared, "On one of the first nights, I saw one of the former youth Synod Council representatives, now serving as a counselor this summer, give a high five to a toddler from Ireland who was running all over the field during a kickball game. The kindness and connection across ages, and even international borders, really exemplified what Family Camp is about."

While chapel time and worship services are typically led by the young adult summer staff, camp chaplains provide spiritual support throughout the week, leading devotions and Bible studies for campers and staff. They offer encouragement, listening ears, and join in the fun that camp has to offer. Throughout the summer, three Northeastern PA Synod pastors brought their time, energy, and Spirit-led presence to Bear Creek Camp as chaplains. Pastor Inge Williams and Pastor Jennifer Heavner of Star of Bethlehem Lutheran Church served during Family Camp, while Pastor Liz Koerner of St. John Lutheran in Stroudsburg closed out the season as chaplain during the final week.

The partnership with Bear Creek Camp, shared with the Southeastern PA Synod, is especially meaningful to our synod, as the values of camp and synod closely align. Both are deeply committed to building relationships and belonging across congregations, generations, and diverse communities. As synod, we continue to search for ways to raise leaders who serve with compassion, creativity, and courage in the church and the world, which is why our partnership with Bear Creek Camp is so important. It is prioritizing youth and allowing them space to search for ways to serve others as a natural response to God's love.



Serving others was the theme of one of Pastor Liz's Bible studies during her week as chaplain. When she met with the Junior campers (grades 2-4), she asked how they might take the ways they serve others at camp and apply them at home and in their school communities. Helping others at camp can seem second nature, especially after a full week of being together. However, campers are not only learning how to be kind to one another. They are learning life skills that will stay with them long after the week ends.

Throughout the week, they are learning how to be confident and independent through overnight tent camping experiences. They are learning about teamwork and communication as they encourage each other on high rope activities. They grow spiritually through the guidance of our chaplains, who are a daily presence within the camp schedule and help shape campers' understanding of faith and their connection to God.

We are extremely grateful for the passion and dedication of Pastor Inge, Pastor Jennifer, and Pastor Liz, who devoted their time this past summer,



and for the ongoing work of Bear Creek Camp as it builds inclusive community, nurtures faith, and develops leaders who carry their experiences into the world with empathy, joy, and purpose. This certainly could not be accomplished without the hardworking, compassionate summer staff and the leadership of Executive Director Collin Grooms, Program Director Kallie Handlong, and all the other camp leaders who contribute and put youth first.

Camp doesn't end when the summer does. In addition to summer camp, Bear Creek Camp offers retreats and camps outside of the summer timeframe including the upcoming Labor Day Family Camp, Fall Women's Retreat, and Winter Camp. The camp is also open to hosting congregations, committees, or organizational retreats through their facility rentals. All this information and more can be found at [bearcreekcamp.org](https://bearcreekcamp.org). All together, Bear Creek Camp and our synod continue to walk hand in hand, creating space for love, service, and faith to flourish in every season.

**DID YOU KNOW** that your Mission Support helps fund areas of the synod like this one and many other important initiatives? Your contributions are making a significant impact and helping others grow in faith, supporting the synod's lanes of Growing Young, Gaining Strength, and Going Beyond Death to Life, along with the directions of loving like Jesus, healing like Jesus, and engaging like Jesus. To learn more, visit [godslove.org/missionsupport](https://godslove.org/missionsupport). Looking to give to Bear Creek Camp directly? Visit [bearcreekcamp.org](https://bearcreekcamp.org)

# REGISTRATION IS OPEN



## THROUGH THE WOODS

# 5K TRAIL RUN & WALK

@BEAR CREEK CAMP  
9/27/25

## BECOME A SPONSOR!

[bearcreekcamp.org/5k](https://bearcreekcamp.org/5k)

This family-friendly BCC event is open to all ages, and every step you take helps support our amazing campers.

**Make an Even BIGGER Difference  
by Becoming a 5K Sponsor!**

Whether you're a business, family, or individual, your tax-exempt gift directly supports our camp programming and resources.



Sunday <i>SEPT 2025</i>	Monday <b>1</b>	Tuesday <b>2</b>	Wednesday <b>3</b>	Thursday <b>4</b>	Friday <b>5</b>	Saturday <b>6</b>
			Praise Team 6:30pm	Choir 6:30	Friday Ladies 9:00am - 12:00noon	
<b>7</b> <b>Pentecost 13</b>  8:30 & 10:00am	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>  Bible Study 11:30 – 12:30pm  Council Meeting 6:30pm	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>  Choir 6:30	<b>12</b>  Friday Ladies 9:00am - 12:00noon	<b>13</b>  “Renewal in Christ” Reformed Church of Bushkill  9am-3pm
<b>14</b> <b>Pentecost 14</b>  8:30 & 10:00am	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>  Bible Study 11:30 – 12:30pm  Council Meeting 6:30pm	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>  Conni’s Café 1-3pm  Choir 6:30  Finance 6:00pm	<b>19</b>  Friday Ladies 9:00am - 12:00noon	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>Pentecost 15</b> 8:30 & 10:00am  Sunday School 9:00 – 9:30	<b>FALL BEGINS</b>	Bible Study 11:30 – 12:30pm	Praise Team 6:30pm	Choir 6:30	Friday Ladies 9:00am - 12:00noon	
<b>28</b> <b>Pentecost 16</b> 8:30 & 10:00am  Sunday School 9:00 – 9:30	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>  Bible Study 11:30 – 12:30pm				