

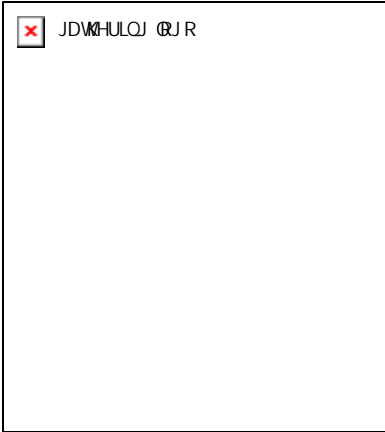


# THE BETHLEHEM S AR

*“To reach out to all people and bring them into  
a living relationship with Jesus Christ...”*

<i>Through Worship of God, Study of His Word.....</i>	<i>2</i>
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## WOW!!



Fourteen youth from our congregation have just returned from the LCMS National Youth Gathering. What an experience! We sang, we danced, we worshiped, we served, and, yes, we did see Mickey Mouse. Most importantly, though, we experienced how God - His power, truth, and love - are "Beyond Imagination."

The theme for the Gathering was Ephesians 3:20-21:

***"Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout al generations, forever and ever! Amen!"***

What a wonderful message, not just for our youth, but for all of us. Just when we think that we have an idea of how wide God's embrace is, we find out **it's wider**. When we begin to think we understand how long God will wait on His people, we find out **it's longer**. When we think we know how high His majesty, we find out **it's higher**. And when we think we have experienced the depths of His love, we learn that **it is deeper**.

That is what over 30,000 youth learned and lived in Orlando, and that is the joyful truth that each of us is called to live each and every day. The wonder, power, majesty and grace of God are "Beyond Imagination," and they are **for you!**

*Pastor Mueller*

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*Through Worship of God, Study of His Word*

**WORSHIP SCHEDULE AND SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR  
THE MONTH OF AUGUST:**

Would you like an opportunity to enrich your worship experience? Sometimes there is so much in the Scripture lessons for each Sunday, and they go by so quickly, that it is hard to take it all in. Many people find that reading the lessons before Sunday helps them see how the lessons, hymns, anthems, etc. tie together.

**August 1<sup>st</sup>:**

**Genesis 18:1-10a (10b-14); Colossians 1:21-28; Luke 10:38-42**

8:00 a.m. Holy Communion

9:00 a.m. Summer Fellowship Breakfast

10:00 a.m. Holy Communion

**August 8<sup>th</sup>:**

**Genesis 18:20-32; Colossians 2: 6-15; Luke 11:1-13**

8:00 a.m. Holy Communion

9:00 a.m. Summer Fellowship Breakfast

10:00 a.m. Family Worship

**August 15<sup>th</sup>:**

**Ecclesiastes 1:2; 2:18-26; Colossians 3:1-11; Luke 12:13-21**

8:00 a.m. Holy Communion

9:00 a.m. Summer Fellowship Breakfast

10:00 a.m. Holy Communion

**August 22<sup>nd</sup>:**

**Genesis 15:1-6; Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16; Luke 12:32-40**

8:00 a.m. Holy Communion

9:00 a.m. Summer Fellowship Breakfast

10:30 a.m. Family Worship

**August 29<sup>th</sup>:**

**Jeremiah 23:23-29; Hebrews 12:1-13; Luke 12:49-53**

8:00 a.m. Holy Communion

9:00 a.m. Summer Fellowship Breakfast

10:00 a.m. Family Worship

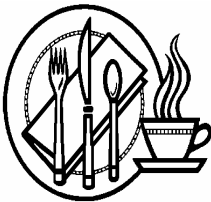
**BIBLE STUDY GROUP LEADER WORKSHOP:**

This fall the Board of Christian Education will offer a workshop for those of you who:

1. Want to lead a small group!
2. Think they want to lead a group!
3. Have been told they would be a good leader of a group!
4. Have been hearing God whisper to them that they should lead a group!!

Getting into the Bible as a group is an important means that God uses to bring our life, thoughts and actions into harmony with Him and each other. Watch for more details and pray for God to guide you in your decision. Attending the workshop in no way commits you to being a leader. Come, learn and discover that leading a small group Bible study may be just where God wants you.

***Through Fellowship***



**MEET 'N EAT:**

The Ladies Meet-n-Eat Luncheon will be on **Friday, August 6 at noon in the church lounge**. Come and bring a friend. Please bring a dish or dessert to share. Call **Sue Haswell at 439-7494**, our hostess for this meeting, for more information. Hope to see you there.

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**MEN'S BREAKFAST AND BIBLE STUDY:**

Your stomachs and spirits will be nourished if you join us for our semi-monthly breakfasts and Bible study. Join us **Saturday, August 7<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> from 7:30 – 9:00 a.m.**

**THE IMPORTANCE OF FELLOWSHIP**

Sometimes we forget that sharing time in Fellowship – just relaxing and being with friends that share our same beliefs - is a vital part of our walk as a Christian. It is enriching and uplifting to share these special times together – to laugh together, to play together, and of course, to share a meal together. Please plan to attend an upcoming Fellowship Event!

**July Recap:**

**Summer Breakfasts began on June 27<sup>th</sup>!** What a wonderful time of fellowship this is!! So far, the breakfasts have been a success with an average attendance of about 75 people. The menu includes a nice selection of donuts, muffins, bagels & cream cheese, cereal, juice, coffee & tea. We hope you will plan to join us at **9:00 a.m. every Sunday this summer** for breakfast & fellowship.

**Albany Aqua Ducks:** At this writing, we have not yet been on the Albany AquaDucks Tour, so look for the recap next month!

**Upcoming Events:**

**Fall Kick-Off Picnic** – Can you believe that summer is already ½ over! We are already starting our plans for the fall picnic. Grab your calendar and save the date. On **Sunday, September 19<sup>th</sup>**, we will gather again for the Fall Kick-Off Picnic! There will be lots of great food and fun for all. If your last name begins with A-M please bring a salad and if your name begins with N-Z please bring a dessert. Look for the sign up sheet in the Narthex. Hope to see you there!!!

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*Through Loving Care for One Another*

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**SANDWICHES TO GO:**

Sandwiches for the Homeless Action Committee will now be made on **Thursday afternoons at 3:00 p.m.** Please call **Mary Scott at 439-6061** if you can help. Also needed are extra blankets for the homeless. Call Mary about blankets or leave them in the Committee Workroom (labeled for Mary Scott).

**BLC WOMEN REACH OUT TO THE HOMELESS:**

More than a year ago, a group of BLC women began gathering once a week to make sandwiches for the HAC [Homeless Action Committee] Van. The van travels around Albany 7 days a week, 365 days a year, from 2:00 pm until 10:00 pm. The Van is staffed by a driver and a volunteer. Their job is to assist the police by transporting men and women, usually intoxicated, to the Alcohol Rehab Center at Albany Med, to a local hospital, or to The SRO – a Single Resident Occupancy Center.

Sandwiches and clothing are distributed from the van; old fashioned conversation and kindness are also a significant part of the evening's activity. People living on the street are very thankful for the food and clothing. I am very thankful for the commitment and interest of our BLC ladies: Chris Abelseth, Virginia Mead, Dolores Jerabek, Dee Ertell, Marie Millspaugh, Sue Haswell, Dale Broman, Ruth Navratil, Jessica McMullan, Margaret Cropsey, Phyllis Chambers, and CecileMulhern.

When you drop a stone into a pond, the ripples touch many beyond our reach. The sandwich ministry makes a big difference to the Albany community of homeless people. God bless you and thank you for your support.

Mary Perrin Scott

(If you would like to join our group, call **Mary at 439-6061**)

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### **CLOTHING FOR THE HOMELESS:**

If you have T-shirts, undershirts, or socks, the HAC [Homeless Action Committee] Van is in need of clothing to hand out on the streets. This summer has been particularly difficult for the homeless because of the rain. They are always in need of dry clothing. If you would like to buy and donate packages of underwear: men's briefs 32 – 34 and large T-shirts would be great. As we get into late summer, long sleeved shirts are always welcome. **Please leave them in the Committee Work Room, labeled with a sign for Mary Scott or HAC.**



### **FOOD PANTRY NEEDS:**

We are requesting toilet paper, paper towels and paper napkins for this month. September will be peanut butter & jelly, juice boxes, and spaghetti sauce. Thank you for your continued support of the Food Pantry.

### **ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN NEWS:**

Thank you to those volunteers who sorted and packed clothing during the month of July: Don Ballou, June Boluch, Bev Bozzella, Dee Ertell, Doris Gold, Jane Hartnett, Rob Hartnett, Sue Haswell, Barbara Mabee and Gretchen Willi. We had an extraordinary amount of clothing to process, sending 62 large, sealed boxes to the warehouse for shipment along with bicycles and medical equipment. Clothing and medical supplies are now going to Kyrgyzstan, Nicaragua and Zimbabwe. A special thank you to Alan Willi for transporting boxes, bicycles and wheelchairs to the warehouse. Steve Adams, Dan Adams, Dave McMullan and Libby Mullens have continued to repair and clean many broken bicycles and wheelchairs. We appreciate their efforts.



We thank all of you who have donated so generously to Orphan Grain Train. Right now we are experiencing a problem in that we

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have to be out of our Albany warehouse at the end of September. We have been given the use of this warehouse for many years free of charge by the owner. As of October 1, someone will be renting that space. We have made tentative arrangements for a replacement facility, but that site has yet to be confirmed. Because of a lack of storage space, we ask that you hold all donations until further notice.

We will continue to pack the remaining clothing on hand at church on **Saturday, August 14<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 – 10:30 a.m.** If you can help, please call **Rhonda Ballou (439-3078)**. If you are able to help with the repair of bicycles and wheelchairs for OGT, please call **Steve Adams (439-8683)**.

**FROM YOUR BOARD OF COMMUNITY CARE:**

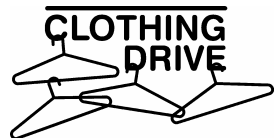


**BACK PACK DRIVE:**

Now that 4<sup>th</sup> of July has passed, stores are starting to put school supplies on sale. Please remember our **Backpack Drive** for underprivileged children when you shop. There is a box in the fellowship hall to receive back packs and general school supplies. Near the end of August, the back packs will be filled and distributed. Some will go to area schools and the Unity House in Troy where there is a great need. Unity has an after school program that reaches out to homeless and inner city youth to enhance what they are learning in school. Many of them do not have basic supplies such as glue sticks, colored pencils, markers and crayons. Will you help?

**WOMEN'S CLOTHING DRIVE TO BENEFIT TWIN COUNTIES:**

Twin Counties Rehabilitation Center in Coxsackie rehabilitates women who have abused drugs and alcohol. It houses approximately 12 residents at a time. Over a period of time the



residents change as some leave and new ones come in. The Board of Community Care is hosting a clothing drive to help these women get a fresh start as they go back into the working world. We are asking for women's clothes, shoes and handbags (in good condition) that are suitable for going to work or a job interview. Winter coats and boots are acceptable too. Marylyn Praga and her mom just delivered a small truck load to them this past week. The women were so happy to receive the clothes that they came right out and unloaded the truck themselves.

### *Upcoming Events, Letters, News, Birthdays & Anniversaries*



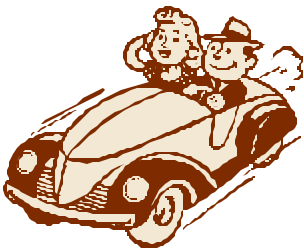
#### **NOAH THE MUSICAL:**

By popular request, arrangements have been made for another bus trip to Lancaster, PA. and the Millennium Theatre. The show this year is "Noah The Musical". The bus will be leaving BLC 7:30 a.m. **Friday October 22<sup>nd</sup>** and return about 9:00 p.m. **Saturday October 23<sup>rd</sup>**. **Price**

**will be \$179 per person double or \$219 single.** This will include transportation, dinner Friday night, tickets for the show, breakfast Saturday morning. All lunches and Saturday dinner are on your own. We will also be going to the Biblical Tabernacle which is a replica of the Tabernacle of the Children of Israel during their 40 years in the wilderness. Yes, there will be time for shopping.

**Payments have to be in by August 31. For further information see or call Glenn Cropsey 862-0856.**

#### **"55 ALIVE" MATURE DRIVING COURSE:**



BLC Community Care Board is sponsoring an AARP Driving Awareness Class. This is an 8 hour classroom refresher course for drivers that are 50 years old and older. The class will be given in 2 four hour segments **September**

**11 and 18th, 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.** You will learn how to compensate for age related changes, new traffic laws, review the rules of the road and much more. Completing the course you will get a discount on your automobile insurance. To register call the church office or **Glenn Cropsey at 862-0856**. Make checks out to AARP for \$10.00.

### **THINKING OF OUR COLLEGE STUDENTS...**

#### **COLLEGE STUDENT SEND-OFF:**

Many members of our BLC family will be leaving our midst during the next few weeks to begin or return to college. We are proud of them and rejoice that they are ready to let their lights and gifts shine in new places! In a very real sense they will be “missionaries” – taking their faith into an arena which, in many cases, will be a place that desperately needs to know God’s love and grace. In this spirit, we would like to bestow a special blessing on them during the **10:00 a.m. service on August 15<sup>th</sup>**. We invite all college students to join us on the 15<sup>th</sup>.

#### **ADOPT A COLLEGE STUDENT:**

Would you like to “adopt” a college freshman for the next school year? You would agree to pray for them, send them occasional notes and cards and care packages during their tumultuous first year away from home. This is a great family project! If you are interested in this special ministry, contact **Linda Winterhoff (439-6217)**.

#### **CONCORDIA OPEN 2004:**

Dust off your golf clubs and plan to play in the Concordia Open on **Saturday, September 11<sup>th</sup> at Western Turnpike Golf Course**. This wonderful day of golf, fellowship, food and prizes benefits the scholarship fund of Concordia College,



Bronxville, N.Y. There will be a sign-up poster in the educational wing lobby. Sign up as a foursome, couple or single and we will put you in a group.

### **LWML ATLANTIC DISTRICT FALL RETREAT FOR WOMEN:**

This retreat will be held at the beautiful Tuscarora Inn and Conference Center in Mt. Bethel, Pennsylvania on **October 15-17, 2004**. The theme for the retreat is *"You Make A Difference"* and will be lead by author and speaker Alma Kern. We would like to get a group together to attend this retreat. Pick up an information/registration form on the table next to the nursery. Registration deadline is **October 1<sup>st</sup>**. If you are interested, contact **Judy Nestlen (768-2602)**.

### **SYNODICAL CONVENTION REPORT:**

Pastor Winterhoff and Mr. Ed Klienke (St. Matthews – Albany) represented the Capital District churches at the Synodical convention in St. Louis from July 10<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>.

The convention (over 1200 delegates)...

...re-elected Dr. Gerald Kieschnick as president, and Dr. William Diekelman was elected first vice president. Additionally, the four other vice presidents that were elected are forward-looking, mission-minded pastors.

...adopted several resolutions supporting **ABLAZE**, which is a worldwide effort to reach 100 million people with the good news of Jesus Christ.

...declared fellowship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenya.

...affirmed, on the basis of Scripture (Genesis 2:24, Matthew 19:5-6), that marriage is the lifelong union of one man and one woman.

...approved a new hymnal as "an official service book and hymnal" of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod.

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...adopted a resolution that permits women to hold any congregational office that does not involve the function of the office of pastor.

...commended new guidelines from the Commission on Theology and Church Relations to aid workers as they make decisions about participating in “civic events”.

...adopted several resolutions that spoke to efforts of synod to address human care issues locally and globally.

There were numerous other resolutions discussed and adopted, but these were among the major items. I believe the convention took some very positive steps forward so that we can be about the ministry of the church...proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ.



### **GREETINGS FROM THE PRESCHOOL:**

I am spending the summer months preparing for the new school year. I am participating in “home visits” with the students and their families. At the “home visit”, I bring a craft for the children to complete that will be used to mark their cubby space. I meet with parents and discuss how we orient the students to the classroom and schedule the first week of class with the family. It is a great way for the children to get to know me in the comfortable surroundings of their home. I am also researching new and exciting curriculum and procedures to use in the classroom. We are looking forward to an exciting year of learning about God’s many blessings in the world around us.

In planning for the upcoming school year, I am looking for some specific toys for the classroom:

1. Fisher Price Farm and Farm Animal set
  2. Plastic zoo animals
  3. 3 - 15 gallon Rubbermaid containers
  4. 2 – Barbie dolls
  5. Small play doll bed
-

If your child or grandchildren have outgrown any of these items, or if you are browsing at a yard sale this summer, please keep these items in mind.

Thank you for your support for this wonderful ministry, and I hope that you have a restful and enjoyable summer!

In His Service,  
Kathy Glaser



**CHOIR NOTES:**

It's hard for me to think of September in July (that's a teacher talking!), however, I know you are thinking of your fall schedules. I would love to have you join the Senior Choir. We meet

**Thursday evenings at 7:00 p.m. Rehearsals will start on September 9, 2004.** We always need new talents to help us and support our music ministry. Creator's Crusaders will start at a later date (yet to be determined). For purposes of planning, they rehearse **Thursday evenings from 6:15 – 6:45 p.m.** This is open to all Sunday School age children.

We have several openings in the handbell choir. If you would like to try this, please contact **Ruth Rice (439-9657)**. If you play an instrument (string, brass, woodwind, etc.) and would like to share your talents, please contact Ruth as well.

One day while driving around, I saw this sign:

<p><b>Hearts in Tune with God Will Sing (Play) His Praises</b></p>
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Isn't that wonderful?! Please consider sharing your talents as you are planning your fall schedule. And, please, have a wonderful rest of the summer!

-Ruth Rice

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**A NOTE FROM THE NEWSLETTER  
EDITOR:**

Please continue sending your articles directly to me, unless they need to be placed in the church bulletin, as well. The avenues to submit a newsletter article are as follows:

- a) E-mail article to BLCnewsletter@blutheran.org
- b) Put article in the Bethlehem Star mailbox in the committee workroom.
- c) Mail the article to my home (36 Maywood Road, Delmar, NY 12054)
- d) Call and dictate your article to me over the phone (439-9126).

Mark your calendars....the deadline for newsletter articles is **AUGUST 15, 2004!** Looking forward to hearing from you!

-Lisa Thien



***Linda Dunkerley to the Whitewater Crew...***

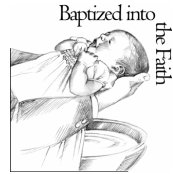
On April 24, 2004, fifteen brave women joined me on a whitewater rafting adventure to Wild Water Outdoor Center in Warrensburg, N.Y. Before departing from BLC at 6:30 a.m., Pastor Winterhoff appeared and prayed with us for safety and good fellowship! We had both!! The four hour raft ride with intermittent whitewater brought rapid paddling, screeching, laughter, drenching and gulping down some of the river! It was wonderful, and I was thrilled to be with so many Christian friends. Many thanks go to Sue Haswell for stirring me to acting and fulfilling my dream. This quote will be familiar to those who went with me: ***“Time is a sort of river of passing events, and strong is its current; no sooner is a thing brought to sight than it is swept by; and another takes its place, and this too will be swept away” (Marcus Aurelius).*** My next adventure is to climb a mountain top.

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Plans are for next September. Get your hiking boots on and get into shape. I am so grateful to God for the beauty He displays to us each day in nature and for Christian friends of like-mind to share it with.

**RECENT BAPTISMS:**

**EMMA ROSE HAERTEL**, daughter of Michael and Lori Lynn Haertel, was received into God's Kingdom of Grace through baptism on **July 8, 2004**. We ask God's blessings on Emma and her family as they grow in their knowledge and love of their Savior



**RECENT WEDDINGS:**

**GEORGE PALMER and ELIZABETH MALANGA** were joined in marriage on **July 10, 2004**. May God remain at the center of their love and life together.



**B I R T H D A Y S &  
A N N I V E R S A R I E S**

**AUGUST BIRTHDAYS:**

- 1-Katie Fireovid, Jason Fireovid, Sean Spellman
  - 3-Becky Wilsey, Sarah Wilsey, Nicholas Sattinger, Hannah Lomen, Hannah Wirth, Deborah Jewell
  - 4-John Hansen, Kerrilynn Rooney, Catie Muller, Katie Mazzeo
  - 5-Sante DeBacco, Nicholas Schreiber, Paul Michaels
  - 6-Justin Contento, Joshua Madden, Margaret LaQuire
  - 7-Carl R. Wirth, Abigail Sandles, Laura Molino, Steven Schultz, Ariel Goodrich
  - 9-Jonathan Madden, Victoria McCormick, Ted Thien, Bud Bauss, Angela Mineau
  - 10-Heather McCormick, Helen Ramnitz, Kenneth Mortensen
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- 11-Dawn Danz, Thomas Mabee, Thomas Mabee, Jr., Diane Bollman-Buyer
- 12-Sarah Nestlen, Stephanie Willi, Mark Hayward
- 13-Lindsay Phillips, Greg Wilsey
- 14-Cullen Blake, Kyle Cox, Karin Martin, Katherine Howard
- 15-Mildred Hammes, Kasey Ward, Jamie Young
- 16-Travis (Winter) Mauer, Linda Davies, Sandra Murphy
- 18-Emily Fireovid, Susan Haswell, Marilyn Greenman
- 19-Phyllis Chambers
- 20-Carolyn Bennett, Tom Burke
- 23-Justina Boyer
- 24-Casey Capuano, Madeline Kronau, Michael Strauss, Lynn Matthews, Noah Lee (Pepicelli), Taylor Capuano
- 25-Katerina Luft, Dianna Luft, Len Bergstrom
- 26-Sam Smith, Betty Jane Moreen
- 27-Ruth Navratil, Amber Hodoroski
- 28-Danielle Swanson, Craig O'Connor, Gretchen Berg
- 29-David Chambers, Terry Britton, David Brinkerhoff, Donna Roberts
- 30-Matthew Pangburn, Randy White
- 31-Erika Danz, Dorothy Dill, Terri Biszick

**SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS:**

- 1-Mark Randazzo, Stephen Wahl, Gail Aadland, Edna Cutler
- 2-Hope DeBacco, Katrina VanHeusen, Michael Rooney, Gordon Fitting, Desiree Luft
- 3-Paul Randazzo, Alexander Luft, Derek Wolff
- 4-Susan Hussey, Joshua McMahon, Peggy Burlew, Thomas Dill, Joseph Crowder
- 5-Brayden Weidman, Bayleigh Weidman, Marie Day
- 6-Melissa Mabee
- 7-Richard Olson, Andrew Gutman, Bill Collins

**AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES:**

- 2-Jon & Deidre Dubbelde 7 years
  - 4-David & Gail Balluff 31 years
-

<b>5-Howard &amp; Ruth Harbeck</b>	<b>65 years</b>
5-George & Karen Hammes	38 years
5-Terry & Diana Britton	4 years
7-Rev. James & Jennifer Krach	6 years
8-Richard & Mary Ann Phillips	51 years
11-Jeffrey & Jennifer Hoffman	3 years
11-Theodore & Ruth Robinson	42 years
11-Matthew & Anika Winterhoff	3 years
12-Richard & Judy Nestlen	32 years
14-Moe & Sara O'Connell	6 years
18-Glenn & Gigi Garver	21 years
18-Jonathan & Jessica Madden	3 years
19-Elbert & Sandra Pangburn	43 years
19-Matt & Sandra Murphy	9 years
<b>20-Joseph &amp; Irene Crowder</b>	<b>55 years</b>
20-John & Marie Day	38 years
20-David & Kathy Smith	38 years
21-Peter & Christine Lilholt	11 years
<b>22-Robert &amp; Marilyn Greenman</b>	<b>50 years</b>
<b>23-Ariel &amp; Barbara Goodrich</b>	<b>52 years</b>
23-Mark & Carrie Winterhoff	1 year
25-Bob & Debbie Downen	14 years
27-Earl & Liz Winchester	28 years
28-Greg & Jan Wilsey	28 years
30-Randy & Aimee Edwards	18 years

**SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES:**

<b>1-Robert &amp; Marcia Luther</b>	<b>54 years</b>
1-John & Lauren Cox	20 years
<b>4-Ernest &amp; Lois Gall</b>	<b>56 years</b>
5-Bryan & Judy Strauss	12 years
5-Bill & Barbara Collins	23 years
6-Earl & Pat Davis	35 years
<b>6-Nelson &amp; Dorothy Williams</b>	<b>52 years</b>

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**COMING THE FIRST WEEK OF SEPTEMBER:**

- |    |                                 |           |
|----|---------------------------------|-----------|
| 1- | Coordinating Council            | 7:30 p.m. |
| 2- | HAC Sandwich Making             | 3:00 p.m. |
|    | Board of Missions               | 7:30 p.m. |
| 3- | Ladies' Meet 'n Eat             | NOON      |
| 4- | Men's Breakfast & Bible Study   | 7:30 a.m. |
| 6- | <b>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</b>     |           |
|    | Board of Christian Education    | 7:00 p.m. |
|    | Board of Stewardship            | 7:00 p.m. |
|    | Board of Evangelism             | 7:00 p.m. |
|    | Board of Publicity              | 7:30 p.m. |
| 7- | <b>PRESCHOOL BEGINS</b>         |           |
|    | Board of Church Prop.Work Night | 6:00 p.m. |



Have You Heard This One???

Jesus and Satan were having an ongoing argument about who was better at using the computer. They had been going at it for days, and God was tired of hearing all the bickering. Finally, God said, "Cool it. I am going to set up a test which will take two hours and it will judge who does the better job."

So Satan and Jesus sat down at the keyboards and typed away.

They moused.  
They did spreadsheets.  
They wrote reports.  
They sent faxes.  
They sent e-mail.  
They sent out e-mail with attachments.  
They downloaded.  
They did some genealogy reports.  
They made cards.

They did every known job. But just minutes before the time was up, lightening suddenly flashed across the sky, thunder rolled, the rain poured, and, of course, the electricity went off. Satan stared at his blank screen and screamed every curse word known in the underworld. Jesus just sighed. The electricity finally flickered back on, and each of them restarted their computers. Satan started searching frantically screaming, "It's gone! It's all gone! I lost everything when the power went out!!!"

Meanwhile, Jesus quietly started printing out all his files from the past two hours. Satan observed this and became even more irate. "Wait! He cheated! How did he do it??!!!"

(You'll love the punch line...)

God shrugged and said, "Jesus Saves."

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