

The Epistle

JUNE 2026 | PENTECOST EDITION HOLY CROSS EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

June 2026

6/6 – **Men’s Breakfast/Study** at 8:30AM
6/7 – **Second Sunday after Pentecost**
8:30 & 11:00AM Holy Communion
9:45AM Sunday School for all ages!
6/10 – **Prayer in the Parlor** at 4PM
6/14 – **Third Sunday after Pentecost**
8:30 & 11:00AM Praise Service
9:45AM Sunday School for all ages!
12Noon Bible Study Luncheon

6/15 – **Mini-Epistle Deadline**
6/17 – **Prayer in the Parlor** at 4PM
6/21 – **Fourth Sunday after Pentecost**
8:30 & 11:00AM Holy Communion
9:45AM Dads & Grads Waffle Breakfast
6/24 – **Summer Bible Study** at 10:00AM
1PM Prayer in the Parlor
6/28 – **Fifth Sunday after Pentecost**
8:30 & 11:00AM Praise Service
9:45AM Sunday School for all ages!

Three Words from Pastor David: Church Building Blocks



⁴²They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ⁴³Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. ⁴⁴All the believers were together and had everything in common. ⁴⁵Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. ⁴⁶Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved. – Acts 2:42-47 (1984 NIV)

In Acts 2:42-47, Luke gives a beautiful description of life in the early church. In these verses I see seven basic **Church Building Blocks**: The Word, The Sacraments, Fellowship, Prayer, Giving, Worship and Evangelism. We’re told that the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved. Wouldn’t that be wonderful to see people come to know the Lord on a daily basis? Is it possible for us to recover just a fraction of the excitement, joy and spiritual energy of the newborn church?

The outpouring of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost is considered by most to be the birthday of the church. You could say that the 120 disciples who were praying for the sending of the Spirit was the church *in utero*, waiting to be launched.

Jesus said don't try to do anything without the Spirit, but with the Spirit, you can do the same kind of things I have done. What a difference the Spirit makes. In one day the church added 3000 new believers. The Book of Acts tells the story of the beginning of the mighty acts done by the Holy Spirit through the church. That story is not complete, but ongoing.

How can we live in the fullness of the Holy Spirit today and be a vessel through which the Spirit does mighty things in our midst? I would suggest using the **Church Building Blocks**. Let's look more closely at each one.

1. **The Word.** They were devoted to the apostles teaching, in other words, the Word of God. Do we have a hunger for the word of God?
2. **The Sacraments.** The breaking of bread, what we call Holy Communion, was central to their life together. Do we believe that Christ comes to us and strengthens us in the sacrament?
3. **Fellowship.** They shared a common life and met each others needs. Have we become too individualistic for this?
4. **Prayer.** When they prayed, God acted, resulting in great miracles. Have we lost our faith in the power of prayer?
5. **Giving.** They generously gave of their resources to fund the life and mission of the church. Do we give to God our first fruits or our leftovers?
6. **Worship.** They were praising God in the temple and throughout the day. Do we view everything we do as an act of worship, always seeking to bring glory to God?
7. **Evangelism.** They enjoyed the favor of all the people and shared the Good News with everyone. Are we prepared to tell people about Jesus and eager to do so?

I don't think it is realistic to expect a return to life like it was for the early church. That was a unique time in history. We can't go back, but we do have the same Spirit within us. If we will seek to live in the fullness of the Spirit and make use of the **Church Building Blocks**, we will see God do amazing things in our midst.

Devoting ourselves to the **Church Building Blocks** can be the difference between being a dying church and a healthy, thriving and growing community of faith. Please pray about how you can help Holy Cross live the reality of the Holy Spirit.

June 2026 Chronological Bible Reading Plan

If you are reading through the Bible this year, June's passages are listed, below. If you are just beginning this plan, it is recommended that you begin with the readings for the day (instead of starting from the beginning). Then when you have some extra time you can go back and read what you missed. Copies of the plan are available in the Gathering Place, or the plan may be downloaded here: <https://michigandistrict.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Reformation-Reading-Plan-Printable.pdf>

- | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1: Acts 10:23-48
Judges 18-19 | <input type="checkbox"/> 9: Prov. 11:10-23
Psalm 74-77 | <input type="checkbox"/> 17: Catch Up Day! | <input type="checkbox"/> 24: Catch Up Day! |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2: Proverbs 11:1-9
Psalm 72-73 | <input type="checkbox"/> 10: Catch Up Day! | <input type="checkbox"/> 18: Acts 20:1-12
I Sam. 24-25 | <input type="checkbox"/> 25: Acts 24
II Samuel 8-11 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3: Catch Up Day! | <input type="checkbox"/> 11: Acts 15:22-41
I Sam. 11-14 | <input type="checkbox"/> 19: Acts 20:13-38
I Samuel 26-29 | <input type="checkbox"/> 26: Acts 25:1-22
II Samuel 12-13 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 4: Acts 11
Judges 20-21 | <input type="checkbox"/> 12: Acts 16
I Samuel 15 | <input type="checkbox"/> 20: Acts 21:1-36
I Samuel 30-31 | <input type="checkbox"/> 27: Acts 25:23-26:32
II Samuel 14-15 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 5: Acts 12
Ruth 1-4 | <input type="checkbox"/> 13: Acts 17
I Sam. 16-17 | <input type="checkbox"/> 21: Acts 21:37-22:29
II Samuel 1-4 | <input type="checkbox"/> 28: Acts 27
II Sam. 16:1-19:8 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 6: Acts 13
I Samuel 1-3 | <input type="checkbox"/> 14: Acts 18
I Sam. 18-20 | <input type="checkbox"/> 22: Acts 22:30-23:35
II Samuel 5-7 | <input type="checkbox"/> 29: Acts 28
II Sam. 19:9-20:26 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 7: Acts 14
I Samuel 4-7 | <input type="checkbox"/> 15: Acts 19
I Sam. 21-23 | <input type="checkbox"/> 23: Prov. 12:1-18
Psalm 79-80 | <input type="checkbox"/> 30: Proverbs 12:19-28
Psalm 81-83 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 8: Acts 15:1-21
I Samuel 8-10 | <input type="checkbox"/> 16: Prov. 11:24-31
Psalm 78 | | |

SSS Begins

Hooray for summer: school's out and vacation begins, but let's take time to thank God for all His blessings! Sunday School will still be held for both adults and children. Join us at 9:45AM for the following:

Children's Sunday School will be held various places

throughout the summer: just find Mrs. Kistler and she'll point you in the right direction.

The Adult Sunday School will finish our study of the Lutheran Confessions in June. In July, we'll be going back to a review of each Sunday's sermons.



NE Mission District Convocation

Our local NALC Mission District will be meeting live in Elmer NJ or via ZOOM on June 27th. We need representatives from the congregation to attend: see Pastor David for more information.



Children's Library

We have a beautiful Children's Library: check it out! While you're at it, check out a book or two! Please use the sign-out binder and help yourself.



Scout Troop 3193 is having a **CLOTHING DRIVE** at Holy Cross on **Saturday, June 6 from 10AM-2PM.**

Donate Clothing, Shoes, Accessories, Linens, and Bikes in ANY condition!



RESERVE YOUR SEAT NOW FOR

JOSHUA

TUESDAY, AUGUST 11
8AM—6PM

\$177 for adults, \$117 for children 13 and under.

ALL RESERVATIONS AND MONIES MUST BE RECEIVED **BY JUNE 14**



See Ruthann Kistler
(610) 217-0397

Council Actions from May's Meeting:

- ✚ A Council Retreat will be held on June 13th from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm
- ✚ The Northeast Mission Region Convocation will be held on June 27th in Elmer, NJ. If anyone would like to attend, please contact Pastor.
- ✚ The national NALC Convocation will be held online on August 7th. Please contact Pastor if you would like to attend the online Convocation.

Council's next meeting will be **Wednesday, June 17th at 6:30PM.**

June Birthdays and Anniversaries

BIRTHDAYS

- 1 – Katie Buttillo (nee Souders)
- 3 – Ray Schoch | Ollie Weber
- 4 – Wendi Wonderly
- 7 – Savannah Judy
- 8 – Isabella Zeiner
- 13 – Tyler Szulborski | Kathy Ballek
- 15 – Steven Westwood
- 18 – Jacqueline Fenicle
Amber Steidinger
Charles Vetter, Jr.
- 20 – Nancy Schmidt | Mike Zyskowski
- 21 – Cynthia Yoxheimer
- 22 – Shirley Stuber
- 25 – Barb Gubich
- 26 – Crystal Allen (nee Wagner)
- 27 – Chris Peters

- 28 – Sue Meier | Debbie Mosser
- 29 – Courtney Wagner
- 30 – Patty Stein | Rich Stein

ANNIVERSARIES

- Charles & Linda Vetter, Jr. –
6/5/1971
- Ervin & Ruthann Kistler –
6/10/1967
- Tom & Lauri Barlow –
6/13/1998
- Chris & Becky Bennett – 6/20
- Bob & Carolyn Buzzard – 6/23
- Robert & Nancy Porambo – 6/25
- Gary & Debbie Mosser – 6/28/1975
- Michael & Beverly Monaghan – 6/30/19

*Happy Heavenly Birthday to William Stout
June 11, 1934 – May 13, 2026*

The Lord's Prayer Summer Study

The most well-known and beloved passage of Scripture is Jesus' prayer found in Matthew 6. Beginning on

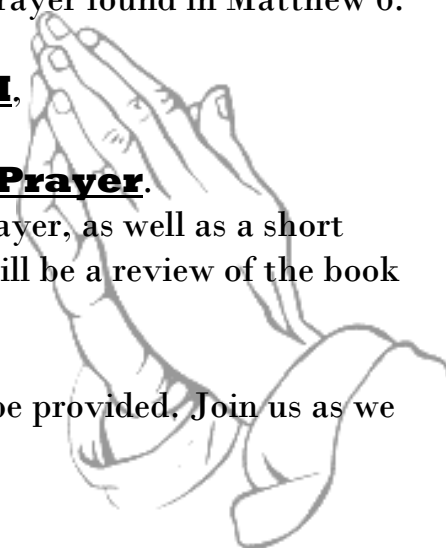
Wednesday, June 24, at 10AM,

we will meet for our

Summer Bible Study of The Lord's Prayer.

Each week we'll take a look at one of the seven petitions of the prayer, as well as a short Scripture study based on its theme. Our last meeting, August 5, will be a review of the book of Joshua, in preparation for our trip to Sight and Sound.

No preparation is needed, and light refreshments will be provided. Join us as we ask anew, "Lord, teach us to pray."



Easter 2026

Much goes into preparing for Easter each year. Here are some photos of our celebration this year.



Even visitor bags reflect the season.



Pastor Dave, Alyce Stein, and Seth and Mike Miller doing the Gospel reading for Palm Sunday.



Some go to great heights in readying our sanctuary!

Our Easter feasting began with "first breakfast" donated by the Borderline Restaurant and prepared by competent kitchen volunteers.



HE IS RISEN!



Eric and Elijah Quan in their Sunday best!

Yes, there WAS "second breakfast"!



Bennett Peters eagerly looking forward to more Easter fun to come!

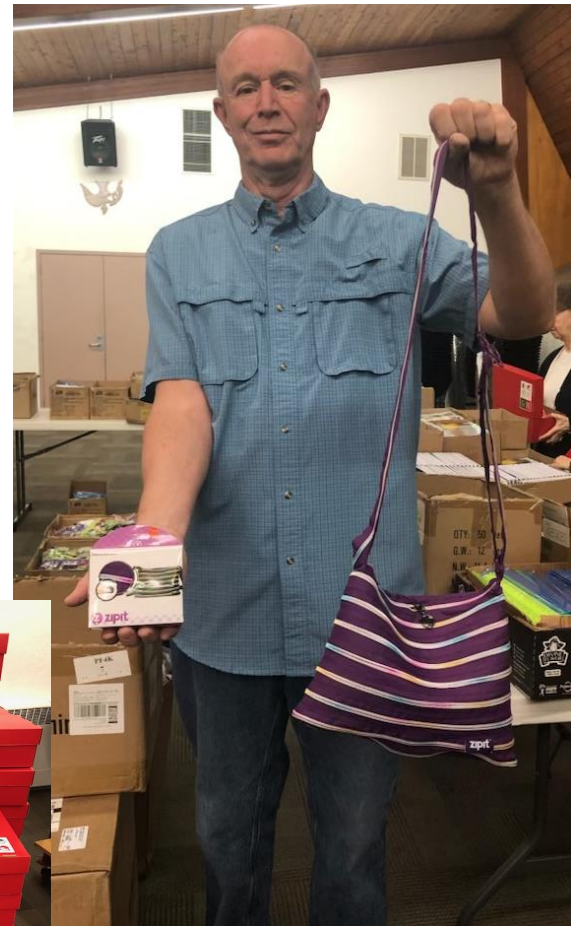
Later that day Pastor caught some well-deserved rest!



SHOE BOX SUNDAY,

APRIL 19, 2026

On April 19, 2026 under the direction of missionary **Nelson Randolph**, Holy Cross packed 500 “shoe boxes” for Operation Christmas Child, an outreach project of Samaritan’s Purse.



These boxes are filled with various objects for underprivileged children all across the world.



This has become a favorite inter-generational event at Holy Cross every year.

TEDDY BEAR TEA PARTY!

On the last Sunday of April, Ruthann Kistler held a Teddy Bear Tea Party for young ladies.



The girls spend some time learning about manners.



Decorating hats for their favorite stuffy!



Tea parties are held about once a year to teach our young girls manners and their worth in

God's eyes. Our older girls also enjoy coming back to help out!



A big thanks to all the lovely ladies and mommies who cheerfully helped!



See how nicely we dress up?



Preschool Graduation 2026

Congratulations to Riley for her Preschool Graduation! The event was held during a special Family Worship Service on April 29th.



Sail the 7 Cs

Pastor David recently presented his summary of the message of the Bible, *Sail the Seven Cs*, with the students at Fellowship Christian High School.



Food Enough for a Beast: VBS Kickoff Dinner



22 of us gathered on May 27th to start planning VBS in earnest. No matter how **BIG** or small your contribution may be, there's a place for everyone to help with our largest outreach each year.

Maybe you can **pray**, or work on **preparations at home**, **help decorate** here at church, or **volunteer** the week of July 12-17. Watch for **the donation station**.

At **Rainforest Falls** we'll learn more about the nature of God. Bring a friend, and let's go bananas!

Prayer Points: We are dependent on God for a successful VBS this year, where children will **PLUNGE** into God's Word! Please take some time each day to pray over the following points (and enjoy some pictures of our treats from our kickoff feast!):



Day 2

Bible point: God knows everything.

Bible verse: Psalm 139:1.

Bible story: David celebrates all God knows.



Day 4

Bible point: God is love.

Bible verse: Psalm 136:1.

Bible story: Jesus dies and comes to life to show God's love.

Day 5

Bible point: God is forever.

Bible verse: Psalm 115:18.

Bible story: God gives John a vision of heaven.



Day 3

Bible point: God is our safe place.

Bible verse: Psalm 142:5.

Bible story: David hides from Saul.



Lifeline Screening Coming to Holy Cross

Holy Cross will be hosting a Life Line Screening (LLS) event on July 27, 2026, in our Fellowship Hall. LLS is known as the premier provider of stroke and cardiovascular disease risk screenings since 1993. There is a discounted offer to all Holy Cross members which will identify your risk level for Carotid Artery Disease, Peripheral Arterial Disease,

Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm, and Atrial Fibrillation.

Click here www.llsa.social/habc or call 800-324-9458 to schedule your appointment! A simple screening can be worth a lifetime.

Special screening package for \$129 for our members includes:

- Carotid Artery Disease Screening
- Atrial Fibrillation Screening
- Peripheral Artery Disease Screening
- Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Screening

Call to schedule an appointment near you! **800-324-9458** and use code: **HABC001**



Save the Date 2026!

Mark your calendars and save these important dates:

**Sunday, July 12-Friday, July 17—
Vacation Bible School (see p. 6)**

**Monday, July 27-Lifeline Medical
Screening Event (see p. 7)**

Tuesday, August 4—National Night Out at
Hanover Community Center

Friday, August 7—NALC Convocation (online)

Tuesday, August 11—Sight and Sound bus trip to see
Joshua (see p. 4)

Sunday, August 23—Backpack Blessing Sunday

Friday, August 28—Faith Night at the Iron Pigs

Sunday, August 30—5th Sunday Brunch

March 22, 2026 Congregational Meeting

There were 30 voting members attending the meeting. A quorum was met.

Call to Order: Lyn Stryker welcomed everyone to the meeting and urged everyone to read the report. Lyn then opened the meeting with a word of prayer.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Brown noted that he is encouraged when he writes his annual report. He stated the 2025 worship attendance is higher and the Sunday School is re-building. Being a part of the NALC has been a blessing. They all agree that the church is about Jesus, not politics. There have been difficulties – finances are always an issue. We didn't finish in the black; however, if you look at the total income versus the total expenditures, God provided. The *25 in 25 Challenge* brought in 17 new members! The Lord is doing work among us. Please take part in the *25 in 26 Challenge* this year. We are still in need of a Treasurer. The Council will be holding a retreat in May.

President's Report: Lyn Stryker reported that we focused on prayer and bible study. Prayer should be a part of our daily life. Start with prayer for 5 minutes per day and you will soon be praying longer without realizing it. If you feel your prayers are repetitive, pray the Psalms. Lyn noted that it has been very encouraging to hear children's voices and seeing their energy. Lyn thanked everyone who uses their time and talents in the ministry at Holy Cross and encouraged everyone to participate.

Secretary's Report: Alyce reported that the annual report has all of the meetings listed that were held last year. There is also a list of the Council members with their committees.

Bookkeeper's Report: Lyn Stryker reported that our bookkeeper, Lisa Wechsler, is taking care of the bookkeeping and doing a really great job. This will be the last year Lisa is our bookkeeper, so we will need to find a replacement for her and also a Treasurer. One person may hold both positions if they would like to do that, or we can have two people filling the positions.

Finance: Lyn Stryker reported that the Finance and Stewardship committees meet together. He noted that there is a comparison listed in the report between 2024 and 2025 giving and also a list of assets for 2024 and 2025.

Stewardship: Lyn thanked everyone who has given their time, talents and treasures to support our ministry at Holy Cross. The report has various creative ways to give to Holy Cross.

Property: Lyn reported that there is a lot of 'Behind the Scenes' work done by the property committee members. He thanked everyone for their help.

Benevolence: Pastor reported that on pages 12 and 13 there is a list of our missionaries and on pages 18–20 there is a description of each missionary that we support. The Benevolence giving increased last year. He stated that we would like to have more members on the committee. The committee meets on the 2nd Wednesday – every other month – at 11 AM.

Christian Education: Ruthann Kistler reported that we are so happy to see children in our midst. We are praying for more families to join us – please pray so this will happen. She noted that during Pastor’s sermon time, the children all go with her into the children’s library for Children’s church. If you know any young families who do not have a church home, please encourage them to come to Holy Cross.

Preschool: Sally Stein reported that there will be one 4 year old graduating this year. There are six 3 year olds who will be returning next year. Please pray for children to attend our pre-school.

Outreach & Publicity: Ruthann stated she would love to have someone interested in publicity join the committee. Most of the publicity is done via social media. Please see Ruthann if you would like to help. VBS is our biggest outreach program along with Fall Family Fest. We are trying to increase God’s kingdom with these outreach events.

Social Ministry: Alyce noted that the committee hasn’t met very often because the first 5th Sunday Brunch would have been held on Palm Sunday. Since we are having our Easter Breakfast the following week, we decided not to hold the brunch in March. If anyone would like to join the committee, please reach out to any of the current members: Darlene Treisner, Irene Graham, Janice Lerch, Sharon Branigan and Penny Miller.

Worship & Music: Need more people to help with altar guild. Let Jan know.

There was nothing additional to the Annual Report for the Soup Ministry, Capital Improvements & Memorials, Communications & Technology, Mutual Ministry, and the Pastoral Care Committee.

Church Office: Karen Brown noted that the church has a new email account. It is listed in the report. If you have a personal Gmail account, you can access the electronic monthly calendar using your account. If you’re not sure how to access it, Karen stated she would be glad to help you. Pastor Brown added to please thank Karen for her work that she has been doing in the office. She has been going above and beyond what is expected of her.

Constitution Task Force: Since joining the NALC, a committee has been meeting to review our current constitution to see what has to be amended. He stated that the committee is almost finished. The amended constitution will then go to Church Council for approval and then a special congregational meeting will be held to vote on the amendments.

Adjournment: Pastor closed the meeting with prayer and blessed the meal. Lyn passed the peace.

Respectfully submitted,
Alyce Stein, Secretary

JUNE 2026 SERVANTS OF THE LORD

		6/7 Pentecost 2	6/14 Pentecost 3	6/21 Pentecost 4	6/28 Pentecost 5
Communion Server	8:30 11:00	Patty Stein Lyn Stryker		Seth Miller Lyn Stryker	
Grasscutters		Mike Miller Nick Wechsler	Rich Stein Jonathan Miller	Lyn Stryker Jonah Kincaid Bob Kincaid	Sam Glasmire Rich Stein
Greeter	8:30 11:00	Diane Hahn Irene Graham	Sally Stein Sharon Branigan	Diane Hahn Irene Graham	Sally Stein Sharon Branigan
Lector	8:30 11:00	Pat Gilbert Lyn Stryker	Alyce Stein Karen Brown	Ruthann Kistler Kathy Ballek	Patty Stein Lyn Stryker
Liturgist	8:30 11:00	Patty Stein Lyn Stryker	Pat Gilbert Karen Brown	Seth Miller Lyn Stryker	Pat Gilbert Lyn Stryker
Live Stream	8:30	Jan Stryker	Jonah Kincaid	Jan Stryker	Jan Stryker
Prayer Care		Sharon Branigan	Ruthann Kistler	Pat Gilbert	Darlene Treisner
Song Leader	8:30 11:00	Nancy Cook Nancy Cook	Pastor David Pastor David	Karen Brown Nancy Cook	Nancy Cook Nancy Cook
Sound	8:30 11:00	Josh Miller Ken Yoxheimer	Josh Miller Ken Yoxheimer	Josh Miller Ken Yoxheimer	Rich Stein Ken Yoxheimer
Usher	8:30 11:00	Jan Stryker Irene Graham		Jan Stryker Irene Graham	
Altar Guild: Alyce & Patty Stein		Counters: Jan Stryker & Karen Brown			
Children's Church: Ruthann Kistler		Communion Visitors: Pastor Dave & Sharon Branigan			
Phone Tree: Stephen Zeiner		Prayer of the Church : <u>Volunteer needed</u>			

Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church



a congregation of the
NORTH AMERICAN
LUTHERAN
CHURCH



Pastor David L. Brown Holycrosspastor@rcn.com
2700 Jacksonville Road, Bethlehem, PA 18017
610-867-6231 Holycrossoffice@rcn.com
Website: HolyCrossBethlehem.com

JUNE 2026

SUN.	MON.	TUES.	WED.	THUR.	FRI.	SAT.
31 Trinity Sunday	JUNE 1	2	3	4	5	6
8:30A Communion 9:45A 5 th Sunday Brunch 11A Communion	7P Scouts (TR)	7P Property (Ofc) 7P Scouts (YR)	12P Share the Power @ JCC 4P Worship & Music (Ofc) 7:30P AA (TR)	10A FH Reserved 12N AA (TR)	FH Reserved 10A Bulletins	8:30A Men's Breakfast 10A-2P Clothing Drive 1P FH Reserved 7:30P AA (TR)
7 PENTECOST 2	8	9	10	11	12	13
8:30A Communion 9:45A Sunday School 11A Communion	7P Scouts (TR)	6P Colonial Quilters (FH & Sanctuary) 7P Scouts (YR)	4P Prayer (parlor) 6P Christian Ed/Outreach 7:30P AA (TR)	12N AA (TR)	10A Bulletins	9A--3P Material Girls (ASSR) 9A--3P Council Retreat (FH) 7:30P AA (TR)
14 PENTECOST 3	15	16	17	18	19	20
Flag Day 🇺🇸 8:30A Praise Service 9:45A Sunday School 11A Praise Service 12N Bible Study Luncheon (FH)	mini-Epistle Deadline	7P Scouts YR	11A Benevolence (Ofc) 4P Prayer (parlor) 6:30P Church Council 7:30P AA (TR)	12N AA (TR)	10A Bulletins	1P Staff Meeting (Ofc) 7:30P AA (TR)
21 PENTECOST 4	22	23	24	25	26	27
8:30A Communion 9:45A Dads & Grads Waffle Breakfast 11A Communion	7P Scouts (TR)	7P Scouts YR	10A Bible Study (ASSR) 12P Rescue Bears 1P Prayer (parlor) 7:30P AA (TR)	9A Material Girls (ASSR) 12N AA (TR)	10A Bulletins	8:30A Men's Breakfast (ASSR) 1P NE Mission District Convocation 7:30P AA (TR)
28 PENTECOST 5	29	30	July 1	2	3	 <p>Happy 4th of July</p>
8:30A Praise Service 9:45A Sunday School 11A Praise Service	7P Scouts (TR)	6P Finance & Stewardship 7P Scouts YR	10A Bible Study (ASSR) 12P Rescue Bears 4P Worship & Music (Ofc) 7:30P AA (TR)	12N AA (TR)	10A Bulletins	



VBS 2026 REGISTRATION FORM

Child's name	Last Grade	Age	Birthday	M/F	T-shirt size (youth)
1.					XS – S – M – L – XL
2.					XS – S – M – L – XL
3.					XS – S – M – L – XL

Name of parent(s)/guardian: _____

Street address: _____

City: _____ State: ___ ZIP: _____

Home Church: _____

Permission to use child's image only (no names) on church social media (facebook, website...) YES NO

Primary phone number: (____) _____

Secondary phone number: (____) _____

Home email address: _____

Allergies/medical conditions: _____

Emergency contact (if primary contact cannot be reached):

Name: _____

Phone: _____ Relationship to child: _____