



The Mountain Top Messenger

SEPTEMBER 2026

A Season of Change, a Season of Blessing

As we look around us, it is hard to believe that summer is already beginning to draw to a close. The days are getting shorter, the evenings a little cooler, and before we know it, school will be back in session. For many families, this is a time of new beginnings—new teachers, new classrooms, new schedules, and perhaps even new opportunities. While the change in seasons can bring a busy transition, it also gives us an opportunity to pause and give thanks to God for the many blessings He has provided throughout the summer.

As a congregation, we too are entering a new season of activity and learning. Our **Adult Bible Study will resume on Monday, September 14, at 10:00 AM.** I encourage everyone who is able to join us as we gather around God's Word. Bible study is not simply about gaining information; it is an opportunity to grow together in faith, encourage one another, and hear again the promises of our gracious Lord.

Sunday School and Confirmation will resume on Sunday, September 20. We are looking forward to having our young people back together as they continue to learn about God's Word and grow in their understanding of the Christian faith.

This year we are looking for some additional help with Sunday School as we look to divide the children into two groups: **4K through 2nd Grade** and **3rd Grade through 6th Grade**. We are working on a **rotating schedule** so that those who volunteer will not be required to teach every week. If you have an interest in working with our children, this is a wonderful opportunity to serve the Lord and our congregation. You do not need to be an expert teacher—simply a willingness to share God's Word and spend time with our young people is a great gift.

We also want to remind everyone about our upcoming **Fall Harvest Music Festival and Dinner, scheduled for October 24th.** This promises to be a wonderful opportunity for fellowship, good food, and an enjoyable evening together as a church family. If you have a musical or other talent that you would like to share as part of the program, please see **Tiffany Darling or Pastor**. We would love to hear from you!

Another exciting development is our **new Zion Lutheran Church website**. Take a few minutes to visit www.zionlutheranashland.com and take a look around. The website is still a work in progress, and we welcome your thoughts and suggestions. If you see something that could be changed, improved, or added, please let us know. Our hope is that the website will become a useful way to share the life and ministry of Zion with both our members and the community.

Finally, a special word of **thanks to Jim Solberg** for taking on the position of Secretary. We are grateful for Jim's willingness to serve and for the time and effort he is giving to help with the work of our congregation. The ministry of a congregation depends upon many people quietly and faithfully using the gifts God has given them.

As we enter another busy season, it is worth remembering the words of the Apostle Paul: **"I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content."** — Philippians 4:11

Contentment does not mean that everything in life is perfect or that we should never seek to improve our circumstances. Rather, Christian contentment comes from knowing **who is in control**. Our circumstances change. Seasons come and go. Children grow, schedules change, responsibilities increase, and plans sometimes turn out differently than we expected. Yet through all of it, our Lord remains faithful.

Paul goes on to say, **"I can do all things through him who strengthens me."** (Philippians 4:13). Our strength and our contentment do not come from having everything we want or from having an easy life. They come from Christ, who has redeemed us, forgives our sins, and promises to remain with us. So as summer gives way to fall, let us not simply rush into the next season. Let us take time to give thanks. Let us be content with the blessings God has placed before us, eager to serve where He has called us, and confident that whatever the coming months may bring, **our gracious Lord will continue to lead and sustain His people.**

May God bless our families, our children, our teachers, and the entire Zion Lutheran Church family as we begin another season together.

The Lord bless you and keep you, the Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you, the Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

Pastor Rick



**ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH
1111—11TH AVE WEST
ASHLAND, WI 54806**

Sunday Worship Service 9:00am live-streamed

Wednesday Evening Service 6:00pm

Sunday School 1st – 7th grade Sunday 8:45am (Sept.-May)

Bible Studies

Sunday 10:15am Monday 10:00am (Sept.-May)

Pastor Rick Williams - 715-209-0479

Office Hours: Mon 9-5 Tue off Wed 1-6 Thu 9-5 Fri 9-5

Please call ahead if you need to speak with Pastor.

Church Office: Jim Solberg 715-682-6075 Summer Office Hours Mon & Wed. 8-3

Church President: John Pruss 715-292-4825 Head Elder: Darryl Warren 715-492-0488

Little Friends of Jesus Child Care Center: 715-682-5185

LFOJ Director: Tressa Groom 715-682-6075

Website www.zionlutheranashland.com E-mail secretary@zionlutheranashland.com

Together in Prayer

Prayers for Health and Healing

For good test results, treatment, positive thinking, healing, and comfort during cancer treatments; for those suffering from addiction or mental illness; and for healing, strength, comfort, and peace for families, we pray for:
Brad Prill • Vi Basina • James Fletcher • Harold Larson • Linda Stenroos • Don Pocernich • Tim Erickson • Patty Hmielewski • Pam Ekholm • Don Pocernich • Jamie Klema • Keith Tveit
Rick Kallio • Sheryl Hildebrandt • Mary Dahl • Mike Trimble • Linda Parrish • Judy Nevela • Chuck Sandor
Dwayne Lynch • Camden & Brooks • Tom Anderson • Octavia Pearce • Kevin Heggie • Larry Hildebrandt • Cindy Lazorik • Tracy Thompson • Jesse Riemer • Magnolia & Iris Butler • Clarence Osmak
Charles Schudar • Karen Wahl • Sonia Balmer • Dale Nelson • Wayne • Casey • Chuck • David
and those in our hearts.

Homebound, Assisted Living & Nursing Home

For those who cannot attend common worship, that they would find comfort knowing the Lord is with them.

Arlene Zimmerman • Violet Basina

Prayers for Protection

For our full-time troops and public servants, for travel, missionaries, and for peace and protection for families.

David Wright • Jordan Thimm • Andrew Pruss • Gavin Neibauer

A Prayer for Those in Need

Dear Lord,
We come to You today with heavy hearts, as we lift up those who are in need of prayer. We ask that You would bring healing and restoration to their body, mind, and spirit. Amen.

Coming Together

Adult Bible Study resumes Monday, September 14, at 10:00 AM. Sunday School and Confirmation resume Sunday, September 20. The Fall Harvest Music Festival and Dinner is scheduled for October 24.

Serving & Sharing

Sewing Circle

Our Zion Lutheran sewing circle will be starting up September 8th after a nice summer break. We are encouraging anyone that would like to join us to come. This is a great way of serving our Lord and our congregation. We meet the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm from September to May.

Board of Trustees

A couple of members have expressed interest in the Board of Trustees. Thank you! We would welcome any others who might have an interest. Trustees are responsible for the care of the church buildings and property. See Pastor, Loren, Scott S or Jim S for more information.

Janitor/Sexton Position Needed

Starting now. Work times and days are typically decided by the janitor. There is a temporary janitor for the summer, but you can apply any time. Usually, 2–3 days and 4–6 hours per week. Please speak with John Pruss or Pastor with questions.

LIFT

Lift will be starting the new fall schedule after enjoying our summer. We will be meeting September 25, Friday at 5:00 pm. This will be a potluck, and we will meet at the church. If the weather is nice we'll play a game or two of cornhole or swoop.

Useful Items for Church

- Do you have a use for large glass bottles? Ask an Alter Guild member and you may have our empty gallon size wine bottles.
- Do you have ice cream buckets cluttering up your basement? We could use them in the church kitchen! Bring them in at your convenience.

Announcements & Opportunities

LWML Fall Rally — September 13

LWML Fall Rally – will be on Sunday, September 13 at St. Paul's in Marengo. Registration at 12:00, followed by luncheon at 12:30, with rally beginning at 1:00. RSVP at 715685-8341 before September 1.

NWD Adult Gathering — October 12 & 13

Save the date for the annual Adult Gathering. We will be offering two in 2026! The first will be held on Monday, October 12, at Peace, Eau Claire and the second will be held Tuesday, October 13, at Mount Olive, Weston. Rev. Dr. Brian Gauthier, from the LCMS Office of International Mission will be our keynote speaker. Registration will be available soon under Events and Info on nwdlcms.org

Grief Support — September 16–October 21

Wednesdays 10:30am to noon here at Zion. Regional hospice services grief support groups are open to anyone that has experienced loss and there is no charge. 715-685-5151 or www.regionalhospice.org.

The BRICK's September Request

The BRICK's Food Shelf Program focuses on providing a wide variety of food options in a range of forms (fresh, frozen, canned) to program participants. At times, some of the items we offer are not available through our usual donations network. This means we either need to purchase those products or go without. YOU can help out to ensure that the Food Shelf Program has a wide variety of nutritious foods to offer pantry shoppers. Throughout September The BRICK is asking for donations of canned and dried fruit. At the end of the month, please connect with our Food Shelf Manager Amaris Shrider to drop off your donation. Reach her by phone at 715-682-7425 ext. 3 or email at foodshelfmanager@thebrickministries.org. Thank you for your support!

God's Word of Life

by Rev. Dr. Aric Fenske

We learn from the very first lines of Scripture that our God is a God who speaks. In His omnipotence, there are a million ways that God could have created the heavens and the earth. And yet, He chose words as the means to bring the universe into existence. Likewise, God could have chosen any number of ways to reveal Himself to fallen humanity, but He chooses words to make Himself known to us and create faith in our hearts.

As the writer of the letter to the Hebrews put it, in the days of the Old Testament, **“God spoke to our fathers by the prophets,”** but, now in these days of the New Testament, **“He has spoken to us by his Son”** (1:1-2) and through the apostles whom Jesus has sent out into the world to proclaim the Good News.

Everything that we need to know about God, ourselves, and our salvation, God reveals to us through His Word. In fact, Martin Luther would go so far as to say that “God will not deal with us except through His external Word and sacrament” (SA Part III, Art. VIII, 10).

It should come as no surprise, then, when the devil and his followers attack God's Word. As long as God sends forth His Word, the devil will continue to sow fear and doubt with his **“did God actually**

say?” (Genesis 3:1). Sadly, our old ancient foe can keep using this same tactic over and over again because we keep falling for it over and over again!

Every argument we hear in favor of abortion, or sexual immorality (pre-marital sex, same-sex marriage, pornography, etc.), or physician-assisted suicide and euthanasia are really just attacks on God’s Word—attacks influenced by the father of lies (John 8:44). The devil, the world, and our own sinful flesh continually try to convince us that God’s Word is either wrong or that it doesn’t apply to us and our circumstances.

In the face of such attacks, the cross of Jesus Christ, along with His empty tomb, stand as signs of God’s unending faithfulness, reminding us that God’s Word is both unfailing and unchanging. God’s desire for each one of us is so strong that not even the death of His Son would deter Him from keeping His promises to us.

Friends of life, hold fast to the Word that God speaks to us! His Words truly are the **“words of eternal life”** (John 6:68), by which God instructs us about the love He has for each person, strengthens us to withstand the attacks of the evil one, and turns the hearts of our enemies.



Starting Out — Suit Up

In the Word

For as many of you as were baptized into Christ put on Christ (Galatians 3:27).

Of the Word

Many different kinds of running clothes are made by a variety of companies. These brand names adorn the runner from head to foot and everything in between. Running gear may be chosen for attractiveness, functionality, or price; but chances are, something you wear while running boasts a brand name.

While God doesn’t care about clothing brand names, He does care about what we wear. In fact, He gave us clothing to wear at all times while we run the race of life. Saint Paul wrote those who were *baptized into Christ put on Christ* (Galatians 3:27). In other words, He clothes us with His own righteousness. We are, in fact, covered head to toe with Jesus!

Jesus has a specific purpose for the clothing He gave us. When we put on Christ each day, we should be showing Him to others. Our thoughts, words, and actions can all reflect His righteousness. So instead of becoming a billboard for popular clothing brands, become a billboard of Christ’s love. From head to feet and everything in between, show the love of Christ to the world.

Walking with my Lord

Heavenly Father, through my baptism, You have clothed me with righteousness. As I put on Christ each day, help me to reflect that righteousness to the world around me. In Jesus’ name I pray. Amen.

AUGUST LFOJ NEWSLETTER



Dear parents and guardians,

Summer is just about at an end and we are on our way to fall!

August 4th was National Chocolate chip cookie day!

Totville News: Greetings from the Infant room!

For the month of August, our themes and Bible stories have been, Stormy Weather-The Wind that Obeyed, Joseph and his brothers, Letters-The man who said thank you, and Fruits and Veggies-Food from Heaven.

Happy birthday to Ricky who will be one on the 25th!

All the children in our room have grown and learned so much over the summer. Some have learned to crawl and stand. Others have learned new words and colors. The older ones are doing very well at saying excused, please, and thank you.

Kinzleigh has moved to the Toddler room. There will be a few more children transitioning to the Toddler room soon. We will miss them, but are excited for them to move forward.

Once again, please check your child's cubby for any items that don't need to be here. Also, have at least one set of weather/season appropriate clothes here. The cubbies get overfilled and things tend to fall out or get pulled out. It is also helpful if your child's name can be put on their clothes and jackets.

"The Lord has promised good things." - Numbers 10:29

-Denise and Nikki

Toddler Titbits: Our month has been filled with circle time fun and musical instruments! We have a new reward system that includes everyone. For example, when all the children are being safe and listening during circle time, the class can choose prizes! The class has been experimenting with different musical instruments and singing along to their favorite songs, including "Old MacDonald, Peace Like a River, and Jesus Loves Me." We welcome Kinzleigh to the Toddler room. She has been transitioning in from the Infant room. We will be having more children from the Infant room moving into the Toddler room in the next couple of months, and we are excited about the new friends we will have.

We are getting ready for fall weather by talking about leaves falling and seasons changing. Everyone is excited to jump in the leaves soon!

-Michelle, Lael and Tina

Learner Lane: Our themes this month were Disney, Zoo animals, and transportation.

We read Samson and Delilah, Elijah the Prophet, Fire from Heaven, and King David for our Bible stories this past month.

Happy birthday to Kaylani on the 22nd, Trent on the 24th, Meilani on the 26th and Ms Kate on the 28th!

We will be having our LFOJ graduation party on Wednesday, August 26th honoring Isaiah, Kaylani, Lilith, Meilani, Oliver and Trent. We will miss these amazing kiddos so much, but we are excited for their next chapter at the “big school.”

-Hanna and Kate

UPDATES: We will be closed on Monday, Sept 7th and Tuesday, Sept 8th for Labor Day and our yearly staff development day.

I will be scheduling parent-teacher conferences in the coming weeks.

God Bless,

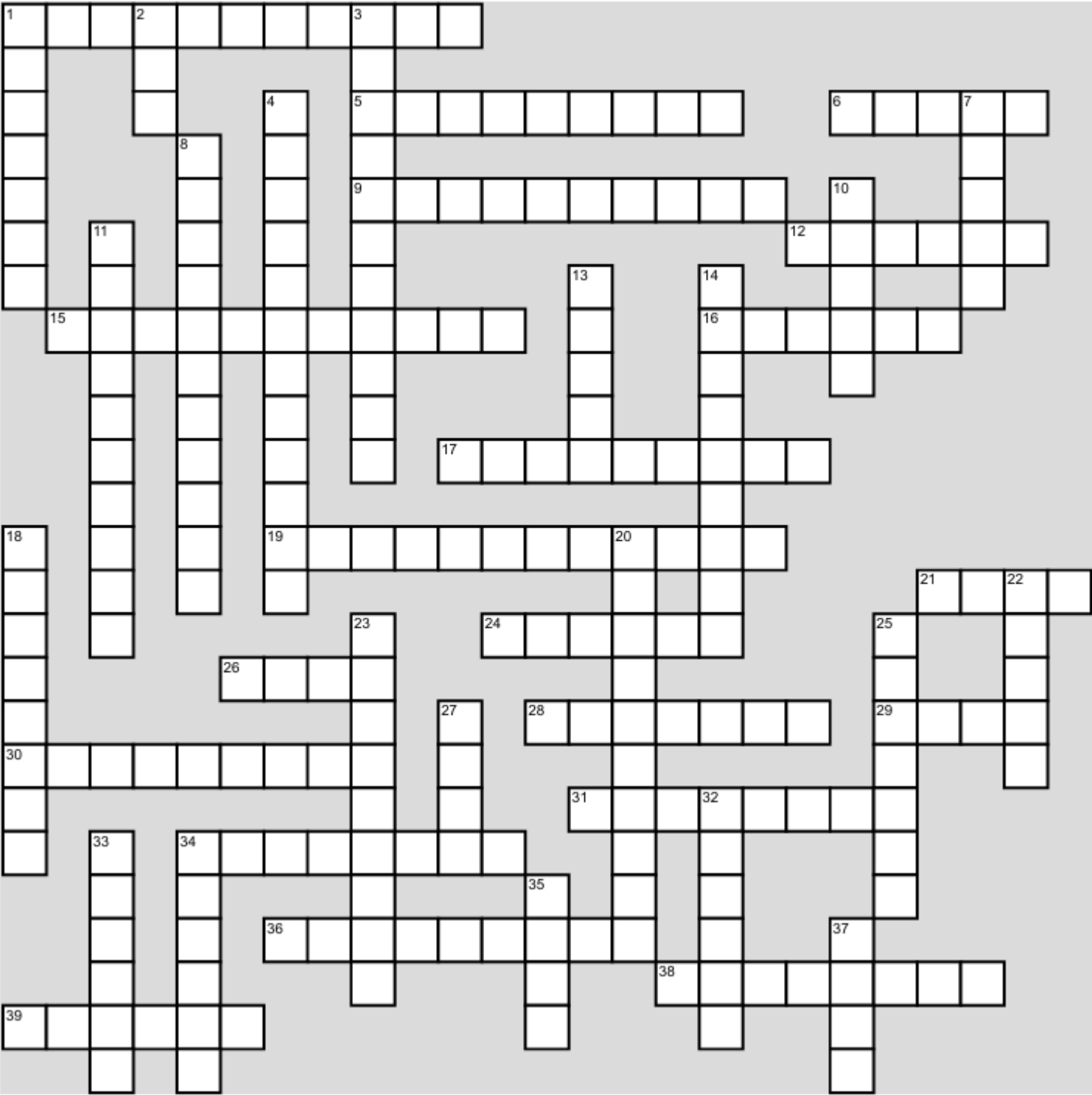
Tressa Groom
Director

LFOJ WISH LIST/NEEDS

Monthly:

Regular paper towel and/or Tri Fold paper towel
Toilet Paper
Fragrance Free Baby Wipes
Kleenex (facial tissue)
Hand soap (unscented,antibacterial)
Great value brand canned fruits in juice (not syrup)
Natural peanut butter
Parent’s choice gentle baby formula (must be iron-fortified)
Beech nut baby food
Ragu spaghetti sauce
Prego alfredo sauce
All natural ketchup (no high fructose corn syrup)
Tomato soup
Graham crackers
Vanilla wafers
Elbow noodles
Foam Tumbling mats
Quart Double Ziplock bags
Gallon Double Ziplock bags
Thin Pretzel sticks
Plexiglass picture board (kid friendly)
Cordless Vacuum

Pentecost Crossword



[Answers on the last page](#)

Across

- 1 What type of virtues are: Faith, Hope, Love?
- 5 Sign of the Holy Spirit where oil is placed on the forehead.
- 6 Another word for "Spirit."
- 9 Baptism, confirmation, and 1st Eucharist are the sacraments of ----?
- 12 Jesus cast out demons by the --- of God.
- 15 Greek word for speaking in tongues.
- 16 "I believe in the Holy Spirit" is the ____ article in the Profession of Faith.
- 17 An outward and visible sign of inward and spiritual divine grace.
- 19 Completes baptismal grace.
- 21 What the Holy Makes our hearts cry out.
- 24 This person can confer the Sacrament of Confirmation in danger of death or with delegation.
- 26 Fourth Gospel writer.
- 28 First outpouring of the Holy Spirit.
- 29 An indelible symbol of the Holy Spirit.
- 30 Greek word for Advocate.
- 31 A Latin phrase inserted into the Creed at Constantinople, which was a point of contention in the East.
- 34 Those who can receive the Sacrament of Confirmation are the ____.
- 36 Fruits of the Holy Spirit found in this letter of Paul:
- 38 Prudence, justice, fortitude and temperance are the ____ virtues.
- 39 Successor to the Apostles.

Down

- 1 Name: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- 2 The Holy Trinity is three persons in ____ God.
- 3 Spirit-filled.
- 4 A Candidate for Confirmation must be in a _____. (three words).
- 7 Number of Sacraments.
- 8 The Eastern word for Confirmation.
- 10 The symbol of the Holy Spirit that accompanies cloud.
- 11 Third Person of the Trinity.
- 13 A life giving symbol of the Holy Spirit.
- 14 The Feast upon which the Holy Spirit descended.
- 18 A person that receives the Sacrament of Confirmation intends to be a ____.
- 20 To whom the book of the Acts of the Apostles was addressed.
- 22 Collection of books inspired by the Holy Spirit.
- 23 A Mark that is permanent.
- 25 Something that we cannot understand with human reason alone.
- 27 The Holy Spirit descended in this form at the baptism of Jesus.
- 32 7 gifts of the Holy Spirit are rooted in the prophecy of ____.
- 33 Oil used during Confirmation.
- 34 The ordinary minister of Confirmation.
- 35 Imposed upon the head as a sign of the Holy Spirit.
- 37 A transforming symbol of the Holy Spirit.

A Note from Your New Secretary

As I begin this new chapter in my life, I want to offer a heartfelt thank-you to Lynn for her many years of faithful service as our church secretary. As I looked across the street during the month of July, it seemed her car was almost always there. She gave countless hours to keeping things organized and preparing for a smooth handover, and her dedication is truly appreciated.

I'm grateful for the opportunity to step into this role and serve our congregation in a new way. As we all know, the only thing constant in life is change—although, being Lutherans, we may not always be terribly enthusiastic about it! I ask for your patience and help as I find my way, and I truly welcome your feedback. If you see something that's working well, or something that could be better—including this newsletter—please let me know.

Jim Solberg

Animals In the Bible

E	A	C	L	C	L	F	C	A	J	W	O	C	L	A
V	E	L	A	W	A	A	P	E	H	P	R	A	M	S
F	U	M	Q	L	T	E	P	D	E	A	M	U	S	S
B	E	M	L	T	L	O	C	C	O	B	W	W	L	Y
L	X	O	L	I	L	F	B	O	O	V	T	K	W	W
Q	N	E	C	E	W	O	E	I	N	C	E	A	O	G
L	M	A	T	S	M	U	O	Y	R	E	K	V	O	R
L	N	N	D	L	N	L	B	O	T	D	Y	P	Y	G
T	A	E	R	O	I	O	E	T	Y	I	S	G	A	Q
N	E	V	A	R	J	O	I	L	N	E	B	R	N	A
R	T	L	L	U	G	U	N	P	L	E	K	B	L	E
X	S	V	I	P	E	R	R	V	R	E	P	N	A	C
C	H	E	W	E	K	R	O	T	S	O	Z	R	O	R
W	V	O	T	A	B	P	E	E	H	S	C	A	E	D
E	A	G	L	E	W	O	L	F	T	Q	F	S	G	S

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ANTELOPE	ASS	BAT
BIRDS	BULL	CAMEL
CATTLE	COCK	CONEY
COW	DEER	DONKEY
DOVE	EAGLE	EWEL
FALLON	RABBIT	RAVEN
FOUL	GOAT	GULL
HAWK	LAMB	LION
OWL	PELICAN	
SCORPIONS	SERPENT	SHEEP
STORK	VIPER	WOLF

September 2026

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
Alter Guild – September Jule Jarvela 715-682-0385 Tami Thimm 715-919-0695		1	2 6:00pm Worship Service	3	4	5
6 9:00am Worship Service 10:15am Bible Study 2:00pm LGP	7  Church Closed Labor Day	8 1:00pm Sewing Circle	9 6:00pm Worship Service	10 9:30am LFOJ Chapel	11	12
13 9:00am Worship Service 10:15am Bible Study LWML Fall Rally 12:00	14 10:00am Bible Study 5:00pm Evangelism	15	16 1:00pm Hospice Monthly Group Gathering 6:00pm Worship Service	17 9:00am Winkel	18	19
20 9:00am Worship Service 10:15am Bible Study 2:00pm LGP	21 10:00am Bible Study 5:30pm Council Mtg.	22 1:00pm Sewing Circle	23 6:00pm Worship Service	24 1:30pm Northern Lights	25 5:00pm LIFT at church	26
27 9:00am Worship Service 10:15am Bible Study	28 10:00am Bible Study	29	30 6:00pm Worship Service			

Elders Schedule — September

Wed 2	Sun 6	Wed 9	Sun 13	Wed 16	Sun 20	Wed 23	Sun 27	Wed 30
Randy	Andy	Doug	Scott	John P	Randy	John S	John P	Darryl

