



# HOLY HAPPENINGS

**We are an ELCA,  
Reconciling in Christ,  
and Rejoicing Spirits,  
congregation.**

3461 Cedar Crest Blvd.  
Emmaus, PA 18049  
610-967-2220

info@holyspirit-  
emmaus.org  
www.lchsemmaus.org

## **Upcoming Events**

### **August 23**

Training for Worship  
Leaders  
Blessing of Backpacks

### **August 24**

Drum Circle

### **August 25**

**Church Office Opening  
At 12:30**

### **August 26**

Prime Timer's  
Coffee Hour

### **August 30**

Back to School Bash

## **Sunday, August 23, 2026**

**\*8:30 am Worship and Praise**

**9:00 – 10:30 am Coffee & Fellowship**

**9:45 am Family Worship**

**\*10:45 am Worship**

**Nursery Care is available at all  
morning services in Room 113.**

**\*Worship will be online.**

If you are worshipping with us online,  
please remember to have bread,  
grape juice, or wine available and ready  
for communion.

**Zoom Link:** Meeting ID: 511 504 8051  
Audio only: 929-205-6099

Bulletins are available on the [website](#)  
prior to the Sunday service for those who  
wish to follow along.

If you are interested in watching the  
Pastor's sermon and listening to the  
Gospel, please visit our [website](#) and  
click on the "Watch a video recorded  
Sunday service" button.

Gathered by God's grace and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we invite and welcome all people to join us on our journey to become more faithful ministers of Jesus Christ in our homes, our communities, and the world.

|                        |                         |                      |
|------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|
| <b>August 16, 2026</b> | <b><u>In Person</u></b> | <b><u>Online</u></b> |
| <b>8:30 am</b>         | <b>110</b>              | <b>13</b>            |
| <b>9:45 am</b>         | <b>93</b>               | <b>N/A</b>           |
| <b>10:45 am</b>        | <b>70</b>               | <b>13</b>            |

| <b>WORSHIP HELPERS</b>        | <b>8:30 AM</b>                                      | <b>9:45 AM</b>                       | <b>10:45 AM</b>                                     |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Assisting Ministers</b>    | John Guignet                                        |                                      | Becky Leiby                                         |
| <b>Communion Assistants</b>   | Angie Niland<br>Sue Mathieu                         | Jennifer Wetzel<br>Sheila Huff       | Volunteers Needed                                   |
| <b>Readers</b>                | Leesa Wimmer                                        | Jimmy G.                             | Helen Miller                                        |
| <b>Children's Message</b>     |                                                     | Kristen Newill                       |                                                     |
| <b>Greeters</b>               | Susan Smith                                         | Malkovsky Family                     | Cathy Wimmer                                        |
| <b>Ushers</b>                 | Rob Smith                                           | Malkovsky Family                     | Jeanne Bistras                                      |
| <b>Production/ Technology</b> | Jimmy Lee Werley<br>Al Bauernschmidt<br>Eric Kahler | Al Bauernschmidt<br>Volunteer Needed | Carol Osenbach<br>John Osenbach<br>Volunteer Needed |



### **ENJOY COFFEE AND FELLOWSHIP**

August 23 and 30  
in the Fellowship Center  
between 9:00 am – 10:30 am



### **BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS**

Join us on **Sunday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>** at the 8:30, 9:45, and 10:45 worship service. We invite all (adults, youth, and children) who will begin a new school year to come forward for a blessing. We encourage our students to bring along their backpacks.

### **SUMMER BREAKFASTS**

**Thank you to all who participated in Summer Breakfast this year. We were able to raise \$1156.43 for the Youth to attend the ELCA National Youth Gathering in Minneapolis next summer.**



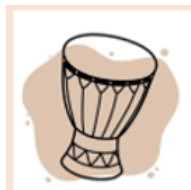
## **TRAINING FOR WORSHIP LEADERS – AUGUST 23**

Have you watched others in worship and said, "I think that is something I can do." We would love for you to join us on August 23rd after the worship you attend, to receive basic training to serve as a worship assistant in the areas of greeter, usher, technology, altar care, reader, assisting minister, communion assistant, music (band, bells, choir), children's message giver, or decorator.

If you cannot make it, please reach out to a staff member and we will be sure to get your name to the leader that will add you to the rotation and make sure you have the training needed. Thanks for considering the ways to be a part of the ministry here at Holy Spirit.

### **LCHS BOOK CLUB**

We will meet on **Monday, August 24<sup>th</sup> at 11 AM** in room 110/112. We will be discussing, "***Listen For The Lie***" by Amy Tintera. On Sept 28, we will be discussing, "***Horse***" by Geraldine Brooks.



### **JOIN US FOR HOLY SPIRIT'S DRUM CIRCLE**

Tap into your creative side, boost your mood, reduce anxiety, meet some wonderful people and come out to make some noise! We will meet on **August 24 at 1:00 pm**. Speak with Melanie Werley for more information.

### **PRIME TIMER'S**

**August 26 – Welcome Back!**

**Coffee Hour at 10:00 am** in the Fellowship Center.

Come for coffee, trivia, baked goods and laughter.

Bring a friend or neighbor.



### **TIME IS RUNNING OUT TO REGISTER....**

**Limited openings remain for the 2026-2027 school year.** Let your friends and family know that registration is taking place now. Please contact [Karin Kahler](#) if you are interested in scheduling a tour. Or visit our website at [www.lchsemmaus.org](http://www.lchsemmaus.org) to register.



## **FAITH FORMATION NEEDS FOR 2026-2027**

Opportunities exist to get involved with our Sunday School program this fall. We are in need of teachers and

teaching assistants for our elementary classes. Sunday School is held each week from 9:55- 10:25 am. Lesson ideas/materials will be provided. Please let Karin Kahler know if you are interested in serving.



## **COMMUNITY GARDEN**

Our church community garden raises produce for the Food Pantries at Grace Lutheran Church in Macungie and Bethel Bible Fellowship Church in Emmaus. If you have any produce from your home garden that you would like to donate, please leave it in the church kitchen, marked for food pantry, on Tuesday afternoon or Wednesday morning by 9:00 am on the **second and fourth Wednesday** of the month only!

## **CHILDREN ARE WELCOME AND CELEBRATED!**

The Children's Ministry table and basket in the worship center lobby contains a variety of items for children's use during worship. Stop by to borrow a book or pick up some coloring sheets and crayons.



## **ALL TOGETHER IN ONE PLACE**

### **"A Call to be Trusted Messengers in this Election Season"**

Read the message from Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry who will be sending out a series of monthly messages through the end of this year, called "All Together in One Place." Each message shares a pastoral word, rooted in Scripture, that witnesses to God's presence today, our rich theological tradition and the social teachings that connect us. Visit the [ELCA homepage's](#) "Features" section to read the latest. His most recent message, on August 19, focused on "[A Call to be Trusted Messengers in this Election Season](#)."

## **WORSHIP LEADER OPPORTUNITIES**

Volunteer to be a **Communion Assistant** at one of our Sunday morning worship services by [clicking here](#) or you could volunteer to be on the **Production/Technology Team** by [clicking here](#).



**ALTAR CARE HELPER** *Would you like to help at church but don't have a lot of time?* Preparing the altar for services is the perfect choice! 15 minutes before and after the service you attend is all that is needed. We will train and support you until you are comfortable.

Worship volunteers choose what days they would like to serve, and training is available. You can also **call the church office** if you are interested in volunteering and Nikki will add you to the list.



## **REQUEST FOR PHOTOS OF 2026 CHURCH EVENTS**

As we did in 2025, the Stewardship Team is collecting photos of various church and community events. We intend to use a selection of the photos we gather in various communications throughout the year. If you have photos from events please email them to Mike Berkheimer at [mdberkheimer@gmail.com](mailto:mdberkheimer@gmail.com) and they will be added to the drive being maintained by the Stewardship Team.



## **BLOOMIN' FAITH MINISTRY**

Thank you for your part in helping us spread the healing power of flowers. Here are some ways you can continue to support our ministry: deliver small bouquets to members; donate flowers from your garden; help make the bouquets the Friday before we deliver. **Upcoming delivery dates are September 26 & October 24.** Please sign up to help by [clicking here](#).



## **Join us on Sundays in August as we explore "Grounded in Connection"!**

Relationships are central to who we are as people of faith. Through our

relationships, we learn, grow, and give and receive love and grace. In this series, we will explore well-known Bible stories that reveal both the joys and challenges of human relationships, community, and life together. Amid the complexity of our connections, we will be reminded once again that God is present, guiding us toward connection, mercy, and grace.

Human beings are relational beings, created by God for deep and meaningful connection. Our physical and mental health, our institutions, our societies, and our spiritual lives all depend on relationships that help us flourish. Justice is not only about right policy and practice; it is also about right relationship. At the Last Supper, Jesus tells his disciples that they are not servants but friends. In this way, connection and relationship become signs of the future God is unfolding and invitations for us to participate in that future now.

Connection begins with conversation: the chance to meet another person deeply and honestly. Our communities are strengthened when we connect with people we may not know well and explore questions of meaning, purpose, and possibility together. Every conversation we have and every connection we make become an opportunity to embody the world we hope to see.

Together, we will journey through these Bible stories as we consider our call to be ministers to one another and to the world.

### **Week 4: Esther & Mordecai - Esther 4**

- “For such a time as this.” This is a story about influence and power being used for the sake of community.

### **Week 5: Peter’s betrayal and re-entry - John 18 and 21**

- After Peter denies Jesus three times, Jesus restores him to the community through a meal and three questions. The story reminds us that there is always a way back into community and always room at the table for those who hunger.

## **Resources that are available:**

### **A Weekly Devotion Book**

- Consider asking someone whom you have always wanted to get to know a little better to be a weekly devotion buddy. Do the devotion together each week. Or if doing it separately works better, then find time for a digital gathering, phone call, or text to discuss your insights.

### **A Family Adventure Pack**

- This resource helps families explore the theme together. It includes a kid-friendly Bible story, reflection questions, activities, and games. Even better, consider joining another family to learn and grow together.

### **Fall Connection Groups Sign-ups**

- Join a Roots & Branches Circle this Fall to deepen connections, grow in faith, and share meaningful conversation with others. These small groups offer a welcoming space to reflect on the “Grounded in Connection” series, build relationships, and discover how God invites us to be rooted in grace and to branch out in love.
- **The ask is:**
  - 1) Meet together 3 times this fall: Sept – Nov. (1 time a month)
  - 2) Learn each other's names
  - 3) Share in a short devotion and prayer that will be provided

### **Roots and Branches Circles (R&B Circles)**

We are launching a new small group ministry open to all. Planted together at the Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit, we are rooted in our connection with God and with one another; this strengthens us to branch out with the hope and care of Jesus into our surrounding community.

These R&B Circles will connect people across our three worship times through once-a-month gatherings in September, October, and November. We will provide a devotion and prayer to share for each month. Your assigned group can decide when to meet and what to do. We hope that you will learn one another's names, and as you get to know a little more about each other, ways to support one another in our life together will continue to grow.

A few ideas to get groups thinking about ways to gather:

- Meet at a park where children can play while conversations can happen; remember to think of an alternative if it's a rainy day
- Meet for a meal out or a meal at someone's house. It can be as simple as hot dogs or pizza, or make it a time of dessert
- Meet at a family's activity that you can join in supporting the child/youth's activity
- Perhaps you can invite the group to join in a serving opportunity that you know is happening
- Schedule a room at the church through Nikki Clark, office manager
- Know that the possibilities are endless, and we will look forward to the ways that your R&B Circles will expand this list.

We are excited to share how you can be a part of this new ministry.

- 1) Sign Up – You will need the names of all in your household, a phone number and email of a family member managing the information being shared, and the worship you attend (helps us to get people assigned into R&B Circles).
- 2) Assigned groups (6 family units - 2 family units from each worship time) will come out by August 26th. Each R&B Circle will receive who is in your group, with contacts, and the person assigned to start the conversation for finding your first time to meet. To be clear, the information given will only be shared with their R&B Circle. After groups are assigned, each circle will choose when and where to meet. A monthly devotion and prayer will be sent at the beginning of each month to guide your time together. Come as you are to meet others!
- 3) If not everyone in your group can attend the gathering, choose the time that works for most people and try to accommodate others the following month.
- 4) If being grouped with another family is important to you, please indicate on the form.
- 5) If you are willing to start the conversation for gathering, let us know, and we give thanks for the ways you are willing to lead.

Any questions can be directed to Pastor Shari. Please sign up by Sunday, August 23<sup>rd</sup> so groups can be formed for September:

- 1) Fill out the form and put it in the offering plate.
- 2) Fill out the form through the QR Code



<https://forms.gle/RxrKHUvZF8qgk4aw8>

As we are rooted together in God's love, we invite you to join an R&B Circle and see how these new connections can strengthen our life together and help us branch out in care for one another and our neighbors. We hope this will be a valuable experience for all, and many will request that new R&B Circles happen in the Spring of 2027.



**Want to expand both your horizons and your tastebuds?** Share fellowship while exploring the many cultures within our Lehigh Valley? The Faith and Civic Life team is starting a dining group entitled, *Our Friends' Table*. We

plan to visit a different restaurant each month; both lunch and dinner times offered. Everything from A to V, Algerian to Vietnamese! Chinese, Indian, Italian, Mexican, Greek, Soul Food, Hungarian, Latin American, Middle Eastern, German, etc.! You say you can't come to every meal? Or don't want to try specific menus? No problem! I intend to announce plans in advance and request RSVPs. Interested to find out more as the group forms? Email your interest to: [ChurchDining@Bashus.com](mailto:ChurchDining@Bashus.com) or contact Pearl Bashus ("Mrs. B" from Sunday School).



## God's work. Our hands.

This year we will be holding our God's Work Our Hands event on **Sunday September 27 at 9:25am.** Alternate worship times will be held to ensure all can participate.

We will be supporting the Allentown Rescue Mission, Lehigh Conference of Churches, Perfect Fit of the YWCA, and Turning Point of the Lehigh Valley. Collections to support our projects will be in August.

During August, we are collecting and need the following for the care bags:

- 400 toothpaste
- 400 toothbrushes
- 400 Chapstick
- 200 Generic or Men's Body Wash
- 200 Generic or Men's Deodorant
- 200 Women's shampoo
- 200 Women's conditioner

All items need to be new and individually sealed for sanitary reasons. Please no multipacks, unless each item is sealed inside the larger package.

Collection boxes will be outside the Fellowship Center starting July 27th. Please see the recipient list located above the collection boxes. If you prefer to donate monetarily and let the GWOH project team shop for you, that is an option.

For more information on this outreach opportunity, please contact Brenda Truhe <mailto:bltruhe@hotmail.com> or at 484-725-2488.

**TRUNK OR TREAT** Summer is ending, and fall is right around the corner! We are looking for helpers in promoting our Trunk or Treat by placing a yard sign on their lawn and/or distributing door flyers in their neighborhood! If you're interested, please see the sign-up sheet in the narthex or email Courtney Keiser ([courtney\\_keiser@yahoo.com](mailto:courtney_keiser@yahoo.com)) no later than September 9<sup>th</sup>.

## **SEPTEMBER ADULT FAITH FORMATION**

Join us this Fall, in the Fellowship Center from 9:30 to 10:30 am each Sunday for Faith Formation. September Speakers and topics are listed below:

- Sept. 13** - Search Team for full-time Director of Faith Formation for Youth and Young Adults
- Sept. 20** - Michael Paston, Chief Clerk of Elections for Lehigh County
- Sept. 27** - God's Work, Our Hands service project



### **Interested in attending the ELCA Youth Gathering 2027 in Minneapolis?**

Want more information? Mark your calendar for an info session on **September 13th** after the late service to learn more! Anyone entering 8th

grade through 12th grade in the fall of 2026 is eligible to attend! If you can't make an interest meeting, reach out to Amber O'Brien for details you might miss!



### **Labor Day Family Camp - September 4-7**

Bring your family, bring your friends, bring your neighbors. We may call it family camp, but it's open to everyone you call family! From Saturday breakfast through Monday lunch, your group will have access to everything camp has to offer — waterfront time, guided hikes, high ropes, archery, arts and crafts, nature center exploration, devotions, worship, and plenty of space to just breathe and be together.

[Click here](#) for more information.

### **The Fall Women's Retreat is back - October 2-4**

Join us October 2nd-4th for a weekend of rest, connection, activities, and the kind of time for yourself that's hard to come by. Set against the beauty of camp in early fall, this is a weekend you will want to hold onto. Find out more by visiting Bear Creek Camp's website or by [clicking here](#).

### **M&M'S WILL RETURN ON SEPTEMBER 16**

We will meet in Room 117/119 at 9:30 am. Our guest speaker will be Carol Campbell, Holy Spirit's Community Health Liaison. Mark your calendars and please join us.



**Please remember these members and friends of Holy Spirit in your prayers.**

**Prayers for God's presence for our homebound members:**

Gayle, Joan, Gordon, Christopher, Janet, Darla, Larry, Jean, Norine, Billie, and Bob.

**Prayers for God's healing in times of illness for our members and**

**friends:** Bill, Doug, Bantok Family, Al, Janet, Phyllis, Joe, Donna, Ron, Mark, Dayton, Lisa, Dick, Greyson, Kathy, John, Doug, Joan, Terry, Janie, Laura, Jack, Kathy, Bob, Patricia, Angie, Carl, Sue, Sally, Lee, Laura, Shiloh, Deb, Wilma, Don, and Robin.

**In times of celebration** for Don and Carol Walrod's 57<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary and for Chuck and Janet Coe's 54<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

**If you, or a member of your family, are ever hospitalized,**

please let the pastors know by contacting the church office at 610-967-2220. The hospitals no longer notify the church due to HIPAA laws.

**Prayer Request Reminder:** Prayers requested for a particular individual will be spoken by name at Sunday worship for one month following the date of the request. Should prayers be desired beyond this initial period, another request may certainly be made. The names of our homebound members will be offered in worship at least once a month.

**In the Event of a Pastoral Emergency** If you are in *emergency* need of having a pastor contact you, please call the church office at 610-967-2220 and press the number 3 after the general announcement.



THE LUTHERAN CHURCH  
OF THE HOLY SPIRIT  
HOSTS:

# BACK TO SCHOOL BASH!



WITH SUMMER ENDING AND SCHOOL STARTING, WE  
WANT TO CELEBRATE A NEW YEAR OF LEARNING WITH  
YOU!



FREE ACTIVITIES FOR KIDS IN GRADES PRE-K-5!  
PRIZES, REFRESHMENTS, AND MORE!

**SUNDAY**  
**AUGUST 30 | 3 PM - 4:30 PM**



3461 S Cedar Crest Blvd,  
Emmaus, PA 18049  
We hope to see you!

Questions? Visit our website!  
<https://lchsemmaus.org>

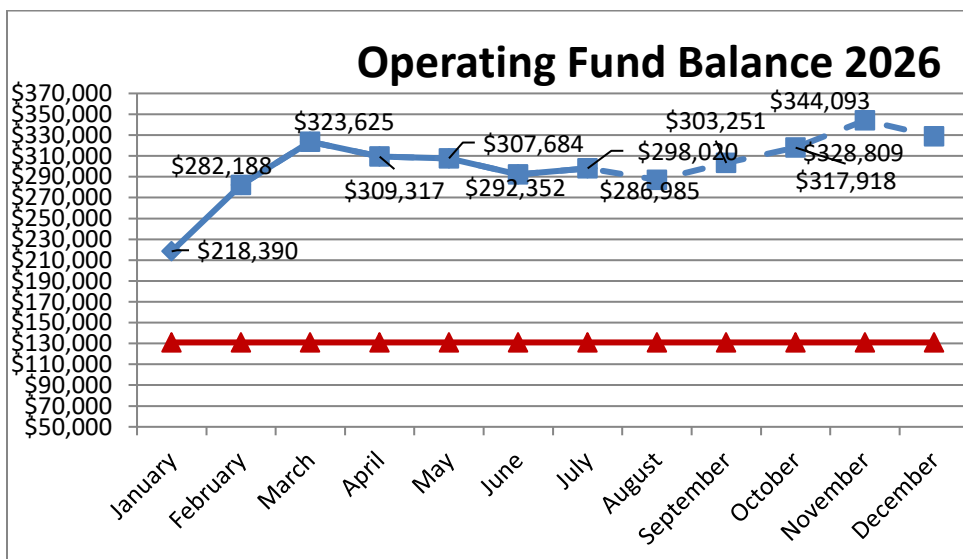


## Financial Results and Discussion – July, 2026

**Operating Performance:** July income was \$86,688, \$20,649 or 31.3% above budget. Operating expenses were \$81,020, \$19,580 or 19.5% below budget. We finished July with a \$5,668 surplus, compared to a budgeted deficit of \$34,562. The graph below presents our operating cash balance shown against our monthly cash requirement **January - December**.

Thank you to everyone that continues to share their financial gifts in support of our ministries!

- **Straight Line at \$131,000:** Represents our 6-week cash requirement to operate the church.
- **Upper Straight Line:** Represents our **current** operating cash balance at the end of each month.
- **Upper Dotted Line:** Represents our **projected** operating cash balance through year end.



**Building Fund:** The building fund increased \$2,785.00 during the month and has a balance of \$13,466.44.

**Mortgage Update:** The mortgage balance as of July 31, 2026, is \$315,980.69.

**OFFICE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED** Our Office Manager, Nikki Clark, will be on vacation the week of September 14 – 18. Volunteers are needed to answer phones and greet visitors from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm on September 14, 15, and 17. Please call the office at 610-967-2220 if you can help one of those days. Thank you.



**GOD'S WORK – OUR HANDS**

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

9:25 am

**BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS**

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4

9:45 am

**FALL GROUNDS CLEAN – UP**

MONDAY, OCTOBER 12

9:00 am-12:00 pm

**TRUNK OR TREAT**

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17

1:00 pm – 2:30 pm

**ALL SAINTS REQUIEM CONCERT**

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1

4:00 PM

## **CALENDAR**

|             |                                                               |                                         |
|-------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| Sun. 8/23   | 12:00 pm                                                      | Cards w/ Friends (110/112)              |
|             | 1:00 pm                                                       | Zumba Class (SC)                        |
| Mon. 8/24   | 10:00 am                                                      | Counters (116)                          |
|             | 11:00 am                                                      | Pastor's Meeting (Office)               |
|             | 11:00 am                                                      | LCHS Book Group (110/112)               |
|             | 1:00 pm                                                       | Drum Circle (Music Room)                |
|             | 6:00 pm                                                       | Total Body Toning Class (SC)            |
|             | 6:30 pm                                                       | Conversation SS/MM (116)                |
| Tues. 8/25  | <b>Staff Day of Service – Church office closed till 12:30</b> |                                         |
|             | 1:00 pm                                                       | Staff Meeting (116)                     |
| Weds. 8/26  | 9:30 am                                                       | Stitch-n-Chat (113)                     |
|             | 10:00 am                                                      | Prime Timer's Coffee Hour (FC)          |
|             | 6:00 pm                                                       | Pop Up Exercise Class (SC)              |
|             | 6:30 pm                                                       | Spirit Ringers (WC)                     |
| Thurs. 8/27 | 6:00 pm                                                       | Plesion Meeting (116)                   |
|             | 6:30 pm                                                       | Requiem Choir (WC)                      |
| Sun. 8/30   | 1:00 pm                                                       | Zumba Class (SC)                        |
|             | 3:00 pm                                                       | Back to School Bash (Lower Parking Lot) |
| Mon. 8/31   | 9:00 am                                                       | Nursery School Planning Mtg. (110/112)  |
|             | 10:00 am                                                      | Counters (116)                          |
|             | 11:00 am                                                      | Pastor's Meeting (Office)               |
|             | 6:00 pm                                                       | Total Body Toning Class (SC)            |
|             | 7:30 pm                                                       | FFY Team (116)                          |
| Tues. 9/1   | 1:00 pm                                                       | Staff Meeting (116)                     |
|             | 6:30 pm                                                       | Community Justice Panel (SC)            |
|             | 6:30 pm                                                       | Trunk or Treat Mtg. (FC)                |
| Weds. 9/2   | 6:00 pm                                                       | Pop Up Fitness Class (SC)               |
|             | 6:30 pm                                                       | Spirit Ringers (WC)                     |
| Thurs. 9/3  | 9:30 am                                                       | NS Sneak Peek                           |
|             | 4:00 pm                                                       | NS Sneak Peek                           |
|             | 6:30 pm                                                       | Staff Support (116)                     |

**The Church office will be closed on Monday, September 7, 2026  
in observance of the Labor Day holiday.**