



Christ Lutheran Church REPORTER

Publication of
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SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

“God’s work, Our hands” is an annual day of service promoted by the ELCA. While we are called to live out our faith in our daily lives, on this day (**Sunday, September 13th**) we are asked to join with our fellow ELCA congregations (over 9,100 strong) to put our faith in action in service to our own communities.

Over the past year, we came together sharing our gifts of time, artistry (the quilts), jackets and shoes, money, prayer, and love in support of Iglesia Luterana Cristo Rey in El Paso as they minister to and support the immigrants on the border. While continuing to support this vital ministry, let’s use “our hands” and hearts to do God’s work by welcoming the stranger a little closer to home. There are several ways to do this. Our primary goal is to for **all of us** to participate!

Here are some ideas:

1. Make a donation to *Canasta Solidaria (Solidarity Basket)*, the feeding program of the Metrowest Immigrant Solidarity Network (MISN). You may donate [online here](#) or send a check to PO Box 409, Framingham, MA 01704. Checks can be made out to MWC-Casa with "Covid" or "Canasta" on the memo line.
2. Advocate. Ascentria Care Alliance offers some idea on their [“Get Involved”](#) page. Cleaning supplies for clients of Ascentria are also welcome and can be left in the bin outside the front door of CLC.
3. Donate school supplies for “at-promise” children and youth in Framingham. [Discovering Hidden Gems](#) is hosting their annual Learning Happens Everywhere back to school event. You can buy school supplies from Amazon and have the supplies delivered directly to the organization. Please check out

their Amazon wish list -

<https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2B2JMLT0IIGGP...>

4. Make health kits for Lutheran World Relief. For instructions, please click [here](#). A bin will be available outside the front door of CLC to collect kits.
5. Sign up for Census and Safe Elections phone-banking. Sign up [here](#).
6. Send an email or write a letter to your representative or senator urging him/her to support funding for food assistance programs. Here is a sample letter:

Dear _____, As a Lutheran and your constituent, I urge you to support funding for food supports. Appropriate funding for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) programs is critically needed to ensure equitable and rapid recovery for families facing hunger during many of life's challenges, particularly recently as we grapple with the impact of COVID-19. I oppose congressional efforts to convert SNAP funding into state block grants which cannot be expanded in the wake of economic downturn and disaster. Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to hearing from you.

Senator Markey: <https://www.markey.senate.gov/contact/share-your-opinion>

Senator Warren: <https://www.warren.senate.gov/contact/shareyouropinion>

7. Demonstrate our discipleship through prayer. When we are intentional in our prayer, the Spirit will open our hearts, helping us to be receptive to where and how we are called to use our gifts.

Harold Lohr is graciously writing a week of prayers focused on welcoming the stranger.

Please don't feel constrained by the ideas listed above. We can come together in service in ways we are each moved to do so. And while we will not be working shoulder to shoulder on this day, we will collectively celebrate all the ways we express our faith by doing God's work with our hands. Toward that end, **please send a photo of yourself, your family, or a symbolic representation of the service project you chose to do.** Please email the photos to office@christnatick.org by Sunday, September 6, and we will compile the images for display on the CLC website, the E-News, the Reporter and during the service on God's work, Our Hands **SUNDAY, September 13!**

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Martha Cronin (mcronin@brandeis.edu), Celeste Larson (racslarson@verizon.net) or Edie Lohr (emlohrs@aol.com).



Pastor's Page

One of the ways we speak of Eucharist is as a “foretaste of the feast to come,” a little taste of Paradise on our tongues. As we long for the day when all of God’s promise will be brought to fruition, we get just a little taste—a sample—to tide us over along the way.

Similarly, I sometimes think of our gathering around the Table of the Lord as a “dress rehearsal” for living in the reign of God: we practice in this holy space the kind of lives we are called to live with Christ Jesus as our head, as citizens of God’s gracious realm. And I see it, don’t you? When we meet together as siblings of Jesus, there is a diversity seldom seen in our daily lives, where we live in neighborhoods of people of similar economic standing and largely the same race; we work among people with similar educational backgrounds and career aspirations; we socialize mostly with friends of similar ages, interests, and political ideologies. Even our social media “friends” largely reflect ourselves more than they broaden our experiences. Church is one of the rare places where we encounter others in a meaningful way.

It’s a rehearsal, too, for the life of justice and mercy we’re called to live. Before we come to Christ’s holy table and share his holy meal, we share a sign of Peace, an affirmation that in Jesus we are one, in Jesus we extend to one another the same forgiveness we have received through him, and seek reconciliation insofar as we are able, with people and with the earth itself.

And at the Supper of the Lamb, we experience, if fragmentarily, the banquet of all of God’s saints of every time and place, united in the Bread and Cup with our forerunners in faith, with our loved ones who have died, and with our siblings across continents and across denominations.

As we tiptoe through the COVID-19 pandemic, cautious, even as Massachusetts statistics seem to be holding steady, most of us acknowledge an increase in overall anxiety wrought by isolation and uncertainty, debilitating for a few, but recognizable for many. Just when we could most benefit from a foretaste of the feast to come, it is denied!

But if sharing in Holy Communion is practice for living in the world in harmony with one another and with creation, it is also the practice of a way of seeing—seeing the holy in every human encounter (even Zoom!), every meal, even if it’s a grilled cheese sandwich or a bowl of oatmeal.

On September 10, CLC will be offering a (virtual) Agape Feast, or Love Feast. While not a Sacrament in the strict sense, it is a holy meal, intended to celebrate God’s presence among us in every meal, in prayer, song, and holy conversation. Please see the summer *Reporter* for a more detailed description, and watch the weekly e-news for an invitation. If the number of participants is small, we’ll share the feast as a single group; if the number is larger, we’ll break into “chat” groups as we do for virtual coffee hour.



The meal is simple, in the Moravian Church where it is a staple of communal life, a sweet roll and coffee. You are welcome to prepare whatever simple foods you like, fruits and cheese, rolls and coffee, a grilled cheese sandwich or a bowl of oatmeal, and if you'd like, I can offer contact-free delivery of a few rolls or pastry. Just let me know!

One more thing: I'll be asking a few of you to offer a poem or prayer or reflection. Please consider whether you might say yes to that invitation.

Peace in Christ.

Pr. Rebecca Bourret

Summer Worship Time

Summer worship will continue to be held at 10:00. Log in on Zoom! The invitation and password are available on our website, www.christnatick.org. Feel free, as always, to invite a friend!



Music Notes September 2020
Tom Berryman, Music Director

Beautiful music is the art of the prophets that can calm the agitations of the soul; it is one of the most magnificent and delightful presents God has given us.

– Martin Luther

The constraints of social distancing during the past six months have required a certain resourcefulness on the part of singers and players. We want to continue to make music and to make music with others. We want to sing hymns together because it's a powerful, moving experience. Our CLC players and singers have been stepping forward to try new ways of leading music in our online worship. Some send recorded tracks from home, others come into church and record (properly distanced, of course). Our bell choir has begun rehearsing live and in person, making recordings in the church. New equipment has enabled us to make higher quality recordings.

We give thanks that these recordings allow us to make music, even as it's still a faint reflection of the real thing. We give thanks for the contributions of our members and friends and for their dedication to service through music.

This Fall

The **CLC Choir** will continue to rehearse weekly online via ZOOM. Included in each meeting will be vocal calisthenics, musicianship training, hymn singing and work on music for recording. You are welcome to join us. Just contact me at tomberryman@rcn.com

The **CLC Bell Choir**, under Kim Petot's leadership, has resumed live rehearsals on Thursday's at 6:45 pm. Please contact Kim Petot kim3petot@gmail.com for more information about playing.

Our **Land and Seasons** group has been busy making recordings and we are pleased to welcome new players. Contact me at tomberryman@rcn.com if you are interested in joining.

We plan to continue a monthly Thursday evening hymn sing, like our series this summer. I hope you'll join us and sing a long from home!

The Worship, Music and Visual Arts Committee is interested in your feedback on Zoom worship. Would you please take five minutes to respond to a few questions? Find the survey here: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeAa8ip2E-ExenNKzQCer52YsaW_M79ABh_Ioeil0nps8oJRO/viewform

Thank you!



ELCA Anti-Racism Pledge

And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him (Colossians 3:17).

In 2019, at the ELCA Churchwide Assembly, voting members [adopted a resolution](#) designating June 17 as a commemoration of the martyrdom of the Emanuel 9—the nine people shot and killed on June 17, 2015, during a Bible study at Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, S.C. Congregations of the ELCA are encouraged to mark this day of penitence with study and prayer.

As church we are called to confess the sin of racism, condemn the ideology of white supremacy, and strive for racial justice and peace. Beyond statements and prayers, we are called to also act and respond to injustices. We invite you to commit to one or more of the actions below:

1. Sign the pledge: “I commit to study, prayer and action to become an anti-racist individual in an anti-racist church,” and share your participation on social media using #ELCA4justice: <https://www.elca.org/racialjusticepledge>
 2. Work to dismantle racial injustice by [listening](#) to voices, experiences and the expertise of people of color. Learn about the [ELCA ethnic-specific associations](#) and their [strategies](#).
 3. Learn the history of systemic racism in this country and the ways racism and white supremacy impact every aspect of our life together.
 4. Join, support or attend your synod’s anti-racism team or work with your synod leadership to start one in your congregation. Study the ELCA social statement “[Freed in Christ: Race, Ethnicity, and Culture](#)” and the “[Explanation of the Declaration of the ELCA to People of African Descent](#).”
 5. Explore and use on “God’s work. Our hands.” Sunday the forthcoming ELCA Advocacy resources on a “Just Society Supporting the Health of All,” which are focused on advancing racially equitable public policies, and by engaging in [ELCA votes](#) to encourage and ensure voting rights for all.
 6. Start where you are by joining community organizations working for racial justice.
 7. Reach out to build or [deepen relationships](#) with Historic Black Churches. Consider using the congregational resource “[Understanding One Another](#),” co-authored by the ELCA and the African Methodist Episcopal Church, or our [Joint Statement of Mission](#) with the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church as a way to get started.
 8. Explore and use the [anti-racism resources](#) of our ecumenical partners through the [A.C.T. Now to End Racism](#) initiative of the National Council of Churches.
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Let our prayers of lament be turned into ongoing actions for racial justice.

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop

Mr. William B. Horne II
Vice President

The Rev. Tracie L. Bartholomew
Chair, Conference of Bishops

A Special Request from Eve Benda, Coordinator, The Diaper Project at A Place To Turn

September 21st through September 27th, 2020 is National Diaper Need Awareness Week. Each year The Diaper Project has outreached area faith-based organizations to host diaper drives during this week to help families obtain diapers at A Place To Turn in Natick, our distribution site. Because of Covid-19 restrictions, we are promoting a financial support campaign instead of a diaper drive to keep babies clean, dry and healthy.



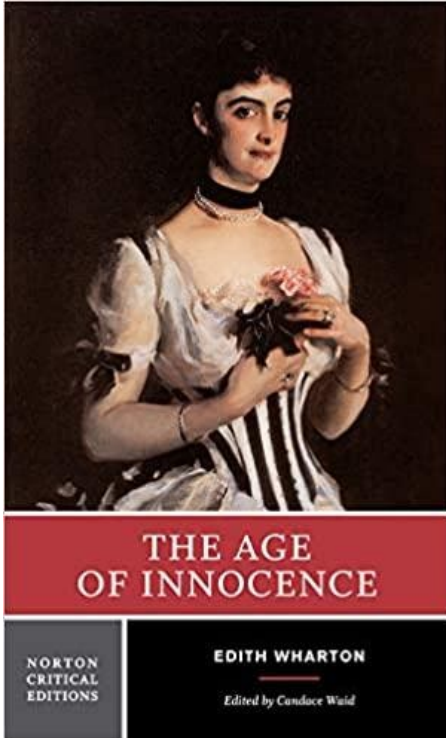
We ask that between Sunday September 20th and 27th congregants write a check made out to your church with "Diaper Project" in the memo line. A check for the amount collected can be mailed to A Place To Turn, 99 Hartford St., Natick, MA 01760. Your participation in the "Keep Babies Clean, Dry and Healthy" diaper campaign will enable The Diaper Project to purchase the 20,000 diapers normally collected by the September drives.

By publicizing this campaign in the church newsletter/bulletin, the church will raise awareness about diaper need, the desperate financial situations many families face and about how they can support these families. It will also help inform financially stressed families in your congregation that they can obtain needed diapers at their local diaper bank. Because of support by the communities we serve, The Diaper Project distributed 90,876 diapers to 1100 Metrowest families in 2019. Between January and July 2020 alone, we have distributed 45,390 diapers to 604 low income families.

We would appreciate your support by publishing the attached notice for the "Keep Babies Clean, Dry and Healthy" diaper campaign. The notice can be customized and published in the church newsletter/bulletin, emailed to your congregants, and published again during National Diaper Need Awareness Week.

Please forward this email to the person/committee in charge of community outreach, social justice or related programs in the church. I can be contacted at 508-872-7125 or thediaperproject@yahoo.com. Thank you for your assistance with this important community service project.

Warmest regards,
Eve Benda,
Coordinator, The Diaper Project at A Place To Turn



BOOK GROUP, Monday, October 5, 7:30 pm via Zoom

Edith Wharton's novel, *The Age of Innocence*, depicts 19th century New York high society and its restrictive norms of behavior. Newland Archer, the scion of a wealthy "old New York" family finds himself attracted to free-spirited Countess Ellen Olenska, a former member of their exclusive circle who has just rejoined her family after leaving her cruel husband in Europe.

Engaged to May Welland, a member of elite society, Newland begins an emotional entanglement with Ellen that clashes with their order-obsessed society. Wharton draws on her own personal experiences as a member of one of New York's oldest families in this portrayal of the Gilded Age becoming the first woman to receive a Pulitzer Prize.

Join the group discussion by contacting Marianne Swenson mswenson10@comcast.net.



To whom it may concern,

I would like to wholeheartedly thank everyone at the Christ Lutheran Church for their generous donation of the space to the production of *Twelve Years and What Worth*.

Making art of this kind in the time of COVID-19 requires so much dedication and support, and I am forever grateful that we had the privilege of using this space to help create that art. Without the Christ Lutheran Church, we would not have been able to bring to life our new musical and do something never before in filming the choreography, blocking, and recording the music while completely socially distant.

Although no amount of money would be able to repay your assistance—we hope that you accept this freewill donation of \$200 from the cast of *Twelve Years and What Worth*.

The show will be available for streaming online in about a month and we will make sure to let you know how to view it and when it premieres.

I think that I speak for everyone in the cast and crew when I thank you from the bottom of my heart for the opportunity to rehearse and record in your wonderful space.

Best,

(signed)

Clay Napurano

Twelve Years and What Worth: Writer, Director and Producer

To the Lutheran Church Treasurer:

We are the Thursday night ACA 7:30 meeting.

We would like to pay/donate July/August/September rent plus a little extra.

Thank you.

SUNDAY WORSHIP LEADERS

Sunday	Prayer Leader	First Lesson	Second Lesson	Responses
Sept. 6	John Whitlock	Beth Castro	Lisa Eck	Audrey & Ruth Colson
Sept. 13	Cathy Gallagher	David Ripp	Celeste Larson	Patricia Bianco
Sept. 20	George Hall	Amy Lousararian	Russell Pollard	Rolf & Celeste Larson
Sept. 27	Joyce Simon	Alan Avalos	Pam Bathen	Jeff Kinney
Oct. 4	Phil Roberts	Ellen Zagajeski	Rolf Larson	Lisa & David Ripp Eck

***Are you willing to be the voice of the assembly, speaking the responses (e.g.,
And also with you")? Please contact Pr. Bourret!***

All worship leaders are asked to prepare for Sunday worship on Saturday at 6:00 p.m. (via Zoom).





1 Give thanks and take comfort in knowing that God is trustworthy and unwavering in remembering and accompanying us every moment of our lives — in our joy, suffering and complicated situations.

2 September often marks a time of beginning, with students starting school, congregations launching programs and creation transitioning into a new season. But due to the pandemic, this year is different, presenting challenges we have not faced before. Pray that the Spirit will grant us wisdom, creativity and patience as we seek new ways of being church together, attend to the needs of children and youth, care for one another and fight the spread of COVID-19.

3 There is no better time than right now for us to hold on to what is good, treat one another with respect, extend hospitality to strangers and those different from ourselves, seek peace, and care for our neighbors, including our enemies. Pray for strength, empathy, compassion and boldness in our faith and daily life as we follow Jesus.

4 In the name of the God who creates every human being out of love, and remembering the ELCA social teaching that “the God who justifies expects all people to do justice,” pray that more Christians will enter into public conversation about and take action to safeguard the dignity due to all children of God.

5 Pray that, as Election Day grows closer, our conversations, deliberations and decisions will be guided by our faith, the teachings of Jesus, and our concern for justice, reconciliation, unity and the well-being of all people and communities.

6 Conflict and hurtful actions are part of our human nature and experience — in the church, in society and in the world. Ask God to grant us humility, concern for one another and, when there is conflict, the courage to forswear vengeance, engage each other and work toward truth, understanding, reconciliation and unity.

7 Pray for farmers, ranchers and agricultural workers as they struggle through the pandemic. Ask God to bless every aspect of their work, from planning and planting to tending crops and animals to harvesting and distributing their bounty, which feeds the world.

8 Pray that the Spirit might help us understand and follow the ways and commandments of God for the well-being of humanity, and that our life together might shine with justice, compassion, unity, care for those who suffer and a vibrant faith in Jesus Christ.

9 Remember in prayer our siblings in Christ and companions in Latin America and the Caribbean region. Pray that we will support each other — through prayer, generosity and sharing of resources — to spread the gospel, train and support leaders, respond to the needs of communities, work for justice and grow the church.

10 During this anniversary year, marking a half century of Lutheran women being ordained in the United States, give thanks for the gifts and service that women pastors have brought to our church and our world; lament that women have been barred from serving and have been bullied, dismissed and excluded; ask forgiveness; and resolve that we will welcome, encourage and respect women of all ages and backgrounds as they respond to God's call to ministry and service.

11 Remember in prayer the leaders, voting members and others gathering online for the Northeastern Ohio Synod Assembly, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and encourage them in choosing leaders, proclaiming the gospel, growing the church, serving our neighbor and doing God's work in an ever-changing world.

12 Pray that, with the assurance of God's forgiveness and our salvation, we will experience the freedom to love and value our neighbor, living with purpose and a sense of each day's importance.

13 "God's work. Our hands." Sunday Pray that our congregations, together with neighboring congregations, ecumenical and interreligious partners, community organizations and Lutheran agencies, will respond daily to the endless opportunities for serving our neighbor and addressing critical social needs, loving our neighbors and making our communities stronger, healthier and more hopeful.

14 Pray for our pastors, our youth and family ministers, our congregational leaders and our synod staff as they learn new things amid difficult times. Give thanks for the work of the Spirit in equipping leaders with new skills, new perspectives and renewed creativity for sharing the gospel, building up the church and doing God's work in the world.

15 National Hispanic Heritage Month Give thanks to God for the gifts, history, contributions and rich cultural diversity of our Latino brothers and sisters, and pray for the growth and vitality of the 147 ELCA Latino ministries and the Latino Association (Asociación Ministerios Latinos ELCA) as they share the good news of Jesus Christ, encourage our unity in him and promote Christian values that unite Latinos of the ELCA as a "community of communities."

16 As children of God, give thanks and bless the Lord for being "merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love."

17 Give thanks for the good we do together through ELCA World Hunger and our partners, responding to the critical needs of people everywhere. Pray that our work will bring hope and relief to communities in need and will foster sustainable solutions that get at the root causes of hunger and poverty.

18 When forgiving someone is difficult, pray for the patience and mercy toward others that Jesus describes to Peter — the same inexhaustible patience and mercy God has demonstrated toward us.

19 Reflect on members of your congregation and community and pray for specific people who are grieving, celebrating or trying to sort out their lives right now, or who simply could use our thanks and gratitude.

20 Pray that our acts of generosity will be driven by our faith, without partiality, restraint, the promise of reward or recognition, or the expectation of earning God's favor.

21 Thank God for our special relationship with the Moravian Church in America, a full communion partner with the ELCA since 1999. Pray for the church, its diverse ministries and its members and leaders, and pray that together we will find mutual support, new partnerships and new resources for the work of sharing the gospel and serving our neighbor.

22 Pray that reflecting on the ways and word of God will help us understand how God's amazing grace and forgiveness are directed toward all humanity, including people we judge to be undeserving or beyond saving. Remember the undeserved gifts of love, forgiveness, new life and salvation we have received through Jesus Christ, and give thanks and praise to God.

23 Ask the Spirit to help and inspire us as we deliver messages of hope, joy, truth, unity, positive change and God's kindness in the world.

24 Pray for our siblings in Christ in Asia and the Pacific region, that we might support each other, share our resources and spread the gospel across diverse cultures and languages, growing the church by working for justice, training and supporting leaders, and responding to the needs of communities.

25 Remember in prayer the leaders, voting members and others gathering online for the Saint Paul Area Synod Assembly, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and encourage them in choosing leaders, proclaiming the gospel, growing the church, serving our neighbor and doing God's work in an ever-changing world.

26 "Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; his greatness is unsearchable." Give thanks to God and tell everyone about God's grace, mercy and wonderful works for the sake of the world — works we are called to join in together as children of God.

27 Pray for the Spirit to help us recognize, trust and appreciate God's authority and power over all creation, the universe and our everyday lives.

28 Pray for our seminaries, colleges, universities and campus ministries as they work to create new approaches to education, fostering community among students and faculty when they cannot be physically present. Pray that we will be generous in supporting ELCA educational institutions and student ministries that are vital to our church and society.

29 Michael and All Angels There is so much we do not fully comprehend about heaven, earth and the means — including angels and divine beings — by which God has interacted with us throughout human history. Pray that our faith and the inspiration of the Spirit will open our minds, hearts and imaginations to the infinite, mysterious and awesome ways that God is present and at work in the world.

30 Pray for individuals and families trying to immigrate to our nation or seeking asylum and safety as they face changing laws, complicated procedures and unwelcoming situations and people. Pray that the love of God dwelling within us will move us to step forward and practice hospitality, compassion, understanding and empathy as bold advocates who accompany immigrants and refugees during their difficult and confusing experiences.

“This life therefore is not righteousness, but growth in righteousness, not health, but healing, not being, but becoming, not rest, but exercise. We are not yet what we shall be, but we are growing toward it, the process is not yet finished, but it is going on. This is not the end but it is the road. All does not yet gleam in glory, but all is being purified.”

--Martin Luther

Love Feast/Agape Meal
Thursday, September 10, 6:00 p.m.

At home, prepare some simple, enjoyable food, perhaps pastry or a plate of deviled eggs, along with coffee or tea, cider or lemonade.

A musical piece is played as people prepare their tables.

A table blessing is offered:

Every good and perfect gift comes from you, O God. Bless this food, and help us to receive it with thankful hearts. By your Spirit nourish our love for one another and for our neighbor in need; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

As people eat, a Scripture is read.

Psalm 145: 8-21

Conversation as a group, or in small “chat rooms”:

“What has been difficult? What has been life-giving?”

ELW 644 Although I Speak with Angel Tongues

Poem read by Russell Pollard

Closing Prayer:

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray: O God of the crucified and risen One, from whom no trial or trouble can separate us: you feed us with your Word and soothe us with your Spirit, closer to us than breath itself. Make us glad this night for the life of your servant Jesus; Make us servants of all for the sake of Jesus; who for our sake gave his life for the salvation of all. In the Name of Jesus, your Son, our Lord. **Amen.**

Note: A more complete order will be sent out with the Zoom invitation to the Agape Feast.

UPCOMING EVENTS ...at a glance

Thursday, September 10, 6:00 p.m.	Virtual Agape Feast
Sunday, September 13	"God's Work. Our Hands." Day
Sunday, September 20, 7:00 p.m.	Outdoor evening Prayer Service
Sunday, October 18	Pledge Sunday
Sunday, October 25	Reformation Sunday (Wear something RED!)

The October Reporter deadline is September 20, 2020.



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