



**PASTOR'S LETTER**

We celebrate Labor Day this month, so I did a little research on Labor Day. I've always known it as a 3-day weekend, and as a child it marked the start of school. It was a day to have a picnic or BBQ. And really, that's fairly close to what it was meant to be.

Most states were already celebrating Labor Day when it signed into law by Pres. Grover Cleveland on June 28, 1894. From the start it was on the first Monday in September. At the time (the height of the Industrial Revolution), the average American worked 12 hour days, 7 days a week, often in unsafe conditions, little fresh air, few sanitary facilities and breaks (History.com). The US Labor Dept. webpage describes Labor Day this way: "Labor Day is an annual celebration of the social and economic achievements of American workers. The holiday is rooted in the late nineteenth century, when labor activists pushed for a federal holiday to recognize the many contributions workers have made to America's strength, prosperity, and well-being."

What surprised me in my research, however, is that in 1909 the American Federation of Labor, in conjunction with the Federal Council of Churches, adopted the preceding Sunday as Labor Sunday dedicated to the spiritual and educational aspect of the Labor Movement. I can't remember if I ever heard about this in seminary. If I did, it certainly didn't stick with me and it's no longer a recognized day.

As I read more about "Labor Sunday," there were definite political undertones (to put it mildly) in regard to both the start of and the end of Labor Sunday. And while I found it interesting, religion and politics have often made for strange bedfellows. It wasn't what I hoped to learn about Labor Sunday, because there are spiritual aspects to our work or labor.

So, let me revert to teachings from Luther. Luther spoke more about "vocation" than work. During Luther's time, vocation only referred to religious vocations- the call to the priesthood, or as a monk or nun. But Luther believed that everyone had a calling, a vocation. His thinking was influenced by 1 Corinthians 7:20: "Everyone should remain in the state in which he was called." Which at first meant that a person didn't have to leave their life to become a priest, monk or nun in order to follow God's call. Luther claimed that every person was already in a vocation.

From there, his thinking evolved to the idea that our calling from Christ (vocation) doesn't take us out of daily life, but changes our attitude and understanding of our daily life, including our work. So, everything we do in our daily life becomes the way we witness to God's love. In terms of our work or labor, how do we see our work/labor as a place to serve God and our neighbor?

Something to think about as we celebrate Labor Day.

*Blessings, Pastor Sandra*

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**UPDATE ON RETURNING TO WORSHIP:**

As per CDC and mayoral guidelines, please wear your masks inside the building.  
Thank you for keeping our members safe, especially those with underlying conditions.



### TOWN HALL MEETING SEPT 12TH

The Church Council would like to share with the members the current situation on the nursery building addition. We've been able to accomplish some things and have been stalled in others. The Town-hall meeting will take place after worship on Sunday, Sept. 12. Please mark your calendars.

#### GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS

SEPTEMBER 12



Our Ministry Team is going to take cookies to First Responders as a thank-you to these helpers in our community.

Please sign up on the sheet on the piano in the narthex if you would like to bake. The more cookies the team has, the more first-responders they can serve! They hope to reach as many station houses as possible.

After baking, please put the cookies in small ziplock-style bags of 6 or large ziplock-style bags of 12, and bring them to the church office in Luther House by Thursday, September 9.

**THE MINISTRY TEAM THANKS YOU IN ADVANCE!**

## CIELO: Unity in Action

By Jennifer Alaniz

On September 2, 2021 CIELO Gardens will have a volunteer workday. Volunteers from Tito's Vodka, Green Spaces Alliance, and Catholic Charities will be joining us with generous contributions made by New Earth and Les Dames San Antonio Chapter for supplies and materials. At 11 am, we will break to share a meal. Gardeners and Catholic Charities students will be providing traditional dishes from their countries of origin to share. Please RSVP to Jennifer Yanez-Alaniz at 210-362-8633 if you would like to join us as we share a meal and enjoy conversation and fellowship.

### CAM DONATIONS FOR SEPTEMBER PEANUT BUTTER AND JELLY

SEPTEMBER  
CELEBRATIONS

Birthdays:	Sandra Leifeste, 9/17
Frieda Atkinson 9/5	Faye Randow, 9/19
Amanda Winter, 9/9	Shirley Ehrlich, 9/24
Robert Garner, 9/10	Mary Rice, 9/29
Eva Poblano, 9/14	Anniversaries: None
Roberta Hanes, 9/16	



#### RETURNING TO IN-PERSON ACTIVITIES UPDATE

Quilting on Mondays, Bible Study on Tuesdays, and Art Group on Wednesdays have all resumed in-person in the Education Wing of the church building.



**PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER**

Harry Miller, Frieda Atkinson, DeWitt Atkinson, Bob French, Donald Leonard, Edna Hacker, Peter Georgiev, Alice Little, Marion Schroeder, Karen French, Kay Radlinger, Faye Randow, Jolanda Wood, Scott Dittloff, Marta Yanez, Jess Young, and Our Military, particularly Michael Foglio, Christian Alaniz, Jordan Bielfeldt, and all of our veterans.

**BACK TO SCHOOL AT COLONIES NORTH**

It is time for the annual donations to the Colonies North schoolchildren. Information on what is needed will be posted when the school sends it to us. For now, you can always make a financial donation by marking it as “for Colonies North School” or, if you give electronically with Tithe.Ly, you can designate it for the school fund.

**A MESSAGE FROM DEACON INTERN LISA DIANA**

Dear House of Prayer Family,

Thank you so much for your wonderful gifts—for the beautiful deacon stole and for the monetary gifts. This has been such a blessed time with you, despite COVID. I'm glad I was able to make House of Prayer my internship home during this important step of my vocational journey.

God's peace,  
Lisa Diana

**The Cross Trails Ministry Fall Festival, Fredericksburg Marktplatz  
September 18, 2021 from 9am to 3pm, [www.crosstrails.org](http://www.crosstrails.org)**

Check out how you can be involved in raising funds and sharing many more years of camp to come!

**Virtual 5K Run/Walk** – Join us in kicking off our Fall Festival by signing up for our Virtual 5K. You will have till September 15th to run or walk and submit your best time!

**Be a Sponsor** – We are still looking for sponsors to help support this annual event to help us raise funds for the future of camping ministry! If you, your congregation, your business, or your organization is interested in helping us keep even costs low, please fill out the form! You will be featured on all our web and social media platforms, on our 5K shirts, printed publications, and more.

**Be a Craft Vendor** – Our craft fair is BACK! If you are a craft vendor that is interested in participating, sign up today! Spaces are limited and will be booked on a first come, first served basis. Registration for our craft vendors will close September 10th.

**Donate a Quilt** – This year we are hosting an online and in-person quilt auction! We are looking for folks to donate quilts to be bid on and auctioned off. Once quilts are in, they will be showcased online and at the Fall Festival event in Fredericksburg. We would love for anyone interested in donating a quilt to fill out this form. We are taking quilt donations till August 31st.

**Be a Volunteer** – We are looking for volunteers to help in several areas of the in person event like helping with carnival games, taking pictures, checking in with guests, and more! If this might be something you, a group of friends, or a church group might be interested in, please sign up or let us know if you have any questions.

**Virtual Cook-Off** – The chili cook-off has been one of the longstanding traditions and highlights of our Fall Festival. This year, we would love for congregations or individuals to host a meal or cook-off on your church campus of your liking and



collect an offering that can be given toward our festival fundraising. Whether it's pancakes, spaghetti, or chili, cook-offs bring some fun and yum! Contact the Cross Trails office to let us know your intentions to participate or if you have any questions. Don't forget to share pictures with us!

**Gift Card Wheel Donation** – We would love for you to be part of our event even if you can't attend in person. One more way to do that in addition to the Virtual 5K and Virtual Cook-Off is to consider donating to our Gift Card Wheel for our in-person event. Click the link and choose a gift card and monetary denomination you would like to include. We are collecting these donations till September 10th and appreciate your participation in this year's festivities!

**Cornhole Tournament** – Making its Fall Festival debut is our first ever Cornhole Tournament! We are looking for youth teams, adult teams, and inter-generational teams to compete in this event. The tournament will take place at our Fall Festival day event in the Fredericksburg Marktplatz beginning at 10am with the last round of competition beginning at 2:30pm. Winners of each division will be announced and awarded prizes. Registration closes September 10th.

**VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE**

	Readers	PowerPoint	Tellers	Altar Guild	
Sept. 5	Randy Stephenson	Kirsten Mangin	Karen Forse & Roberta Hanes	Dick Thackston Green/Pentecost 15	This month's usher is Roberta Hanes
Sept. 12	Roger Mathre		Karen Long & Jenifer Larson	Peggy Thackston Green/Pentecost 16	
Sept. 19	Elizabeth Miller	Julie Rowe	Linda Johnson & Roger Mathre	Jan Kinnunen Green/Pentecost 17	This month's Communion Assistant is Eva Poblano
Sept. 26	Marcus Trejo		Paige Vetter & Julie Rowe	Dick Thackston Green/Pentecost 18	



**GREAT NEWS!**

One of our members, Sergio Rodriguez, will be ordained into the Ministry of Word and Sacrament on Sunday, September 19, 2021 at Christ the King Lutheran Church in Houston.

**BLESSINGS AND CONGRATULATIONS!**



SEPTEMBER 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
			Art Group 1:00 -3:00 p.m.	CIELO EVENT (see pg. 2)		
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Worship: In-person at 10:00 with a livestream to our Facebook page; it will be uploaded to our website afterwards.  11:00 Adult Bible Study		8 a.m. Adult Bible Study in the Quilting Room	Art Group 1:00 -3:00 p.m.	GOD'S WORK OUR HANDS COOKIE MINISTRY Cookies due in church office at Luther House		
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Worship: In-person at 10:00 with a livestream to our Facebook page; it will be uploaded to our website afterwards.  TOWN HALL MEETING replaces Bible Study		8 a.m. Adult Bible Study in the Quilting Room	Art Group 1:00 -3:00 p.m.			
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Worship: In-person at 10:00 with a livestream to our Facebook page; it will be uploaded to our website afterwards.  11:00 Adult Bible Study		8 a.m. Adult Bible Study in the Quilting Room	Art Group 1:00 -3:00 p.m.			
26	27	28	29	30		
Worship: In-person at 10:00 with a livestream to our Facebook page; it will be uploaded to our website afterwards.  11:00 Adult Bible Study		7 a.m. Adult Bible Study in the Quilting Room	Art Group 1:00 -3:00 p.m.			



**HOUSE OF PRAYER**  
[houseofprayerlutheranchurch@gmail.com](mailto:houseofprayerlutheranchurch@gmail.com)  
<https://www.facebook.com/hoplcsa/>  
[www.hoplcsa.org](http://www.hoplcsa.org)  
(210) 696-1194

Worship depends on quarantine restrictions and can be viewed on our website. Office hours are Tuesday through Friday, from 3:00 – 5:30 p.m.; for emergencies, please call Pastor Sandra at 210-248-7837.

Reverend Sandra Leifeste  
Dick Thackston, Congregation President  
Marcus Trejo, Vice President  
Jenifer Larson, Treasurer  
Shirley Vasquez, Member @ Large  
Personnel, Dave Johnson  
Worship Team, TBA  
Emmie Lou Schwarzer, Ministry Team  
Eva Poblano, Fellowship  
Roberta Hanes, Stewardship  
Bob French, Property  
Jennifer Alaniz, CIELO Ministries

**MORE VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED**

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS



HOME-COMMUNION

MINISTERS



POWERPOINT PROJECTORS



ALTAR GUILD

**SCHEDULES ARE FLEXIBLE!**

HOUSE OF PRAYER LUTHERAN CHURCH  
10226 IRONSIDE  
SAN ANTONIO TX 78230

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

DATED MATERIAL  
PLEASE DELIVER PROMPTLY