

# September Newsletter

## Connect with Us



The Rev. Lee R. Gable, Pastor



32756 150th Street  
Cedar Falls, Iowa 50613



319-989-2065



[www.FredsvilleLutheran.org](http://www.FredsvilleLutheran.org)



[Fredsville@FredsvilleLutheran.org](mailto:Fredsville@FredsvilleLutheran.org)



@Fredsvillelutheran

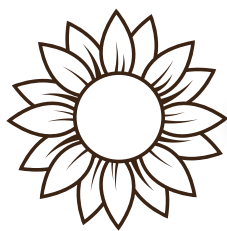


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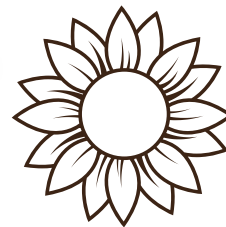
@Fredsvillevideos

## Upcoming Events

- **September** - Season of Creation
- **September 9** - 7:00 pm  
Confirmation meeting
- **September 13** - Confirmation  
Kickoff at Worship
  - meal after service
- **September 16** - 6:30 - 8:00 pm  
Confirmation Class



# Septmeber 2026



## Birthdays

Dustin Wildeboer- 1  
Paige Frahm- 2  
Beth Hines- 5  
Renee Griffith- 7  
Vernon Johnson- 8  
Isabella Bakker- 9  
Callen Johannsen- 10  
Megan Yearous- 11  
Darla Andersen- 13  
Kelly Nicholson- 14  
Kimberly Schmidt (Fowlkes)- 16  
Ashley Dumler- 17  
Joann Juhl- 21  
Violet Mounce- 25  
Brent Knutson- 27  
Lance Loger- 27  
Shari Bakker- 28  
Dan Petersen- 29  
Coyle Dall- 30

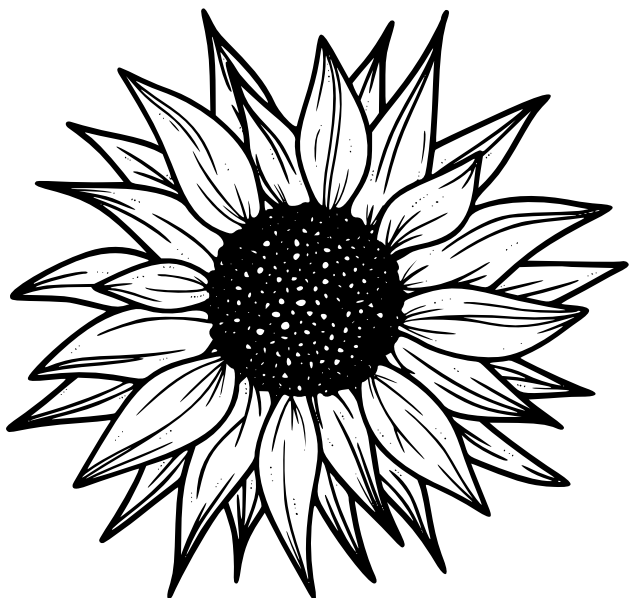
## Anniversaries

Paul & Laura Koch- 1  
Jim & Helene Wertz- 1  
Matthew & Stefanie Swinton- 13  
Reid & MacKenzie Nuss- 14  
Daniel & Maureen Crotty- 24  
Jason & Cara Lott- 29

## Prayer List

- Jim Loger
  - fell and broke his leg
- Sharon Hemmen
  - recovering from surgery
- Deana Peters  
(SIL of Jana and Cory Hermann)
  - Breast Cancer Treatment
- Angie Wibben
  - recovering from sugery

These names were received by the church from the individual or their family and have consented to have their names released to the Fredsville congregation. Please do not hesitate to contact the church office (319-989-2065) to be included in our weekly prayers or contact Pastor Lee.



## Pastoral Pondering .... Living Water The Season of Creation Theme for 2026

The air is decorated in bird song, the breeze makes the flowers gently dance as sunlight filters through the branches above. Breathe deep, in, out ... become aware of the gift of Creation that holds us beautiful and beloved. We are created to live and thrive in harmony with all of Creation.

Our religious traditions have cycles of prayer and practice that reflect the seasons and cycles of the Creation around us. As a Lutheran pastor one of the seasons that I have come to hold near is the Season of Creation, practiced September 1-October 4. This is a season of intentional time to root our lives of prayer in the holy ground beneath our feet. A movement germinated in 1989 from the Eastern Orthodox tradition as a Day of Prayer for Creation, has now cascaded across the globe as a season of prayer and action that bookends with the a day that recognizes Saint Francis of Assisi, author of the Canticle of Creation and whose ministry has inspired the care of Creation for 800 years.

The Season of Creation invites our creative engagement, to weave together our prayer practices with the environment. This might include bringing more seasonal creation elements into your sacred space or taking our communal prayer on a sojourn into the open air. What language in prayers and rituals could be adopted for a season to reflect community with creation? Could bird songs become part of our music, offering a connection to voices of creation's choir? How might the groaning of creation, wildfires, water pollution, and more be recognized and held in tension with our apathy and action?

The Season of Creation, as embodied in the Christian tradition, has an annual theme and resources to focus our efforts. ([seasonofcreation.org](http://seasonofcreation.org)) This year's theme is "Living Water". Water is essential for daily life among all people of every faith tradition. How might we become more aware of water's presence and role in our sacred stories? The waters of history flow in the present, through our rituals, gardens, and communities. How might we be intentional about recognizing our relationship to water in daily life?

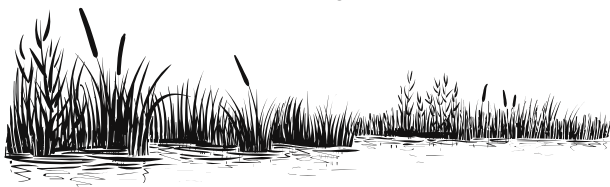
The Season of Creation is also an opportunity to put our faith and prayer into meaningful action, through education, community projects, and advocacy; a contemporary investment that seeds the future health and viability of Creation. What are the environmental stresses that your community is facing? How might your personal and communal prayers and rituals creatively include physical actions of hope for the life of the world, tree planting, pollinator blessing, renewable energy adoption, community gardens, prairie restoration, green team formation, and who might we partner with? How might you bring awareness to positive action from the heart of your faith community into the world? Our stewardship flows to our neighbors downstream and in generations to come.

People of faith across traditions are grounded in relationship with the Creation. Our sacred texts, rituals, liturgies, music, and prayerful practices take place upon the earth we call home. No matter the shape of the landscape or the view out your window you exist in a great web of connection, wind and water cycle, sunlight and cloud cover, plant and animal life, we are a global community. May we live in a life-giving relationship with our neighbors and mutual reciprocity with all of Creation.

*May the Peace of Christ be with you always...*

*Pastor Lee*

*This article also appeared in the August newsletter for  
the Iowa Faith and Climate Network.*





# A Word From Fredsville's Council President

## HE is Always There

As I am writing my 3rd quarter newsletter article, I can't believe it is the end of August. My calendar for this summer was the busiest it has ever been. Not quite sure how this happened but what a whirlwind of a 40 hour work week, family vacations and helping kids with projects. I am not complaining one bit but I have a confession. I didn't slow down and take the time I truly wanted to spend with God - to be still, listen to Him and experience the true peace only He can give.

We all live in a busy world. There is always something to do, somewhere to go, or something to worry about. The great part is God gets it and God does not leave us. Deuteronomy 31:8 says, "The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you."

God understands us, forgives us, and loves us. God holds us in his hands every minute of every day. Perhaps a simple prayer as we navigate through the day, "God, I am here. Help me slow down and feel your presence." I wish I would have taken this advice a few times these past couple of months.

The true gift is we do not have to feel guilty or think we have failed God. We can move forward knowing He never left us and He is always there waiting for us. Numbers 6:24-26 reminds us of His presence: "The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace." I am going to listen to this differently now when Pastor Lee speaks. What a beautiful reminder that God's blessings, grace, and peace are always available to us.

He is always there.

-Amy



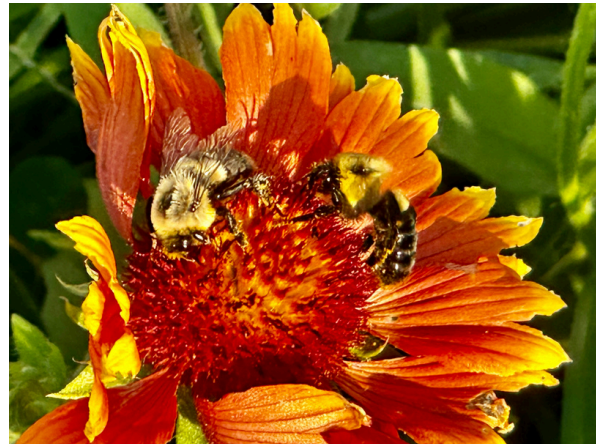


## Q & A

by Sue Green

### Fredsville's Pollinator Garden - Certified Wildlife Habitat

September 2026



*On Monday, August 24th, a dedication of Fredsville's Pollinator Garden was held. During the dedication program, Pastor Lee shared that the Fredsville Pollinator Garden has become a Certified Wildlife Habitat. I was curious to find out more about what it takes to become a Certified Wildlife Habitat and thought that you might be too, so I decided to make it my topic for the September Q & A. I found the answers to my questions by looking on the websites for the National Wildlife Federation ([www.nwf.org](http://www.nwf.org)), the Iowa Wildlife Federation ([www.iawildlife.org](http://www.iawildlife.org)) and with speaking with Pastor Lee.*

**Q: Who determines if a Pollinator Garden qualifies as a Certified Wildlife Habitat?**

A: The National Wildlife Federation (NWF) determines if an area qualifies to become a Certified Wildlife Habitat. This certification process is to encourage more people to create wildlife friendly places.

**Q: Where are Certified Wildlife Habitats located?**

A: Certified Wildlife Habitats can be found in a variety of places: in your backyard, in parks, on your school yard, on corporate campuses, colleges and universities, at your place of worship and in community spaces.

**Q: How does a wildlife area (such as Fredsville's Pollinator Garden) become certified?**

A: Any area that installs native plants and meets the Wildlife Habitat Criteria Checklist can become certified. The certification process is done online.

**Q: What is on the Certified Checklist?**

A: The Certified Checklist has five parts:

Food (minimum of 3 sources such as nectar & pollen, host plant, fallen leaf layer)

Water (minimum 1 source such a stream, puddles, mud dish)

Cover (minimum of 2 sources such as a mature tree, fallen/decomposing logs, groundcover plants)

Places to Raise Young (2 sources such as a mature tree, host plants, groundcover plants)

Sustainable Practices (minimum 3 actions from the following categories: soil conservation, water conservation, pollution reduction and controlling non-native species.)

**Q: How does the Fredsville Pollinator Garden meet the Water Criteria?**

A: Pastor Lee: We are retaining water from the downspouts and catching the condensation water from the HVAC units.

**Q: Do all Certified Wildlife Habitats look the same?**

A: No; Certified Wildlife Habitats are quite varied, depending on their location and the owner's preferences of what is planted there.

**Q: Are you restricted in what plants you use in your Certified Wildlife Habitat?**

A: Yes; at least 70% of the plants in your wildlife area should be native plants. Native plants provide natural sources of habitat which are ideal for wildlife. On the National Wildlife Federation website, you can type in your zip code and it will find the names of native keystone plants for where you live.

**Q: How did you find out about the National Wildlife Federation certifying Wildlife Habitats?**

A: Pastor Lee: I saw a Facebook post from my friend and colleague, Deaconess Iren DeMaris, who completed this certification for her yard. You might remember that Deaconess Irene visited Fredsville in her role as the Executive Director of the Iowa Faith & Climate Network last January.

**Q: Who and what made Fredsville's Pollinator Garden come into fruition?**

A: Creating the Fredsville Pollinator Garden was a team effort that included 1) an area identified that needed to absorb more rainfall than what lawn grass could provide, 2) a fallen tree, 3) a young man (Bryson Grider) that needed a project so he could earn his Eagle Scout rank, 4) members of the Property Committee (Eric Andersen & Dan Crotty) who believed in Bryson and were willing to use their equipment to make this project happen, 5) Brenda Cooper who donated the concrete pavers, 6) Tony Norton who knew where to order a bench made from recycled materials and 7) Pastor Lee who had the vision, took the time to shop for more prairie plants and who has spent countless hours weeding the Pollinator Garden area so the young pollinator plants could become established,

**Q: Can anyone spend time in Fredsville's Pollinator Garden?**

A: Yes! Fredsville folks and non-Fredsville folks are encouraged to sit and enjoy the flowers, insects and birds that can be found in the beautiful Pollinator Garden that was made to show off God's creation.

*Thank you, Pastor Lee, for taking the time to answer my questions. More importantly, thank you for taking the time to research and apply for Fredsville's Pollinator Garden to become a Certified Wildlife Habitat. May Fredsville's Pollinator Garden be an inspiration to others to create their own Pollinator Garden.*

# FREDSVILLE LUTHERAN CHURCH

## Council Minutes

Date: Tuesday, August 25, 5:30 pm

**Attendance:** Pastor Lee Gable, Linda Nielsen (Treasurer), Wanda Nielsen, Tony Norton, Abby Brekke, Amy Camarata, Keene Petersen, Amanda Bakker, Jodi Bergmann, & Gary Koenen.

**Absent:** Roy Stefan

**Call to Order:** President Amy Camarata called the meeting to order.

**Devotions:** Pastor opened with a prayer.

**Treasurer's Report:** Linda Nielsen presented the financials.

As of July 31, 2026

- General Fund: \$63,898.55
- Building Fund: \$7,823.54
- Memorial Fund: \$14,128.22

**Secretary's Report:**

- Previously reviewed and approved by the Council via email.

**Old Business Discussed:**

- VBS was held Aug. 2-5, in attendance there were about 55-60 youth and 39 volunteers. Of those volunteers, 16 were youth volunteers. The final night, Family Night, was very well attended.
- Tech Booth Volunteer Update: We have added another volunteer, Caine, Secretary Ashley's significant other, to help with the video recording and editing of worship services.

**New Business Discussed:**

- There is a need for a MacBook Pro Laptop to be purchased that would be very helpful with the process of uploading the Sunday worship video each week. Currently, the process can take up to 6 hours just to upload the file due to the age of the laptop(s) being used and the purchase of the new one will drastically decrease the time it takes to complete the upload. There is also a request for an external hard drive to be purchased which is used for backing up files in a secure location (other than "the cloud"). Memorial Funds will be used to purchase both products. Council has approved the purchase of both units in the amount of \$2,500, not to exceed \$3,200. Motion was made by Gary Koenen and seconded by Abby Brekke.



**New Business Discussed (continue):**

- Due to an increase in requests to reserve the fellowship hall for personal events, the current Policy for Use of Facilities could use some updating. Pastor Lee and Amy have started a draft and asked for a couple council member volunteers to assist with reviewing and updating the policy. Abby Brekke and Jodi Bergmann volunteered.

**Updates and Upcoming Reminders:**

- Property Committee: Tony reported the property committee has met and is discussing some projects for the future. Improvements and repairs discussed were as follows:
  - Sunday School room windows – needs replaced, awaiting quote back from Pella Windows
  - Heating and cooling units in the Fellowship Hall
  - Curb & gutter repair by the east entrance of parking lot
  - Siding and windows for the parsonage
- Education Committee: Amanda reported that the education committee is planning to meet Wednesday, August 26, to discuss the Sunday School curriculum. We are looking for something to ensure we are keeping the attention of the older Sunday School kids as well as keep the younger ones engaged at the same time.
- The church hired temporary janitorial employees while Angie is off work for medical recovery.

**Pastor Report:** A full Pastor's report is available as an attachment in the Secretary's Notebook.

- The July outdoor worship was well attended. The Watermelon Days worship service was impacted by weather but 12 were in attendance.
- Continued pastoral care through services led at Westview Estates in Reinbeck, along with multiple home, hospital, and care facility visits.
- The session on Funeral Planning lead by pastor was held on July 19th.
- VBS was held early August hosting a great number of kids and volunteers. The VBS Quarter Challenge collected \$570 for House of Hope, which has been delivered along with the tie blanket.
- Confirmation begins in September with a parent & student meeting on the 9th and Kickoff Sunday on the 13th.
- Pastor attended an in-person meeting with the Iowa Faith & Climate Network in Ubrandale. He learned of another church that was inspired by Fredsville's Solar Panel project, providing they also have solar energy tracking on their website.
- Pastor worked in the pollinator garden, getting it ready for the dedication and also registered it with the Iowa Wildlife Federation and the National Wildlife Federation to be a certified "Wildlife Habitat".

**Closing Prayer:** Council concluded the meeting with the Lord's Prayer

**Next Meeting:** Sunday, October 4th, 2026 – Following Worship

*Respectfully Submitted: Amanda Bakker, Council Secretary*





VBS  
2026







HELPING FAMILIES FACE THE CHALLENGE  
OF A MOUNTAIN OF LAUNDRY  
WITH OUR FRIENDS AT HOUSE OF HOPE

# QUARTER CHALLENGE







Thank you to everyone  
who made VBS possible.  
Thank you to those who  
helped decorated,  
donated items, and help  
out at VBS!

"I can do all things through  
Christ who gives me strength"  
Philippians 4:13



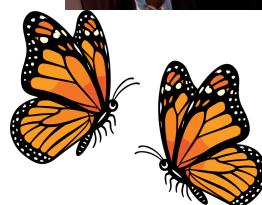




Sue enjoyed listening to the band, Milk & Honey at Dike's Block Party that was held at the City Park on June 26th. Her former student, Makaela, is one of the three lead female singers for Milk & Honey. Several times when Makaela was a teenager, she sang solos during Worship at Fredsville.



Banana Ball at Kinnick stadium and Washington DC. Family fun.



having fun

Bev got to be part of the Butterfly Release at NewAldaya

# Thank You Notes

Hello!

My name is Dustin and I serve on the Board of Directors for the CCC. I wanted just a moment of your time to say Thank you for your increadble generosity in supoorting the camporship challenge this year. Donations like yours make a difference in the lived of the children we serve and we could not fulfill our mission without you.

-Dustin

*Children's Cancer Connection - \$2,000*



Thank you to the members of Fredsville Lutheran Church Cedar Falls from the Northeastern Iowa Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. In grateful appreciation for giving \$6,000 for Mission Support beyond the congregation for synod and churchwide ministries of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Kevin K Jones

Synod Bishop Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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## Quarter Challenge Update



The VBS quarter challenge was a hit! Fredsville kids and congregation teamed up and raised \$570 to help House of Hope residents with their laundry costs.



**2,280 QUARTERS**  
**\$570**





# Meals on Wheels Summary

Dear friends,

Our summer Meals on Wheels service for Dike community residents has come to an end. For those of you who prepared meals, delivered meals or helped in any way we say thank you.

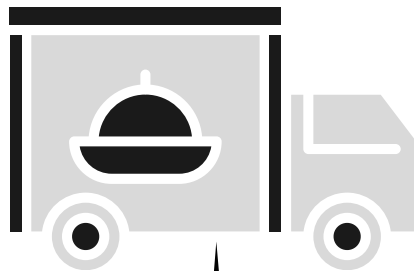
To recipients we say we were glad to help!

Please share any comments or feedback by connecting with Shelley Viet (319-240-0137) or Jean Loger (319-269-3236). Or simply write a note and drop it in the mail to Jean Loger Box 288 Dike, Iowa 50624.

We will offer Meals on Wheels every day during Thanksgiving, Christmas/winter and spring breaks. A link to an on-line document for cooks/delivery people will be available the end of September through Dike UMC, Fredsville Lutheran, Liberty Baptist and St. Gabriel Catholic Church offices or contact Jean or Shelley.

What a great collaborative opportunity for our community! It is estimated that approximately 132 meals were served this summer. God is good! We are called to serve one another and walk humbly with God. Peace to all.

-Jean Loger



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## Fredsville College Scholarship Program

Fredsville college scholarship applications for next spring are due 30th of September. Anyone interested should apply. Please see the church secretary for an application form or go online to the Fredsville web-site as the application is available there as well.



## **Worship Readings, Prayers, & Introductions from SundayandSeasons.com**

### **Sunday, September 6 - Season of Creation**

**Green**

The Season of Creation begins. We consider the living waters of heart and the earth. We gather in the name of Christ, assured that he is present among us with gifts of peace and reconciliation.

#### **Prayer of the Day**

O God, in whom we live and move and have our being, in Christ you created the worlds, and your Spirit breathes life into the universe. We praise you for your wondrous creation. Bless us and all your handiwork with your infinite light, and direct our lives to the care of this good earth, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

- **Genesis 1** - Creation story
- **Psalms 119:33-40** - I desire the path of your commandments. (Ps. 119:35)
- **Romans 13:8-10** - Live honorably as in the day
- **John 7:37-39** - Living waters of the heart

### **Sunday, September 13 - Season of Creation    Holy Cross**

**Green**

This festival, which originated in the fourth century, celebrates the triumph of the cross. Paul reminds us that Christ crucified is the power and wisdom of God. As Moses put a serpent on a pole to be a source of healing for the Israelites, we lift high the cross as the sign of our health and salvation. Each time we make the sign of the cross we remember our baptism into the death and resurrection of Christ.

#### **Prayer of the Day**

Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ was lifted high upon the cross so that he might draw the whole world to himself. To those who look upon the cross, grant your wisdom, healing, and eternal life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

- **Numbers 21:4b-9** - Moses lifted up the bronze serpent in the wilderness
- **Psalms 103:[1-7] 8-13** - Lord, you are full of compassion and mercy. (Ps. 103:8)
- **Romans 6:1-11** - Baptized into Christ
- **John 3:13-17** - For God so loved the world.



**Sunday, September 20 - Season of Creation**

**Green**

Matthew narrates one of Jesus' controversial parables in which Jesus says that the reign of God is like that of a landowner who pays his workers the same wage no matter what time of day they began to work. When God changes God's mind about punishing Nineveh for their evil ways, Jonah is angry. Yet God is gracious and merciful, abounding in steadfast love. In baptism we receive the grace of God that is freely given to all. As Martin Luther wrote, in the presence of God's mercy we are all beggars.

**Prayer of the Day**

Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

- **Jonah 3:10—4:11** - God's concern for the city of Nineveh
- **Psalms 145:1-8** - The Lord is slow to anger & abounding in steadfast love. (Ps. 145:8)
- **Philippians 1:21-30** - Standing firm in the gospel
- **Matthew 20:1-16** - The parable of the vineyard workers

**Sunday, September 27 - Season of Creation**

**Green**

Jesus' parable about two sons who don't do what they say reveals surprises in the reign of God. In the reading from Ezekiel the people claim the ways of the Lord are unfair, while God offers repentance and new life. Paul urges us to look to Christ as a model of humility, putting the interests of others above our own. Nourished by the broken bread and shared cup, we offer our lives for the sake of our needy world.

**Prayer of the Day**

God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

- **Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32** - The fairness of God's way
- **Psalms 25:1-9** - Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love. (Ps. 25:6)
- **Philippians 2:1-13** - Christ humbled to the point of death on a cross
- **Matthew 21:23-32** - A parable of doing God's will

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**SUNDAY SCHOOL STARTS IN  
SEPTEMBER**

Start date is to be determine

# September 2026

| Sunday                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Monday | Tuesday                                                            | Wednesday                                  | Thursday                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Friday                                                           | Saturday |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| <b>Sunday School starts in September</b><br><br><b>Living Water</b><br>Season of Creation 2026<br>September 1-October 4<br><small>IMMERSION IN LIVING WATER<br/>Ezekiel 47:9, 12</small> |        | 1<br>Bible Study<br>9:00 am                                        | 2                                          | 3<br>Quilters<br>9:00-11:30 am                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | 4<br><br>Pastor's Day Off                                        | 5        |
| 6<br>Worship<br>9:30 am                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | 7      | 8<br>Bible Study<br>9:00 am<br>Pillowcase Dresses<br>12:00-4:00 pm | 9<br>Confirmation Meeting<br>7:00 pm       | 10<br>Quilters<br>9:00-11:30 am                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | 11<br><br>Pastor's Day Off                                       | 12       |
| 13<br>Worship<br>9:30 am<br>Confirmation Kickoff                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | 14     | 15<br>Bible Study<br>9:00 am                                       | 16<br>Confirmation Class<br>6:30 - 8:00 pm | 17<br>Quilters<br>9:00-11:30 am                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | 18<br>Fancy Fingers<br>9:00 am - 4:00 pm<br><br>Pastor's Day Off | 19       |
| 20<br>Worship<br>9:30 am                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | 21     | 22<br>Bible Study<br>9:00 am                                       | 23                                         | 24<br>Quilters<br>9:00-11:30 am                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | 25<br><br>Pastor's Day Off                                       | 26       |
| 27<br>Worship<br>9:30 am                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | 28     | 29<br>Bible Study<br>9:00 am                                       | 30                                         |  <b>Looking Ahead</b> <br><b>October 25<sup>th</sup> - Confirmation Sunday</b><br><b>November 1 - All Saints Sunday</b> |                                                                  |          |