



Hope Ev. Lutheran Church

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www.hopelutheranstl.org



✠ THE HOPE LUTHERAN ✠

Vol. 100, No. 7

Share life and hope in our Savior Jesus.

September 2023

Lifelong Learning of the Catechism

"I am also a doctor and preacher.... Yet I act as a child who is being taught the catechism. Every morning – and whenever I have time – I read and say, word for word, the Ten Commandments, the Creed, the Lord's Prayer, the Psalms, and such. I must still read and study them daily. Yet I cannot master the catechism as I wish. But I must remain a child and pupil of the catechism, and am glad to remain so" (Martin Luther, Large Catechism, Preface, 7-8).

These words from Martin Luther are truly amazing. He actually admitted that he had to study the parts of the catechism daily! He confessed that he could not master it. Even as a teacher of the Scriptures, he had to "remain a child and pupil of the catechism." And he was "glad" to remain a student of God's teaching. What was true of Luther, who formulated the catechisms that we know and love, is also true for us. After all, being *disciples* of Jesus means that we are always *students* of His life-giving Word of forgiveness and salvation.

Every Lutheran is quite familiar with Luther's *Small Catechism*, since it is generally used for catechesis (instruction) leading to confirmation. Luther's *Large Catechism*, however, may be less known. Beginning **Sunday, September 17**, we will do our part to remedy this. For **Adult Bible Class**, we will turn our attention to Luther's *Large Catechism*, reading from it, discussing the teachings, and applying those teachings to our lives and some issues that confront us in our day.

What is the catechism?

We often think of the catechism as that book we use in confirmation instruction. While this is true,

the catechism itself is much simpler. As Luther understood it, the catechism is the primary texts of:

- The Ten Commandments,
- The Apostles' Creed,
- The Lord's Prayer, and
- Our Lord's instituting words of:
 - Baptism,
 - Confession and Absolution, and
 - The Lord's Supper.

These primary texts, six parts in all, can be printed on a single sheet of paper. We can learn all of this by heart and then meditate on it through all of life. This lifelong meditation leads us to dive into the depths of meaning and application of these texts.

How do we learn the catechism?

In the preface to his *Small Catechism*, Luther outlines a three-step process of learning the catechism—the essential teachings of Holy Scripture.

First, he advises the preacher to "choose one form" of the "texts and forms of the Ten Commandments, the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, the Sacraments, and such."¹ A single, consistently used

¹ *Luther's Small Catechism with Explanation* (CPH, 2017), 364.

wording aides learning by heart and avoids confusion. Luther also advises: “Teach them, first of all, these parts: the Ten Commandments, the Creed, the Lord’s Prayer, and so on, according to the text, word for word, so that they, too, can repeat it in the same way after you and commit it to memory.”²

For the next step in learning the catechism, Luther wrote: “In the second place, after they have learned the text well, teach them the meaning also, so that they know what it means. Again, choose the form of these tables or some other brief uniform method, whichever you like, and hold to it. Do not change a single syllable, as was just said about the text.”³ This is where Luther’s *Small Catechism* enters the process. First, we learn the texts themselves, then, we begin learning the meanings. Luther’s famous question – “*What does this mean?*” – takes center stage for our growth in Christ.

Plumbing the depths of this life-giving message and what it means for all of life goes well beyond our time in Catechism Class. This brings us to Luther’s final step in the process. “In the third place, after you have taught them this short catechism, then take up the Large Catechism and give them also a richer and fuller knowledge. Here enlarge upon every commandment, article, petition, and part with its various works, uses, benefits, dangers, and injuries, as you find these abundantly stated in many books written about these matters.”⁴ This will be our goal in Bible Class, beginning September 17: to gain a richer and fuller knowledge of the pulsating heart of the Christian faith and life.

What’s the point?

Learning the catechism is *not* a one-and-done endeavor. We may learn enough to be confirmed, but learning and living God’s essential teachings takes a lifetime. In fact, Luther got quite stern when he called out “proud, arrogant saints” for being “unwilling to read and study the catechism daily.” Since God is never finished teaching these things, Luther asks: “Can we finish learning in one hour what God Himself cannot finish teaching? He is

engaged in teaching this from the beginning to the end of the world.”⁵

What is God teaching us by means of the catechism texts—the essential teachings of the Bible? In 1522, Luther described it in terms of diagnosing our sickness and receiving the proper medicine.

Three things a person must know in order to be saved. First, he must know what to do and what to leave undone. Second, when he realizes that he cannot measure up to what he should do or leave undone, he needs to know where to go to find the strength he requires. Third, he must know how to seek and obtain that strength. It is just like a sick person who first has to determine the nature of his sickness, then find out what to do or to leave undone. After that he has to know where to get the medicine which will help him do or leave undone what is right for a healthy person. Then he has to desire to search for this medicine and to obtain it or have it brought to him.

Thus the commandments teach man to recognize his sickness, enabling him to perceive what he must do or refrain from doing, consent to or refuse, and so he will recognize himself to be a sinful and wicked person. The Creed will teach and show him where to find the medicine—grace—which will help him to become devout and keep the commandments. The Creed points him to God and his mercy, given and made plain to him in Christ. Finally, the Lord’s Prayer teaches all this, namely, through the fulfilment of God’s commandments everything will be given him. In these three are the essentials of the entire Bible.⁶

We can never exhaust the healing medicine that God gives us in His Word. As we dive into Luther’s *Large Catechism*, we will explore the true extent of our sin sickness and rejoice in God’s medicine of grace in Jesus Christ.

✠ Pastor Randy Asburry

email: rasburry@hopelutheranstl.org

Hope’s Website: <http://www.hopelutheranstl.org>

On Facebook: www.facebook.com/hopelutheranstl

² *Luther’s Small Catechism with Explanation* (CPH, 2017), 364.

³ *Luther’s Small Catechism with Explanation* (CPH, 2017), 365.

⁴ *Luther’s Small Catechism with Explanation* (CPH, 2017), 365.

⁵ *Luther’s Large Catechism*, Preface, para. 16.

⁶ *Personal Prayer Book, Luther’s Works*, American Edition, 43:13-14.

Notes from the Kantor

Music in a Sacred Space is the annual music series that Hope began in 2019 to highlight our renovated sanctuary and pipe organ and to share with our community the Gospel through music. Apart from the 2020-2021 season, which didn't exist, we hold about four events each year. We have hosted community groups, guest organists to lead Organ Vespers, and guest artists to lead hymn festivals. The series is curated and overseen by a committee of Kantor Janssen and three additional appointees who serve for two years. This biennium the appointed committee members are Carol Spyers, Ruth Temme, and Jacob Weber. We are excited to share the 2023-2024 season with you and encourage you to attend and invite others.

SING BOLDY – A HYMN FESTIVAL

The first concert in the “Music in a Sacred Space” season is Friday, October 20 at 7:00 pm. The youth musicians of St. John Lutheran school of Seward, NE, under the direction of Paul Soulek, will use choral and instrumental music to lead the assembly to *Sing Boldly* the saving Gospel of Jesus. Hope is hosting 40+ students and adults in host homes following the concert. Contact Kantor Janssen if you have a spare sleeping space in your home.

ORGAN VESPERS FOR THE TRANSFIGURATION

Join St. Louis organist Justin Knabach as he leads the congregation and presents musical meditations for *Organ Vespers for the Transfiguration* on Sunday, January 21 at 3:00 pm. Justin serves as organist and music director at Lutheran Church of the Resurrection in St. Louis. A reception will follow the Organ Vespers.

ST. LOUIS METRO SINGERS

Join the St. Louis Metro Singers, under the direction of Shawn Portell, on Sunday, March 17 at 3:00 pm in a choral concert of sacred music. The St. Louis Metro Singers is a volunteer community choir that performs a variety of programs across the St. Louis region. A reception will follow the concert.

HYMN FESTIVAL – DR. SAM EATHERTON

Join us on Sunday, April 14 at 3:00 pm for a hymn festival lead by Dr. Sam Eatherton, featured organist and composer. Dr. Eatherton serves as Kantor at Trinity Lutheran church and school in Sheboygan, WI. The hymn festival will feature the choirs and instrumentalists of Hope Ev. Lutheran church. A reception to greet the musicians will follow the hymn festival.

Coming Soon...Choir Resumes...Get Involved

Schola Cantorum

Hope's adult choir is made up of singers in high school and up. They sing 2-3 times per month and on feast and festival days. Rehearsals are held weekly on Sundays following Bible Study for about an hour. Hope has a strong core of SATB singers, but we are always looking for more to join us. *Rehearsals begin on Sunday, September 10!*

Kantorei

A Lutheran, liturgical community-based children's choir for St. Louis! One of the hallmarks of the Kantorei is its outreach into our community for membership and incorporating children from Hope and the St. Louis area into the rich liturgical life of our congregation. The Kantorei sings one approximately Sunday per month and for evening services to celebrate Epiphany and Ascension. Rehearsals are held on Wednesdays from 4:00-5:30. *Rehearsals begin on Wednesday, September 6!*

Instrumentalists

We have had several new members in the past year join our congregation. If you are an instrumentalist interested in using your musical gifts in worship, let Kantor know. We have several string and brass players in the congregation and can always use more. Rehearsals are arranged as needed to prepare for specific services. Sometimes we get the band together just for the fun of it!

email Kantor Janssen at mjanssen@hopelutheranstl.org

Church Basement Renovation Update

The Basement Renovation Committee has been in a holding pattern, waiting for next steps in getting to an accurate cost estimate for the project. The committee asked for a careful assessment of the existing structure and HVAC systems to prevent any structural surprises once the construction is underway. In this post-covid era, we, like many others have had to “get in line” and wait for all things related to a very busy and stretched construction industry.

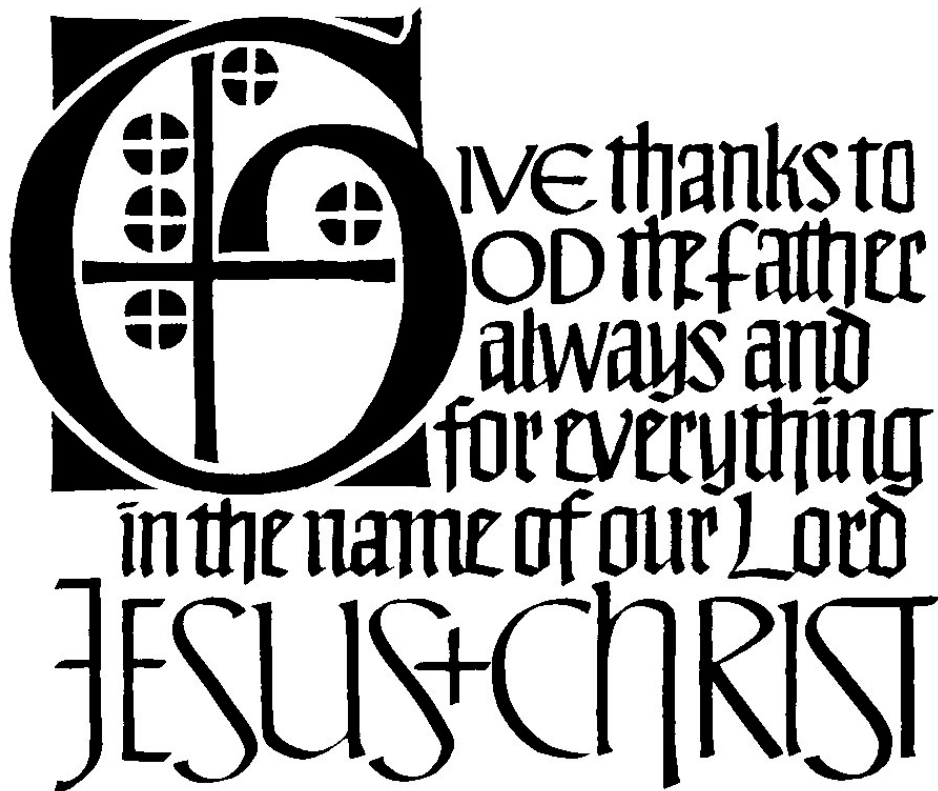
We were pleased to finally have Mechanical, Electrical and Plumbing engineers along with the construction manager and architects on site Friday August 25th. In addition, Julie Day, representing our committee, and Bart Day, Chairman of the Congregation and Building Committee, were present. They reported that the group looked over the entire space and all the systems. This was a very good meeting and

there is high confidence that the engineering phase will be done well.

We expect to receive their report in the next several weeks, and that will inform our builder and architects as to any areas of concern, additional costs to address those concerns and if present renovation plans are reasonable.

Having all costs in hand will allow us to provide the congregation with a reliable cost estimate and timetable for beginning and completing the construction.

The Basement Renovation Committee continues to serve the congregation to steward this project. Any questions or concerns should be directed to Pam Nielsen, Julie Day, and Julie Vigil.



Ministry Expansion Campaign

It is time. The plans for our basement renovation, giving us much improved classroom and fellowship spaces, continue quickly ahead. Over the past months the Building Committee, tasked to oversee the funding of the project, has brought forward a proposal to engage Lutheran Church Extension Fund in a Ministry Expansion Campaign. The Church Council approved that proposal. It is time.

Over the coming weeks the Executive Team and Campaign Team will be formed, and initial work will begin. The goal is to complete the campaign this fall, prior to Thanksgiving. That means we have work to do.

What does a campaign look like? The campaign will have three phases: Inform, Inspire, and Commitment.

During the Inform Phase we make sure everyone connected to Hope has the information they need to understand the details of the ministry expansion project we are undertaking. FAQs with costs, timelines, and detailed breakdowns of the projects, as well as giving options, and any other relevant information will be provided. The campaign team will also offer forums to discuss the project and answer any questions. The goal is to remove any technical concerns upfront so that we can set the details aside and talk about the most needful things, the ministry impacts this project will have in the life of our congregation.

During the Inspire Phase we focus on the ministry opportunities this project provides. We will endeavor to cultivate and grow our members in mature giving, which is always motivated by the grace and mercy of Christ. A sermon series will be preached, Bible studies on stewardship and mission will be taught; all to allow the voice of Jesus to speak. Every member will be invited into the conversation and invited to be a part of what God is doing at Hope.

During the Commitment Phase we invite our members to consider how they financially support the opportunity based on the blessings God has bestowed upon them. There will be a commitment Sunday and opportunity to celebrate as a congregation. A Voters Assembly a week or two afterward will solidify the commitment total and approve the allocation of the resources toward the campaign project.

Exciting. There is much to be done, but great blessings are already provided. We have been blessed by our renovated sanctuary and organ. The basement will be another step in improving our space to ensure our current members and those yet to join us have improved space to learn the Word of God and share in our life together. Exciting. We know the Lord will provide beyond our need.

Keep an eye out for more detailed information in the coming weeks. Please step-up if you are asked to serve on a committee or team. There is much to be done. Please begin to pray about how the Lord has blessed you and how you might respond to the call of sacrificial giving. The project will require each of us to do our part.

We promise open and transparent communication throughout the process, including when the time comes to determine the final scope of the project and the funding necessary. We are blessed to be members of Hope, blessed by those who came before us and gave of themselves for the space we enjoy, and blessed to be a part of providing something today that will live long into the future.

Thank you for your support.

The Building Committee,

Rev. Randy Asburry,
Diana Brown,
Bart Day,
Kevin Robson,
Carol Spyers

Stewardship in the First Commandment

The greatest gift that Martin Luther gave to us was his Small Catechism. The word “enchiridion” is part of the original title of this work. This is the Greek word for “handbook.” The Small Catechism is a handbook of the Bible. All the basic knowledge that a Christian needs to understand the faith and live a godly life has been taken from the Bible and distilled into this beautiful little book of Christian piety.

Luther starts with the Ten Commandments.

The First Commandment:

You shall have no other gods.

What does this mean? We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things. (SC I)

We have a God above us. He is the Lord God and we are not. He is Almighty and in control. He is righteous and good. And therefore, we should fear Him.

This God is also our heavenly Father. He wants us to be saved. He does not want us to suffer His just wrath. He has provided salvation for us in His Son, Jesus Christ. And therefore, we should love Him.

Our heavenly Father will never leave us nor forsake us. He has promised as much – and the Bible shows us that He always keeps His promises. So, we should trust Him.

In the Large Catechism, Luther explains how money and possessions form one of the greatest temptations against the First Commandment:

This I must unfold somewhat more plainly, that it may be understood and perceived by ordinary examples of the contrary. Many a one thinks that he has God and everything in abundance when he has money and possessions; he trusts in them and boasts of them with such firmness and assurance as to care for no one. Lo, such a man also has a god, Mammon by name, i.e., money and possessions, on which he sets all his heart, and which is also the most common idol on earth. He who has money and possessions feels secure, and is joyful and undismayed as though he were sitting in the midst of Paradise. On the other hand, he who has none doubts and is despondent, as though he knew of no God. For very few are to be found who are of good cheer, and who neither mourn nor complain if they have not Mammon. This [care and desire for money] sticks and clings to our nature, even to the grave. (LC I 5–9)

These words of Dr. Luther should call us to repentance; sometimes, we live and act like we don't have a Father in heaven. We seek our comfort and peace outside of His gracious promises. But we do have a Father in heaven. He does love us. All His promises are true. And the Lord will surely provide. If that is our belief, then our outward lives will reflect our belief in our acts of generosity and mercy. We will see money and possessions not as gods but rather as tools for doing God's work.

– LCMS Stewardship Ministry
lcms.org/stewardship

“Therefore everything in this Christian community is so ordered that everyone may daily obtain full forgiveness of sins through the Word and [Sacraments] appointed to comfort and encourage our consciences as long as we live on earth” (Large Catechism, II:55). In September we continue to hear about the Holy Life of Christian faith and love. The Blessed Trinity constantly teaches us to trust in His mercy and to love our neighbors by serving them.

Date	Day in Church Year	Gospel Reading	Gospel Focus (Theme of the Day)
September 3	Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity	Luke 10:23-37	The Good Samaritan – Jesus Christ is the true “Good Samaritan” who rescues us and heals us from our sin. In the same way, we Christians are called to “be neighbor” to people around us—that is, to be “little Christs” to them.
September 10	Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity	Luke 17:11-19	The Thankful Samaritan – We like it when someone does a good deed for us, but too often we ignore the good deeds that God does for us. The thankful Samaritan shows us how to receive God’s gifts in faith and give Him thanks and praise.
September 17	Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity	Matthew 6:24-34	Earthly Goods – Why get bogged down in the sin of worrying? After all, worry only betrays your lack of trust in God! God provides all of your earthly needs even before you know that you need them. Therefore, you can seek His kingdom first, and all other needed things will be given you.
September 24	St. Michael & All Angels (Observed)	Matthew 18:1-10	God’s Holy Angels – Conflict is part of the Christian faith and life—that is, the conflict between God’s kingdom and the kingdom of darkness. But God sends His holy angels fight the forces of Satan on our behalf. On this day we hear the accurate Scriptural teaching of angels (a teaching that is not always present in popular ideas about angels).

BUDGET TOWN HALL MEETING

The Church Council would invite you to attend the Budget Town Hall Meeting scheduled for Sunday, September 24 immediately following Bible Class in the fellowship hall. This annual event allows for congregation input as the budget is being developed, prior to the budget being approved at the October 29 Voters Assembly meeting. The Board of Finance will make additional financial information available to the congregation by Sunday, September 17. We will present an

update on current financials and an overview of budget opportunities for the 2024 fiscal year. The main purpose of the meeting is to receive input and guidance from the congregation on items that should be considered in the upcoming years. The Council finds this input extremely useful and makes the final budget approval much easier. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend.

PRO-LIFE INFORMATION

The recent Coalition Life Gala shared information about its work of helping mothers and babies. A good portion of the work is having sidewalk counselors outside abortion clinics to offer help to mothers. Through the help they offer, many abortion-minded women change their minds and save their babies' lives. Their work has expanded beyond the St. Louis area to Carbondale and Chicago as well as Kansas City. The featured speaker was Mark Houck from Pennsylvania who shared his story about his home being raided by an FBI SWAT team and his arrest. His experience as a pro-life sidewalk counselor and standing for life was very inspiring.

Thrive Parent University continues to be held every Thursday night at Hope. There is a Bible lesson by Pastor Asbury and then a parenting lesson by a Thrive staff member. Dinner is provided several times a month by members of Hope and Ascension Lutheran. To volunteer with the Hope group on the second Thursday of the month, please contact Judy Maichel.

The Lutherans For Life National Conference is scheduled for October 11-13, in Erlanger, Kentucky, just outside of Cincinnati. In addition to the wonderful speakers, there will be opportunities to volunteer at Care Net Pregnancy Services and to visit the Creation Museum and Ark Encounter. More information and registration details can be found at - <https://lutheransforlife.org/conference/>

SALEM LUTHERAN NOW HIRING

Salem Lutheran School, located at 5025 Lakewood Ave., Affton, MO 63123, is seeking individuals to fill some vacant positions. For full description see flyer on bulletin board at Brannon Street entrance.

Cafeteria Manager - Duties of the position include planning a monthly menu, dealing effectively with food and supply vendors, food preparation, student counts, and meeting the kitchen budget. Contact Principal Matthew Foster at matthewfoster@slcas.org.

Marketing and Enrollment Manager- Seeks to market Salem Lutheran School by promoting the school through marketing and social media, directs the admissions process from the point of inquiry through enrollment, and works to secure retention of current families.. 15-18 hours per week. Contact

Principal

Matthew

Foster

at matthewfoster@slcas.org.

Preschool Before and Aftercare Staff - Supervise students during snack, homework, and playtime before and/or after school. Perfect for college students! Hours are 6:15 - 8:15 a.m. and/or 3 - 6 p.m. Contact Early Childhood Director Marie Wilson-Fluegge at mariewilson@slcas.org.

Preschool Assistants - Preschool Assistants are responsible for helping our Lead Teachers with their lessons, assigned tasks, and classroom management. Hours are 8 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. If interested, please contact Early Childhood Director Marie Wilson-Fluegge at mariewilson@slcas.org.

LUTHERAN PRAYER BREAKFAST

The Lutheran Prayer Breakfast will be held Wednesday, November 8, 2023. Registration and Fellowship (7-8am) with Breakfast & Program (8-9:30 am). Reserve your space today: [Concordiasem.regfox.com/lutheran-prayer-breakfast](https://concordiasem.regfox.com/lutheran-prayer-breakfast). For more information contact Kim Braddy: 314-505-7362 or braddyk@csl.edu.

Rev. Tim Carter, author of *The Executioner's Redemption*, is the featured speaker. Come early and enjoy the expanded time for fellowship before the program begins.

Before attending Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Tim Carter retired from a 21-year career with the Texas Department of Criminal Justice as a death row prison captain. A Seminary professor connected Carter with Concordia Publishing House upon learning that Carter came to faith in the middle of that violent first career that included participating in more than 150 inmate executions. The resulting book, *The Executioner's Redemption*, has led Carter to serve as consultant to many prison ministries. His presentation details his journey from executioner to pastor.

Carter was born and raised in Houston, Texas. He received his undergraduate degree in Criminal Justice from Sam Houston State University, where he met his wife, Jill. The couple has been married for 31 years. They have two children and three grandchildren.

Carter served as pastor at Salem Lutheran Church in Tomball, Texas, for nine years, and is currently in his second year as a pastor at St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Columbus, Ind.

Phone: 314-352-0014

September 2023

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Elder: 3 – Scot Kinnaman 10 – Mark Maichel 17 – Scot Kinnaman 24 – Kevin Robson	Altar Guild: 3 Spyers/Truebe 10 Asbury/Bergdolt 17 Brown/Patton 24 Keller/Janssen				1	2 <i>Pastor's day off</i>
3 <u>Trinity 13</u> 9:00 Divine Service NO Bible Class/ Sunday School	4 Labor Day Church office Closed	5	6 5:00 Kantorei Rehearsal	7 6:00 ThriVe Parent University	8	9 <i>Pastor's day off</i>
10 <u>Trinity 14</u> 9:00 Divine Service 10:30 Bible Class/ Sunday School 11:30 Schola rehearsal	11 7:00 Board of Finance	12	13 5:00 Kantorei Rehearsal	14 6:00 ThriVe Parent University	15	16 <i>Pastor's day off</i>
17 <u>Trinity 15</u> 9:00 Divine Service with Sunday School teacher installation 10:30 Bible Class/Sunday School 11:30 Schola rehearsal	18	19	20 5:00 Kantorei Rehearsal	21 6:00 ThriVe Parent University	22	23 <i>Pastor's day off</i>
24 <u>St. Michael & All Angels</u> 9:00 Divine Service 10:30 Bible Class/Sunday School 11:30 Budget Town Hall Meeting 11:30 Schola rehearsal	25	26	27 5:00 Kantorei Rehearsal	28 6:00 ThriVe Parent University	29	30 <i>Pastor's day off</i>