

TIMOTHY'S EPISTLE

October 2023



DATES TO REMEMBER

Oct. 1	LWML Sunday/Noisy Mites and Lutheran Heritage Sunday
Oct. 8—Nov. 5	Angel Tree
Oct. 14	Truck or Treat
Oct. 21	LWML Mtg.
Oct. 29	10 AM Reformation Sunday Service / potluck lunch

MONTHLY ACTIVITIES

Sunday's	8:30, 11 am— SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES
Sunday's	9:45 am—Adult Bible Classes /Sunday School
Tuesday's	6:15 pm—Handbells Practice
Wednesday's	10 am—Word on Wednesday Bible Study / Pastor
	5:30 pm—Confirmation Class
Friday's	12 Noon—4 pm—Card Playing

**Watch our services live (8:30 am) or On Demand at
www.tlcwoodstock.org**

Timothy Lutheran Church
556 Arnold Mill Road
Woodstock, GA 30188
www.tlcwoodstock.org

Church Office— 770 928-2812
Preschool— 770 924-7995
Timothy's Cupboard— 770 591-5515
email: timothy@comcast.net



**Rev. Daniel
Brammeier**

Pastor's Corner

Will Artificial Intelligence Replace Preachers?

I recently read an intriguing article entitled “AI-Powered Preaching: How Much Should Silicon Valley Impact Sermon Prep?” The article is available online at Lifeway Research. The article focused on “ChatGPT” a free artificial intelligence platform launched at the end of 2022. I didn’t realize how much artificial intelligence has been around for decades and how much it is used already, “Our smartphones use it to confirm our identity with facial recognition. Banks employ AI to determine if purchases seem likely to be fraudulent. From social media to online shopping, AI offers recommendations based on past interactions.”

But what’s different about ChatGPT when compared to the AI that’s been around for so long? One reads, “The generative aspect of recent AI advances is what makes it unique. Traditional AI has been used to analyze data and make predictions based on those inputs. Think Amazon suggesting you buy a new book from an author you’ve read on Kindle. But generative AI, like ChatGPT and others, creates new data based on its training. It can generate images when given prompts and text responses to questions, like identifying benefits and drawbacks for pastors using AI for ministry.” ChatGPT is not a predictive platform, it’s generative. This makes it different from normal AI.

I see Chat GPT as most technology. It’s a double-edged sword. As a pastor in Georgia wrote, “ChatGPT can be good as a research aid,” he said, “but any type of ‘ghostwriting’ would be no more ethical than passing off another person’s sermons or commentary as your own work.” (Rev. Griffin Gullledge, Madison Baptist Church in Madison, Georgia).

A few months ago, a member at Timothy approached me and asked about generating a Bible study with ChatGPT. He wanted me to “vet” the study. When I read the study, based on the parameters given the AI, I must admit I was impressed with the capability of the program to generate what it did. Here it comes though, HOWEVER, a program is only as good as its programming. It was obvious to me that the AI was not capable of distinguishing the two most important teachings in the scriptures, law, and gospel. The result of the study contained “the law” and little or no gospel. The primary function of law in scriptures is to show our sin. The Gospel shows our Savior and the grace of God. This is where ChatGPT could become a deadly tool of the devil robbing sinners of the pure gospel of salvation through Jesus Christ. Turning salvation into a work rather than the total grace of God in Christ Jesus.

I’m very secure in the thought that artificial intelligence will never replace biblically based preaching. I do believe it can be a helpful tool just like any interlinear Hebrew-Greek Bible program. There is no replacement for solid reading, studying and learning God’s Word, after all “..faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.” Romans 10:17.

Pastor B



**Kristin Freeman,
Preschool
Director**

**ECE Mission and
Ministry State-
ment**

At Timothy Lutheran Preschool, we believe that “children are a gift from God; they are His reward.” (Psalm 127:3)

Timothy Lutheran Preschool is a ministry of Timothy Lutheran Church. Its mission is to serve children and families by sharing Jesus’ love with them through an academically excellent Christian Education in a safe, loving environment.

Preschool News

Happy Fall Y’all,

Fall is in full swing here at the Preschool as the children are examining pumpkins and apples, collecting fall leaves, playing with Fall based centers in center time and of course, they’ve already taste tested some apples! The students have a blast playing outside in the cooler weather and enjoying the campus with the Discovery and regular play-grounds. They love collecting the various nuts that are on the ground and being creative with their collections. What a beautiful space we have for them! Thank you!

We open up the month of October with our annual Fall school photos with Jim Elkins Photography. He always does a fabulous job with our kiddos getting them to laugh and smile. Our preschool families will be participating in the annual Trunk or Treat event on Saturday, October 14th. It’s a highlight for our program to interact with the church families and the lower parking lot is always a festive fun-filled evening. I hope you can join us for this wonderful outreach event! And we will wrap up the month with our annual Costume Parade where the families will have the opportunity to come into the building and enjoy seeing their children dressed up for the event. There is nothing cuter than our littles using their imagination and dressed up special for this parade!

I wanted to once again say thank you to the Church and the trustees for managing the property and the resources here for this ministry. It seems that not a day goes by that something needs “fixed” and the trustees: Don, Mike, Bill and Suzanne, are always willing and able to jump in and help us out. We are blessed to have this level of support here in the “behind the scenes” of TLP. Thank you!!

We are grateful for your continued prayers for our staff, students and families here at Timothy Lutheran Preschool. We have some amazing Christian women guiding these littles each day. They truly pour their heart and soul into their work and I am so blessed to have such a hardworking group of teachers and assistants. Please check out our “Staff Spotlight” with another new face in our program, Evelyn Shaw. She has been a fantastic addition to our program and has such a heart for the little ones and for sharing God’s love with them. Welcome to the Timothy family, Evelyn! And our families.... Wow! They are a fantastic group of parents and students that walk through our doors each day and then go out and share God’s light and love in the Woodstock community. We continue to remain a hidden gem here in Woodstock and our families are such a blessing to us! God is good! And we can’t wait to enjoy His blessings this fall season!

Grace and Peace,

Ms. Kristin

Preschool Calendar:

October 5 & 6	Fall Photos: Individual School Pictures
October 9	No School: Columbus Day
October 30-31	Costume Days. Pumpkin Treats

Staff Spotlight:

Name: Evelyn Shaw

Class: 3's with Ms. Mary Anne and Ms. Annie

Years at Timothy: this is my first year here

Birthday: April 22

Where did you grow up: Brazil, Sao Paulo

Who lives in your House: Me, my husband Ryan and my son Noah

Favorite Food: Brazilian barbeque and cake

If you could have dinner with someone famous, who would it be: Bruno Mars

Favorite Place to Vacation: Brazil, beach, Disney, Lake

Why do you like teaching at Timothy Lutheran Preschool? It's a blessing to be able to work at such an amazing place with awesome co-workers. I love to be able to help the kiddos to learn and grow each day. My favorite thing is hearing those little giggles while they are learning and playing.



Fundraiser: Spirit Rock!



You may have been wondering what that painted rock out front is all about... it's our very own "Spirit Rock" for Timothy Lutheran Preschool. Many area schools have launched these fun and decorative rocks as a fundraiser for their schools, and while we are working on improving our playground for the children, we joined in on the fun! Our parents and congregation members are able to "rent the rock" for a small fee of \$15 and decorate it for their children. All monies collected from the Spirit Rock will be used towards our playground improvement project. Sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050b45abaf2aaafa7-the> to rent the rock for your family.





YOUTH GROUP

Youth Update

We're having a great time in Sunday School learning some of the fun stories of the Bible and discussing teen issues...come join us if you are a 6th grader through college student.

We had a blast with outdoor water games in August when the weather was so hot! Stay tuned for our next youth night activity.



Here is an opportunity for both Middle School and High School kids to attend. The Middle School has a mini-gathering and the High School students get some leadership training – all while enjoying great food, an awesome Christian band, games, and a whole lot more.

REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

Two events - the Middle School Youth Gathering and the High School Leadership Event - will be held on November 3-5, 2023 at [Lake Yale Baptist Conference Center](#)

Let Brian or Kim Howe know if you're interested in attending (a bus is available from Faith Lutheran Church for transportation).

If you are interested in getting involved with the Youth, please reach out to Brian Howe (701-340-5049 or brianhowe57@gmail.com).



Fellowship

Please join us for a Reformation Sunday celebration on 10-29-23. There will be one church service at 10am with communion followed by a potluck meal (Fellowship will provide the meats, please bring a side dish or dessert to share). We will have great fellowship, a bounce house for the kids, some yard games, and much more. We hope you can make it!

Peace Lutheran Church, 1679 Columbia Drive, Decatur, GA 30032 invites members of TLC to the annual 2023 Reformation Divine Service Celebration on Sunday, October 29, 2023 at 4 pm.

The Guest Speaker will be The Rev. Dr. Roosevelt Gray, Jr., President of the LCMS Black Ministry.

A traditional German-based meal will be served with desserts and drinks in the Fellowship Hall immediately following the service.





SOCIAL MINISTRY BOARD — October 2023

Serving Jesus by serving the least (based on Matthew 25:40)

Our purpose is to address the immediate, one-time hardships of people living in Cherokee County, specifically with essential, necessary expenses. We also work with similar organizations in Cherokee County or the larger community.

2023-2024 Assistance Recap:

As of 9/15/23 we have served the community as follows:

- 1 request approved – utility bill
- 2 declined
- 2 pending
- 0 referred out
- 2 incomplete/inadequate documentation received or no further response from applicant





FAITHFUL USE OF MONEY

“So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches?” Luke 16:11

What we do with our money reveals to us and others what we value. When we make a purchase, give a gift, or make an investment, we communicate what we care about. Our priorities dictate how we handle and use money. What we do with money speaks louder than words.

Money has Power. For example, have you ever been tempted or actually given the maître d’ in a fancy restaurant some money after being informed that without reservation there is no seating available? Miraculously, a table can become available. Money gets people’s attention. Money talks, and unfortunately, we often listen. Money is one of Satan’s best tools to separate us from a loving relationship with Jesus.

A major problem in our attitude toward money and our relationship with it is greed. Because of greed, we are never satisfied. Jesus said, *“Watch Out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed.” (Luke 12:15)* Greed affects people of all ages and people at all income levels. We can have lots of money and not be greedy, or we can have little money and be very greedy.

As Christian stewards of God’s money, we are called to keep it in its proper perspective. Jesus said that we can’t serve two masters. We must choose between, God and money (Matthew 6:24). With God’s help, we can keep money from becoming too important. When we faithfully follow God’s will for our lives, we will use money as a tool to extend His kingdom.

Read Ecclesiastes 5:10. How old is the problem of greed? Read also Matthew 6:20. Should we be greedy for spiritual treasure?

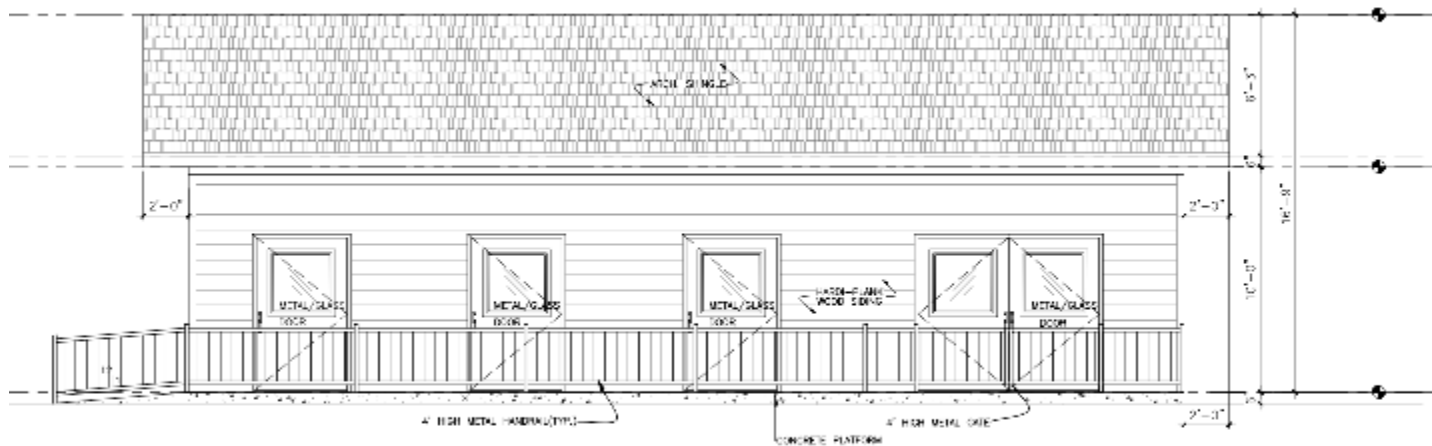
Prayer: **Lord, we pray that You will grant us proper attitudes regarding our money. We pray for discipline so that we may use it properly and faithfully. In Your name we pray. Amen.**



LADIES LUNCH BUNCH will meet on October 24 , 2023, at 11:30 am. Location to be determined.

Watch the Timothy Take-Out or on bulletin board for the location and to sign up. Bring a friend!

UTILITY BUILDING



PROPOSED FRONT ELEVATION

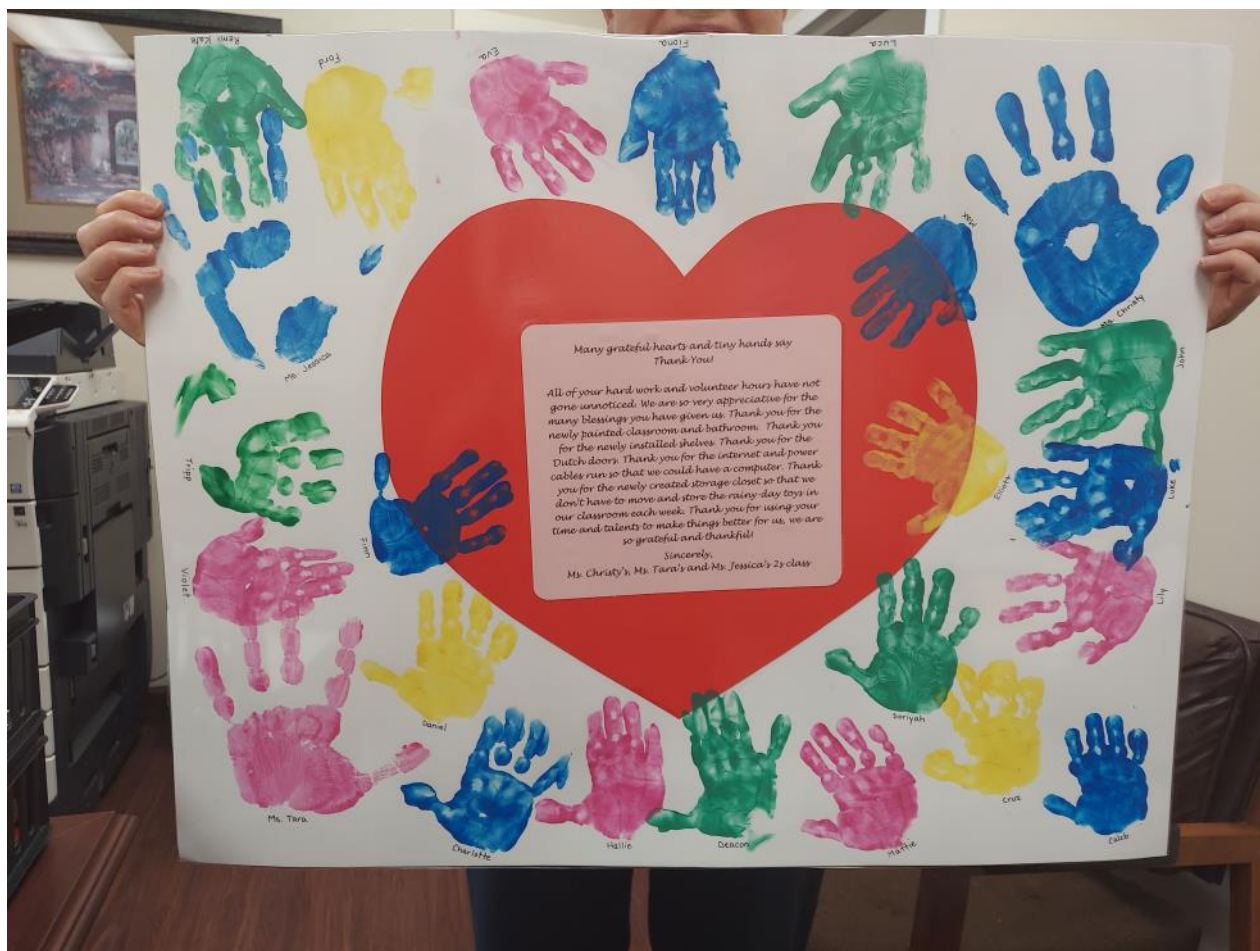
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PENELOPE SAYS—

HELP OUT OUR BUILDING FUND FOR THE ABOVE UTILITY BUILDING! MAKE YOUR CONTRIBUTION NOW!

THANK YOU!



Our Trustees received the above thank you from the 2's preschool class:

Many grateful hearts and tiny hands say THANK YOU!

All of your hard work and volunteer hours have not gone unnoticed. We are so very appreciative for the many blessings you have given us. Thank you for the newly painted classroom and bathroom. Thank you for the newly installed shelves. Thank you for the Dutch doors. Thank you for the internet and power cables run so that we could have a computer. Thank you for the newly created storage closet so that we don't have to move and store the rainy-day toys in our classroom each week. Thank you for using your time and talents to make things better for us; we are so grateful and thankful!

Sincerely,

Ms. Christy's, Ms. Tara's and Ms. Jessica's 2 year-old class



The next meeting will be
Saturday October 21 10 a.m.

The program will be
The "Secret" Life of a Pastor's Wife
With Heidi Brammeier

All ladies of the congregation are invited.



SUNDAY October 1
With noisy mites



Timothy's Cupboard (Food Bank) Update

Serving Cherokee County for over 30 Years

Timothy's Cupboard – Status Update

Over the next several weeks, the Food Bank Ministry Board will be working with the Food Bank volunteers to drive consensus on the long-term viability of its operation – either to restructure, downsize or close the Food Bank due to insufficient number of volunteers (volunteer burnout) and no food bank managerial leadership starting in 2024.

Starting in August, we are progressing forward with the plan to migrate the hardcopy paper client files to digital format. We have updated the food bank laptop and have started to utilize Oasis Insight software (web-based / cloud- based) for the digital format transition. The estimated monthly cost for two users is \$40 for the 'basic' version of the software. Digital migration will likely take months.

Timothy's Cupboard Results through August 2023

The table below highlight the results of the eight months of 2023.

[The results of the first eight months continue to look promising to be better than the past two years, but still below the performance of previous years \(between 2018 and 2020\).](#)

This extrapolated forecast is close to 77% of any of those years.

Timothy's Cupboard							
Food Distribution							
2016 through 2023 Comparisons							
Period	Number of Families Fed	Number of Persons Fed	Number of Children Fed	Number of Seniors Fed	Pounds of Food Distribution	Average Pounds per Family	Average Pounds per Person
2023 YTD (August)	1,520	5,838	1,758	761	283,757	187	49
2022 YTD (August)	1,145	4,388	1,245	674	279,066	244	64
2021 YTD (August)	1,059	4,528	1,025	522	276,996	262	61
2020 YTD (August)	1,594	6,034	1,858	797	402,163	252	67
2019 YTD (August)	2,030	6,924	1,903	1,109	430,022	212	62
2018 YTD (August)	1,992	9,073	2,412	1,228	393,735	198	43
2017 YTD (August)	1,944	7,087	2,321	763	271,082	139	38
2016 YTD (August)	2,089	8,012	2,486	859	269,982	129	34
2023 (extrapolated)	2,280	8,757	2,637	1,142	425,636	187	49
2022 (Full Year)	1,883	7,325	2,130	1,063	443,798	236	61
2021 (Full Year)	1,638	6,952	1,655	779	409,595	250	59
2020 (Full Year)	2,434	10,075	3,320	1,210	622,049	256	62
2019 (Full Year)	3,079	10,114	3,016	1,671	642,789	209	64
2018 (Full Year)	3,052	13,480	3,417	1,878	620,023	203	46
2017 (Full Year)	3,005	10,792	3,387	1,154	420,043	140	39
2016 (Full Year)	3,140	11,927	3,706	1,277	410,662	131	34



Timothy's Annual Trunk or Treat event is fast approaching and this year we will be collecting non-perishable food items for our food bank! Mark your calendars for Saturday, October 14th. We would love as many congregation members as possible to host a trunk to support the children in our preschool and community. We have roughly 125 kiddos who join us each year and it is so fun to see them all dressed up and excited about each trunk's design - and treats too! We can't make this event happen without your help! Sign-up on the bulletin board in the hallway or sign up at the link below. Any questions, contact Christy Hopewell

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4AAFAD2FA4F94-timothy1>



Fall Habitat House Build

This fall we will be building our second home in Marietta starting September 9th. We will be working with North-west Metro Atlanta Habitat who have received some funding from the city of Marietta as well as the Lutheran Coalition for Habitat. This program is for low-income city employees to qualify for a Habitat house and live within the city limits rather than live far out and must travel a long distance to go to work. Our build, which we will be sharing with the Catholic Coalition, will be at 617 Frasier St. in Marietta. Please consider joining us for the build this fall. Below is the work schedule and watch for more details to follow.

617 Frasier Street, Marietta		
Date	Week #	Main Task
10/7/23	5	Interior Paint Prep
10/14/23	6	Interior Paint Day One
10/21/23	7	Interior Paint Day Two
10/28/23	8	Punch
11/4/23	9	Landscape

Timothy is part of a Coalition of eleven Lutheran Churches in the NW Atlanta metro area working together to build Habitat homes for deserving families. Please contact Charlene Yde or Don Snyder for more details.

CONGRATULATIONS to Rev. Alan and Maria Mueller on the birth of their son, Walter Alan Mueller, on Sept. 19, 2023. Walter was 7 lb. 10 oz, and 20 1/2 inches long. Mother and baby are doing fine. Alan was raised in our congregation and we provided support for his education at Concordia. Proud grandparents are Gerald and Joan Mueller.





Timothy Lutheran Church

CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR

SAT | DEC 2 | 9-2

556 Arnold Mill Road
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New Gospel Adventures Podcast for Kids

Across North America, kids have enjoyed **Gospel Adventures**, Lutheran Hour Ministries' virtual mission trips, for years. Now, get ready for the **Gospel Adventures Show**, a new podcast!

Every week, hosts Ben and Noah take young listeners on a 30-minute journey, where they will meet Bible characters, hear stories, learn a new activity, and meet other kids just like them. Also in each episode, you will hear vibrant songs your child or grandchild will want to sing the rest of the week.

You can find the podcast at Spotify, Google and Apple Podcasts, iHeartRadio, or at gospeladventures.org/show. ♦

Kids Joyful Praise

Kids, preschool age to 6th grade, **will be singing** at the October 29th, 10 am Reformation Sunday Service.

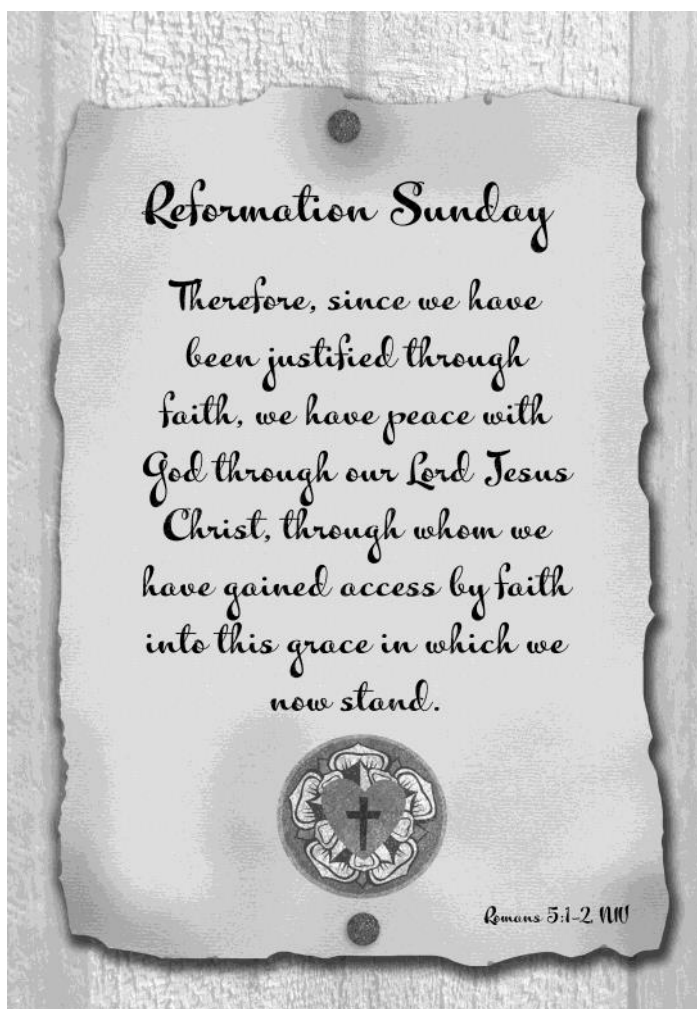
Please gather near the piano in the sanctuary, on Sunday, October 22 at 9:25 am to practice songs that offer praise to our God, for approximately 20 minutes, just before Sunday School begins at 9:45 am. We will meet monthly on the 4th Sunday of each month. If you have any questions, contact Marlene Snyder.





10/1 Rebekah Jenkins
 10/1 Suzette Corley
 10/1 Susan Riefe
 10/1 Chris Riefe
 10/1 Ingeborg Dingler
 10/12 Nancy Terrill
 10/6 Chris Garcia
 10/8 Tristan Morrison
 10/9 Carol Taylor
 10/9 Georgia Holko
 10/12 Tom Ganschow
 10/13 Katie Goeddeke
 10/15 Heidi Brammeier
 10/15 Joy Pepitone
 10/16 Sandy Hooks
 10/18 Casey Lovell
 10/18 Christy Hopewell
 10/20 Terri Greer
 10/21 Guy Wemmer
 10/24 Gerald Mueller
 10/24 Faye Wiese
 10/24 Jerry Erbe
 10/27 Katie Erbe

10/4 Lee & Linda Mehlhop
 10/8 Frank & Maria Beiner
 10/10 Robert & Marcelina Sullivan
 10/11 Bruce & JoAnn Miller
 10/16 Frank & Holly Walker
 10/17 Wayne & Janice Hansen
 10/27 Peter & Nancy Samosky
 10/28 Ken & Gail Goeddeke
 10/29 Barry & Marilyn Smith



Kid's Corner

MISSIONARY-MINDED PRAYER

An important part of missions is prayerfully supporting the church. Use this activity to guide your family's prayer time.



What you need:

- Plastic bag (large zippered)
- Permanent marker
- Bandage
- Toy plane
- Heart-shaped drawing or toy
- Spoon
- Coin
- Hot-sauce packet



What you do:

1. Label the bag with details about the missionaries you'll be praying for (names, location, specific needs).
2. Add small prayer-prompt objects to guide your prayer time (bandage = health, plane = travel, heart = relationships, spoon = cultural connection, coin = finances, hot sauce = boldness).
3. Include other objects that will prompt prayer for missionaries' specific needs.
4. Place the bag where it will remind your family to pray regularly.

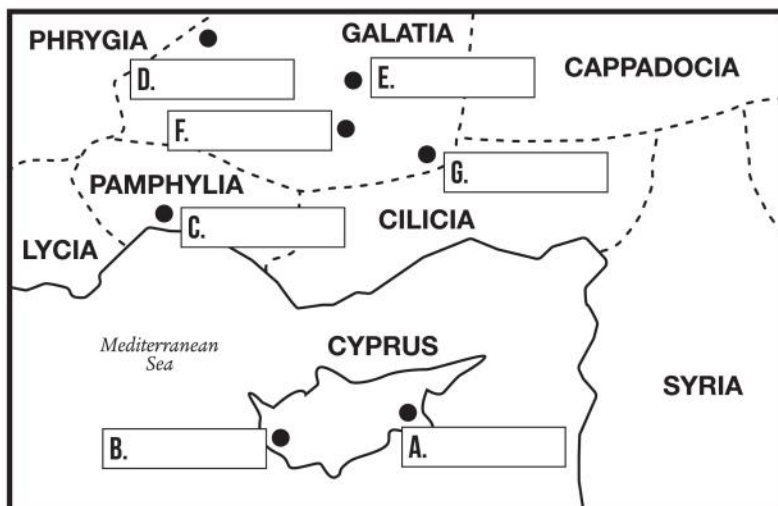
PUZZLE CITY SEARCH

God used Paul to spread the Gospel to many cities during his first missionary journey. Can you find them all?

Directions: From the fragments, guess each city and locate it on the map. Use the Bible references to help.



- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| A. SALAMIS (ACTS 13:5) | E. ICONIUM (ACTS 13:51) |
| B. PAPHOS (ACTS 13:6) | F. LYSTRA (ACTS 14:6) |
| C. PERGA (ACTS 13:13) | G. DERBE (ACTS 14:6) |
| D. ANTIOCH (ACTS 13:14) | |



Answers: Salamis, Paphos, Perga, Antioch, Iconium, Lystra, Derbe

October

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Read 1 Samuel 17:37. Draw what you hear in this verse	2 Read 1 Samuel 17:48-49 Recap the story.	3 Read 2 Samuel 12:13-15. Are consequences fair?	4 Read Psalm 51:3-4. Read about confession in Luther's Small Catechism.	5 Read Psalm 51:15. Find these words in the order of Matris on page 219 in Lutheran Service Book	6 Read 2 Samuel 12:16-18. What is fasting?	7 Read 2 Samuel 12:19-20 Sing "Sing with All the Saints in Glory" (LSB 671).
8 Read 2 Samuel 12:21-23. Pray for those who are mourning the death of a loved one.	9 Read Micah 6:4. Memorize this verse	10 Read Exodus 2:4-6 Find a piece of media about this Bible story	11 Read Exodus 2:7-10. How did Miriam show bravery?	12 Read Exodus 15:20-22. Listen to music from Sunday's service and dance to it!	13 Read Numbers 12:1-2. Ask an adult about a time he or she questioned God.	14 Read Numbers 12:4-9. What was Miriam's sin?
15 Read Numbers 12:10-13. Pray for someone who needs healing	16 Read Luke 10:25-28. Where else does the Bible talk about these commandments?	17 Read Luke 10:29 Name the families that you live by.	18 Read Luke 10:30-31. Pray for the people experiencing homelessness.	19 Read Luke 10:32 Why do you think the priest and the Levite passed him?	20 Read Luke 10:33-35. How do these actions showcase love?	21 Read Luke 10:36 Pray. God, help me show compassion.
22 Read Luke 10:37. Brainstorm ways to show mercy in your neighborhood.	23 Read Ruth 1:16-18. Ask an adult about a person who told him or her about Jesus.	24 Read Ruth 2:1-3. Look up what the word glean means.	25 Read Ruth 2:4. Practice greeting others around your table.	26 Read Ruth 2:12-13. Look up the definition of the word refuge.	27 Read Ruth 3:12. Who else in the Bible is called a redeemer?	28 Read Ruth 3:16-17. Find a food bank to volunteer at or donate to.
29 Read Ruth 4:10-12 Pray for an engaged couple you know	30 Read Ruth 4:13-15 Pray for a couple you know who are new parents.	31 Read Ruth 4:16-17 Find Ruth's name in Jesus' lineage.				