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REFORMATION WEEKEND
October 26-27

Mark Your Calendar

10/5 - Pet Blessing
10/5 - Quilting Bee at First
10/5, 6 - Blessing of Quilts and Quilters
10/13 - Tailgate Party at Nativity
10/22 - Bread Breakers Program at First
10/27 - Confirmation at First
11/2, 3 - All Saints Worship
11/8, 9 - Rummage Sale at Nativity
11/9, 10 - Veterans Recognition
11/27 - Thanksgiving Eve Worship at First

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
7400 W. Lapham St.
West Allis, WI
www.firstlutheranelca.org
E-mail: firstlutheranelca@att.net
Phone: 414-476-4664

"Reaching out in our community to share the Word of God"

NATIVITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
6905 W. Bluemound Rd.
Wauwatosa, WI
Nativity Phone: 414-476-1853
Nativity Phone (basement): 414-257-9980
www.nativitylutheranchurchwauwatosa.org

"Nativity: an inviting and nurturing community dedicated to proclaiming the Gospel and serving Christ"

Pet Blessing
Oct. 5th
See p. 8 for details

All God's Creatures
Dear People of God,

Reformation Sunday is celebrated in the Lutheran Church on the last Sunday in October (October 27 this year). We celebrate this event to commemorate the renewal of the church that happened in the time of Martin Luther. We get our Lutheran name from this event. It seemed that the Gospel of Jesus Christ was being lost. Martin Luther and others reclaimed it by stepping forward to proclaim that the forgiveness of sins is through faith in Jesus Christ alone. This caused a division in the church. The churches of the Reformation and the Roman Catholic Church separated. Though we are on friendlier terms now, the separation continues to this day. Luther also reclaimed hymn singing. One of the great hymns of the Reformation is “A Mighty Fortress in Our God.”

Many people ask me, which church is the true church? The Augsburg Confession is one of the founding documents of the Lutheran Church. It states in Article #7:

It is also taught among us that one holy Christian church will be and remain forever. This is the assembly of all believers, among whom the Gospel is preached in its purity and the holy sacraments are administered according to the Gospel. For it is sufficient for the true unity of the Christian church that the Gospel be preached [with one accord] in conformity with a pure understanding of it and that the sacraments be administered in accordance with the divine Word. It is not necessary for the true unity of the Christian church that ceremonies, instituted by men, should be observed uniformly in all places. It is as Paul says in Eph. 4:4-5 “There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call, one Lord, one faith, one baptism.”

We teach that in all the world there is only one church (that is the church catholic/universal), even though there may be different practices. The church exists where the Gospel is proclaimed and the sacraments (Holy Baptism and Holy Communion) are administered. This gives us a lot of flexibility in our relationship with other Christian churches and allows us to accept many other as true Christian people even though there are differences.

Think about this as you go about your daily life.

In Christ, Pastor Peterson
Worship and Study

Worship Matters by John Bennethum

October brings our annual celebration of Reformation Sunday which falls on October 27th this year. Martin Luther and other Reformers of the Church felt that some of the actions and interpretations that the Roman Catholic Church were observing were contrary to Scripture. They were interested in trying to bring the Church "back" to the correct interpretation of Scripture. In trying to accomplish these "corrections" they found insurmountable obstacles and ended up creating a new Church which had these corrections in place. Their original goal was not to create a new Church! Nevertheless, that is what happened. Today, the wide variety of different denominations testify that people could not agree on these interpretations. Baptists believe that complete immersion in water is necessary for baptism; Lutherans believe only that water is essential in the sacrament. Lutherans use real red wine and wafers; other churches use grape juice and bread. Key words for Lutherans during Communion are: "Christ is present IN, WITH and UNDER the bread and wine." Catholics believe in Transubstantiation which is the actual changing of the bread and wine into the body and blood of Christ. These different interpretations have led to the many churches that exist today. We recognize and celebrate the work of all the Reformers on Reformation Sunday. RED is the color of the paraments on that day. As Lutherans it is a Festival Sunday to be celebrated!

Deacon John

Children’s Prayer


In Memory Of…

Helen Spesak who was born to eternal life on Sept. 15, 2013

Prayer can help...

If serious illness or other life factors affect you or those you love, contact the church office and we will send your request through our prayer chain. We have people who will pray for your need. If you are interested in joining a prayer chain, contact Marie Le Page (First Lutheran), Laverne Breed (Nativity Lutheran) or the church office.

For Women Only….

The Saturday Morning Women’s Bible Study meets most Saturdays at 9:30 a.m. in First Lutheran’s Fireside Room. Enjoy fellowship, snacks and dig deeper into the Bible. If you have any questions, or to check the schedule, call the church office.

TUESDAY BIBLE CLASS TO STUDY REVELATION

“The book of Revelation was written by the Apostle John during his exile on the island of Patmos. John’s purpose in writing this book was to give hope and encouragement to those Christians who were suffering severe persecution for their faith in Jesus Christ. These Christians needed to know that God controls whatever happens here on earth. Through the imagery and symbols, even though they are sometimes difficult to understand, one thing is made clear, Jesus Christ is the LORD and ruler over everyone and everything—even powerful human governments. He is clearly in control and will someday judge and punish what is evil, even Satan. He will also establish and everlasting kingdom with a new heaven and a new earth.” (Introduction to Revelation, p. 1912, NIV)

On Tuesday, October 1st we will begin our study of the Book of Revelation. All are welcome to join us in the Fireside Room from 10:00-11am. Bring your Bible and join the discussion. John Bennethum is our Teacher.

Bible Study Opportunities
October 5th we will celebrate the blessing of animals at both churches, and at all three services that weekend we will celebrate God’s creation. All of this is because the church celebrates the life of (Saint) Francis of Assisi on October 4th. This year we saw the first pope from the “New World” and the first pope in all of history to take the name of Francis. Who was Francis of Assisi?

Born Giovanni di Pietro di Bernardone, but nicknamed Francesco ("the Frenchman"), he lived from 1181 or 1182 to October 3, 1226 and was an Italian Catholic friar and preacher. He founded the men’s Order of Friars Minor (Franciscans), the women’s Order of St. Clare, and the Third Order of Saint Francis for men and women not able to live the monastic life of poverty and preaching. Though he was never ordained to the Catholic priesthood, Francis is one of the most venerated religious figures in all of history.

Francis’ father was a prosperous silk merchant. Francis lived the high-spirited life typical of a wealthy young man, even fighting as a soldier for Assisi. While going off to war in 1204, Francis had a vision that directed him back to Assisi, where he lost his taste for his worldly life. On a pilgrimage to Rome, he joined the poor in begging at St. Peter's Basilica. The experience moved him to live in poverty. Francis returned home, renouncing his wealth and future inheritance and began preaching in the streets, and soon amassed a following. Pope Innocent III authorized his Franciscan Order in 1210. Once the Pope authorized his community, he withdrew increasingly from external affairs. In 1223, Francis arranged for the first Christmas manger scene. In 1224, he received the stigmata, making him the first recorded person to bear the wounds of Christ's Passion. He died during the evening hours of October 3, 1226, while listening to a reading he had requested of Psalm 140.

Pope Gregory IX pronounced Francis a saint on July 16, 1228. He is known as the patron saint of animals, the environment, and is one of the two patron saints of Italy (with Catherine of Siena). It is customary for Catholic, Anglican and now Lutheran churches to hold ceremonies blessing animals on or near his feast day of October 4. He is also known for his love of the Eucharist, and for the creation of the Christmas creche or Nativity Scene. Francis had a spirit of gladness and gratitude for all of God’s creation.

The text of hymn number 835, “All Creatures, Worship God Most High!” in ELW is a loose translation of prayer/hymn written by Francis.

God receives none but those who are forsaken, restores health to none but those who are sick, gives sight to none but the blind, and life to none but the dead. … He has mercy on none but the wretched and gives grace to none but those who are in disgrace. —Martin Luther

"Verbum Domini Manet in Aeternum"

Latin for "The Word of the Lord Endures Forever," this motto of the Lutheran arm of the Protestant Reformation comes from 1 Peter 1:25. Frederick the Wise, ruler of Saxony and one of Martin Luther's earliest and most powerful defenders, had the VDMA symbol sewn into the right sleeve of the official garments of his court. The symbol also appeared on banners, flags, swords and uniforms, representing the unity of the Lutheran laity in defending their beliefs.

HOW'S YOUR PATH?

Some Christian converts in an African village were diligent about daily prayer. In fact, they each had a special place in the thicket outside town where they prayed in solitude. Over time, they wore pathways through the brush to their private prayer areas. If someone neglected his or her prayer life, it was evident because fresh grass started growing on that particular footpath. Out of concern, fellow Christians offered this loving reminder: “Friend, there’s grass growing on your path.”

How worn is your own path to prayer? Are you persistent when answers don’t seem to come? Do you trust that God will answer your prayers, according to his good and gracious will?

Don’t abandon your pathway to prayer. When you grow weary, remember Galatians 6:9 (NIV), which promises that “at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.”
**Community Information**

**Lilac Bus - October**
Open to all West Allis Area Seniors. Call Lilac Bus 302-8715 to make a reservation - First Come, First Served! Cost is $3 per round trip. You will be picked up at your home.


Fri., Oct. 18 - Bluemound shopping at Sendik’s, Trader Joe’s and Brennans. Lunch to be determined.

Tue., Oct. 29 - Highway 100 shopping. Lunch at Finn McGuire’s Irish Pub.

**Hart Park Senior Center**

Crafter’s Corner - 1st Thurs. of each month at 9am

Scrabble - Wednesdays at 10am

Cards and Games for Ladies and Gents

Skat: Mondays and Wednesdays at 9:30 am

Men’s Sheepshead: 12:00pm Mon. thru Thurs.

Bridge: Thursdays at 12:00; call Pat at 231-3935 to sign up.

MahJongg: Wednesdays at 12:00.

Call 471-8495 for information.

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**Clement Manor Center for Enrichment**

**Keynote Series** - Please register at least one week in advance. Call 546-7302.

Thurs., Oct. 17, 1:30-3:00 p.m. - “Eliminating Statelessness in Thailand”. Joseph Quinnell, co-founder of The Thailand Project, fights against statelessness, which is the highest risk factor for human trafficking. His presentation details the project from its conception to its execution.

**Lifelong Learning Book Club** - 1st Tue. at 12pm

- Oct. 1 - Defending Jacob by William Landay
- Nov. 5 - Good Graces by Lesley Kagen

**Club Loomineers** - A No-Needle Knitting Group - 1st Wed. of month. 12pm. No charge.

**Bridge Group** - Every Tues. - 9-11 am

Call Clement Manor at 546-7302 for registration or info.

**“Heritage’s Homemade Soup!”**

Heritage Senior Living
7901 W. National Ave., West Allis
Thursday, October 17th
11:00a.m. - 1:00 p.m. or 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Stop in for some hot savory soup.
$5 meal includes chicken noodle or vegetable barley soup with a baguette. Also includes your choice of beverage and a freshly baked cookie.

**PROCEEDS WILL BENEFIT First Lutheran’s Food Pantry!**
Lots of Opportunities!

**BREAD BREAKERS: PASS (ON) THE SALT**

On Tuesday, October 22nd, at 11:30 a.m. we will assemble in First Lutheran’s Fellowship Hall for another Bread Breakers meeting. Linda Grulke and Jackie Bayer will be presenting a program dealing with the “Salt of Life”. Food will be prepared during their presentation which will be shared with the group assembled.

In order to prepare enough food, it is important that you SIGN UP on the reservation sheet in the Narthex at each church by Oct. 17. A free will offering will help offset the cost of groceries.

*Everyone is welcome!*

Come, learn and enjoy.

See you there!

**Going Shopping?**

The food pantry at First Lutheran could use donations of jelly, canned corn and snacks. Anything else you’d care to pick up is always welcomed! Thank you!

**Pet Blessing**

**Saturday, Oct 5th**

Join us for delicious apple cider and a “Blessing of the Animals” celebration on Saturday, Oct 5th, at 10 a.m. on the front lawn at First Lutheran, and at noon at on the lawn at Nativity Lutheran.

Pets must be on a leash or in a carrier. Depending on the number attending, we will try to provide an individual blessing for each pet. Some animals may be difficult to transport. If you are not able to bring your pet, bring a photograph of your pet or fill out the Pet Blessing form in this newsletter. Return the form to church and a blessing will be said for your pet.

Psalm 145:9 - The Lord is good to all, compassionate to every creature.

It is up to us to be good stewards and caretakers for all of His creation.

**TIME TO EXERCISE!**

**E.L.F.F. IS HERE!**

On Sept. 5th, Nativity started a new program on Mondays and Thursdays at 9:15 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall called E.L.L.F., which stands for: E - Exercise (Chair)  
L - Listening  
L - Learning  
F - Fellowship

We started with about 15 minutes of flexing Exercises, mainly done by using a chair. After 4 sessions we are at about 25 exercises.

Our Listening involved an eyewitness story of a complete healing of a bad electrical burn within several days. Our Learning included quotes on healing from the Bible, along with discussion. For our Fellowship, we had coffee, melon, sweet rolls, kringles and a lot of talk.

E.L.L.F. lasts about 1 1/2 - 2 hrs. We are looking for more of our brothers and sisters to join us.

Don & Joan Brauch

---

Dear Pastor Peterson;

Please include my pet(s), ___________________   ____________  

___________________   ____________

___________________   ____________

Name of Pet(s)                                 Type of Pet

in the BLESSING OF THE PETS on October 5, 2013.

Please mail your request to the church. Deadline is October 3, 2013.
First Lutheran Committees

Evangelism on the Move:

Honoring All Veterans on Nov. 10 & 11

We will be honoring veterans the weekend of Nov. 10 and 11 with special prayers during the service and a short reception afterward to either pack care packages for them or address Christmas cards to them.

If you have a family member or friend who is currently on active duty, please contact the office using email (firstlutheranelca.att.net) or phone (414-476-4664) and give us his or her mailing address. Wanted: Christmas cards! We need Christmas cards to send. If you have a few new cards and envelopes left from last year, please leave them in the box in the narthex.

See us on the web. Check out our website at www.firstlutheranelca.org. You can find information on all of our activities and view an online version of this newsletter (saves postage costs). If you prefer viewing electronically, please notify Barb in the office at (414)476-4664. Thank you.

Thinking of becoming a member of First Lutheran?? If you are reading this newsletter for the first time and are interested in becoming a member of our church, we welcome you! Please contact our church office at (414) 476-4664, email to firstlutheranelca@att.net, check out our web page at www.firstlutheranelca.org or ask our greeters or ushers. They would be happy to help.

“This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine”

Reaching out in our community to share the word of God.

Social Ministry Corner

Thanks for your generous support of our food pantry. Many of our visitors each week express their gratitude for the food and fellowship. Here are a few more of the comments we received last year when we asked our visitors to tell us about hunger or our food pantry:

- This pantry and the people that work it are a blessing.
- God bless this pantry. It has meant the world to not only me but my family.
- The food pantry is a lifeline when I can’t make ends meet, a sharing place to socialize and not isolate, a warm place to share a meal and an example of Jesus’ love. Thank you for your love and support.
- Thank you for the Friday food and the company. The people mean a lot. I get to get out and am with people. I live alone and get lonely, so thanks for being there. Jesus loves us all.

Sometimes a little kindness reaches farther than you realize. Please contact the office if you’d like to volunteer.

Thanks to the following members and friends of First Lutheran/Nativity who have donated or prepared food for the food pantry lunches in the past month: Peggy and Glen Phillips, Pat and Mike Temke, Shirley Armato, Natalie Jaeger, Cindy Labadie, Jamie Schoberg, Carol Leonard, Laverne Williams, Judi Mueller, John Hrovat and his farmer friend, John Bayer/Germanfest and Chris Hasenberg. All are welcome to donate food, such as homemade soup, cookies, brownies, salads, etc. We will provide the ingredients, including cake mix, flour, noodles, meat, etc., if you want to prepare the dish. Contact Joy Dowd if you have questions.

Thanks to the “Souper Hero’s” who walked the “Miles for Meals” walk for Feeding America and our food pantry. Weather was great and everyone had a great time. Our “Super Hero’s are the Labadie family, Schoberg family, Kubek family, Colores family and Chris Hasenberg.

Thank you to those who donated toward the “Habitat for Humanity” volunteer lunches on Sept 19th. The workers were happy to receive a great lunch and we were proud to provide it. Habitat for Humanity is an organization that builds or refurbishes housing so families have a safe place to live. All of the workers and skilled trade persons are volunteers.

In the end, only kindness matters. -Jewel

This Little Light Of Mine lyrics © Sony/ATV Music Publishing LLC, HAL LEONARD CORPORATION Universal Music Publishing Group
**The Scoop on Stewardship**

A **JUG** has arrived in the narthex of our church to relieve us of our coins and to add to our Handicap Accessibility Fund! Can we fill that jug with the loose change from our pockets and purses? Paper money is welcome also. How long will it take to fill the jug and how much money can we collect for our fund?

From birth through end-of-life, we have the opportunity to live our lives in grateful response to God’s abundant love. Just as God used His creative ideas in forming all that surrounds us, let’s use our creativity to find ways to add money to our handicap lift fund!

Please reach into your pockets and remove the coins each time you see the jug!

*When people give of themselves to the Lord, the Lord makes things happen!*

Lavone Reis, Stewardship Chairperson

**O Lord, Give Us A Lift!**

Make a donation to First Lutheran’s Handicap Accessibility Fund today!

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**An Old Fashioned Quilting Bee**

Lutheran World Relief anticipates a greater need than ever for quilts this year, and requests all quilting groups increase their productivity by 25% to reach the Synod goal of 500,000 quilts. To help reach Sew and Sew Quilters goal of 75 quilts this year, we’ve scheduled an old fashioned Quilting Bee for Saturday, Oct. 5th from 10 am to noon in the Fellowship Hall. We’re inviting everyone in the congregation who knows how to use a scissors and tie a knot (no sewing experience needed!) to bring their scissors and a friend to help the quilters tie 25 quilts in 2 hours.

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**FIRST LUTHERAN FINANCES 2013**

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<tr>
<th>MONTH</th>
<th>INCOME</th>
<th>EXPENSES</th>
<th>DIFFERENCE</th>
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<tr>
<td>August</td>
<td>$12,805.28</td>
<td>$13,908.82</td>
<td>(1,103.54)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year to Date</td>
<td>$108,928.17</td>
<td>$120,439.31</td>
<td>(11,511.14)</td>
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Note: Expenses YTD include payments for bathroom remodeling.

**FIRST LUTHERAN ATTENDANCE**

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<th>2013</th>
<th>2012</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August</td>
<td>281</td>
<td>303</td>
<td>(22)</td>
<td>(8%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year to Date</td>
<td>3,093</td>
<td>3,424</td>
<td>(331)</td>
<td>(11%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of Svcs.</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>(0)</td>
<td>(0)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year to Date Svcs.</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>(1)</td>
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"Character cannot be developed in ease and quiet. Only through experience of trial and suffering can the soul be strengthened, vision cleared, ambition inspired and success achieved." Helen Keller (1880-1968)

"Life is 10 percent what you make it and 90 percent how you take it." Irving Berlin (1888-1989)
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**Sunday School is held at First Lutheran, 7400 W. Lapham St., West Allis, at 9:00 a.m. beginning Sept. 8th.**
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<td>10:00a-Bible Study</td>
<td>9:00a-Quilting 3:00p-Evang.Comm.</td>
<td>9:30a-Parenting Network</td>
<td>10:00a-Food Pantry 7:00p-Carson Bapt. Worship</td>
<td>10:00a-Pet Blessing 10:00a-Quilting Bee 5:30p-Wrshp.&amp;Com.</td>
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<td>8:15a-Choir Practice 9:30- Wrshp.&amp;Com. Sunday School 10:30a-Coffee And... 10:30a-Soc.Ministry Committee 3:00p-Carson Bapt. Worship</td>
<td>6:30p-Parenting Network</td>
<td>10:00a-Bible Study</td>
<td>9:30a-Parenting Network 6:30p-Council Mtg.</td>
<td>10:00a-Food Pantry 7:00p-Carson Bapt. Worship</td>
<td>9:30a-Women's Bible Study 5:30p-Wrshp.&amp;Com.</td>
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<td>9:30a-Wrshp.&amp;Com. Sunday School 10:30a-Coffee And... 3:00p-Carson Baptist Worship</td>
<td>6:30p-Parenting Network</td>
<td>10:00a-Bible Study 6:00p-Worship Plan Committee</td>
<td>9:00a-Quilting 1:00p-Library Sq. Worship &amp; Comm.</td>
<td>9:30a-Parenting Network</td>
<td>10:00a-Food Pantry 7:00p-Carson Bapt. Worship</td>
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<td>Reformation 9:30a-Wrshp.&amp;Com. Sunday School 10:30a-Coffee And... 3:00p-Carson Baptist Worship</td>
<td>6:30p-Parenting Network</td>
<td>10:00a-Bible Study</td>
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<td>9:30a-Parenting Network</td>
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October Birthdays

First Lutheran:
10/1  Gail Sopa
10/3  Marie LePage
10/3  Rylee Siskoy
10/8  LaVerne Cronce
10/8  Pr. Henry Hammerling
10/9  Sarah Sackett
10/11 Linda Grulke
10/12 Ashley Nusberger
10/13 Cindy Labadie
10/16 Carrie Pflugradt
10/17 Earl Casto
10/17 Eva Gray
10/18 Allan Munkwitz
10/19 Richard Peterson
10/20 Elizabeth Gray
10/21 Myra Shields
10/21 Barbara Troller
10/22 Bradley Fox
10/22 Gloria Grassell

Nativity Lutheran:
10/10 Dale Isotalo
10/15 Phillip Steffes
10/17 Robert Saur
10/26 Harriet Miller
10/29 May Mahloch

BIBLE QUIZ...

What Old Testament people experienced God parting the waters so they could cross on dry land, and under what circumstances did they do so?

A. The Hebrew slaves, fleeing Egypt through the Red Sea
B. The 12 Tribes of Israel, as they crossed the Jordan River into the Promised Land
C. Elijah and Elisha, crossing the Jordan before Elijah was taken up into heaven
D. All of the above

Answer: (See Exodus 14:22; Joshua 3:17; 2 Kings 2:8.)

Anniversary Blessings

Nativity Lutheran:
10/21  James & Sandra Larson  40 yrs.

First Lutheran:
10/26  Gail & Daniel Sopa  39 yrs.
10/28  Robert & Ida Long  69 yrs.
If you no longer wish to continue receiving this newsletter, please contact the church office.