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August/September 2019

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***From the*** PASTOR

**Dear Elias Family and Friends,**

Why did they have to call it *Labor Day*?

As August’s scorching sun and brow-drenching humidity set in for the “*Dog Days of Summer*,” we can gain some mental relief from our physical discomfort as we think upon that day, which is soon coming, when we shall breathe a sigh of cool, refreshing relief…, Ahh, Labor Day! Alleluia! Finally a day intended for REST! It’s the one day of the year when us guys dream of chillin’ and grillin’, or maybe goin’ fishin’ . . . or even better yet -- just doing nothin’! However, if your wife is anything like mine – and takes “Labor Day” literally, then you might just find yourself, not chillin or’ grillin, at least not until you’ve done some diggin’, weedin’, or riggin’ – like cleaning out your car (who me?!), or worse yet, cleaning up the garage! My worst nightmare . . . . Sorry, no photos please!

That’s why I thank God that He says what He means. When the Lord says to rest in Him, He really means it. God wants us to cast every care on Him – from our family to our farm and everything in between! Time to trust, time to believe and Rest in the Lord instead of our pre-occupation with worry, stress, and busyness. Work and leisure are some good themes to consider in this issue of our Communicator, and so we shall hear about these matters from our regular contributors, i.e., Luther, the Rabbis and perhaps a thoughtful writing or two. Unfortunately for vacationers, Luther preferred to emphasize the need for hard work over idleness, but don’t take offence, he also admits he was a workaholic! Elsewhere in the writings you will learn what is the source of good works we do, not to mention the bad deeds, which emanate from “pitch black evil smelling water” (St Theresa of Avila).

Do Good Works, work for justice, peace and harmony. Find that Christ is your source of life and all goodness, and praise him for every labor done, as unto the Lord. May we always seek to be joyful in our work and grateful for times of rest. May there be fruits in abundance for all of the labors and the time for refreshment and laughter. Blessings to you and yours, as you find the living, breathing and life-giving work of Jesus Christ our Lord coursing through you every day unto eternity.

In the Name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

*Pastor Jon, and Your Elias Family*

**Coming Events**

***Men’s Outing***

The Men’s Outing will be held at the Emmitsburg Community Park (behind the pool) on August 22, starting around 5:00 pm. The menu will be hamburgers and hotdogs grilled up by Jerry Smith and corn on the cob courtesy of Frank Schmersal.

The tradition of the men meeting on the fourth Thursday of August goes back over 70 years. There have been many changes – there aren’t the boys and young men running around and playing ball but it’s a great time for us older guys to catch up with old and new tales. So please join us and bring your appetite and a friend. See you there!

***Family Night***

Family Night will be Sunday, September 29 at 5:00 pm in the dining hall. Please bring a covered dish. Chicken, ham and ice cream will be provided! Entertainment will be by Iris Rogers. Bring your friends and family. A signup sheet will be in the back window of the church closer to the date.

*Stock the Block*

"Stock the Block" will begin on Sunday, August 18th. These items replenish everyday supplies that are used here at Elias.

***W/ELCA***

There will be a Women's meeting after church on Sunday, August 18.

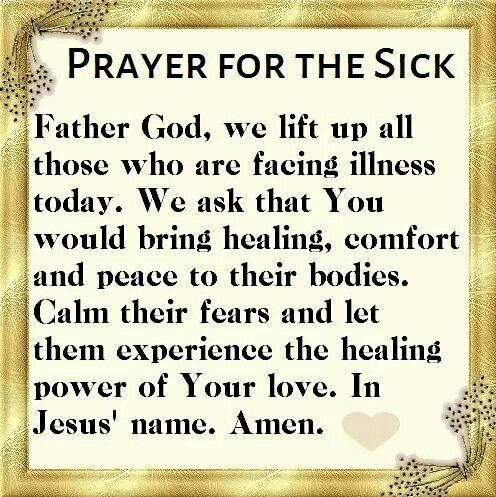
The women (with Sam Valentine's help) are in the process of purchasing three round tables for after-church get togethers.

Connie Fisher



*Emmitsburg’s National Night Out 2019*

Food, Community Fun, and Education, all happening on Tuesday, August 6, from 6:00 to 8:30 PM. Location is the Emmitsburg Community Park, 201 West Lincoln Avenue (behind the pool.)

*Service of Healing Prayers – Sunday, August 25*

Bringing ourselves by Faith, we come to the altar to present ourselves in need of God’s Healing Presence – Jesus says, “Yes, I am Willing” to Heal and to Restore you to wholeness in mind, body and spirit. Consider bringing a friend in need of Christ’s presence, and the Holy Spirit’s Power, and accompany them to the presence of Almighty God.

*****Council of Churches*****

The next Emmitsburg Council of Churches meeting will be held at Toms Creek UMC on Tuesday, September 17, beginning at 7:00 PM.

***Announcing:***

***Swing Dance Night(s)***

Grab your partner and get ready to Swing the night away! Join us in the Elias dining room for the first, 3rd Saturday, Swing Dance Date Night on Saturday, September 21, from 7 to 9 PM. (Other dates are October 19 and November 16.) This fun, family-friendly, inter-generational community outreach event (that will benefit Elias ministries) is sure to be a hit. Bring your friends and neighbors along and enjoy an evening of dancing or just sit back and enjoy the music. You are sure to be entertained!

The Leister Quartet performs a sophisticated menu of Swing, Jazz, and Blues standards mixed with original compositions. Monte Leister fronts the quartet, bringing his decades of musical experience; Miles and Zion’s prodigy and passion fill out the rhythm section. The quartet is completed by a myriad of horn players and guest artists whose talent keeps audiences captivated and coming back for more.

Tickets are $10 for singles and $20 for couples, and may be purchased at the door.

Paws to Pray *– Elias Prayer Hotline!*

Offering serious Prayer for Real people with real needs….and we know, by Faith, that our Real God hears us and answers Prayer.

Please join the group or just listen and pray silently if you feel shy. Everyone’s welcome.

**Dial: 712-451-0767 Access Code: 812928 then press #**

Paws to Pray takes place on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month, at 7:30 PM.

August 13 August 27 Sept. 10 Sept. 24

Welcome to the Hotline . . . Let us pray!

**Elias’ Finances**

Hard to believe we have already gone through half of 2019. This is just a little update on Elias’ giving this far. The budget we approved for 2019 was $139,190, be assured that this was a faith budget that we believed we could make. At this point we have budgeted income of $59,704 and expenses of $71,085 leaving us behind $11,381. Some reasons we are short are we missed a Sunday in January for snow, giving will fall off in summer months, and an insurance bill of $7,144 which is budgeted over the whole year. Our expenses remain the same each week, even when our attendance is down. Most of us are on fixed incomes and there are many demands on our funds. Just remember that Elias has been here for over 250 years as a source of God’s word in the Emmitsburg community and needs your financial backing.

Roger Adams

## **From The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther**

## 

**on: WORK**

***“In his exposition on John 14:24 ‘***Anyone who does not love me will not obey my teaching,’ ***Luther speaks of the usual attitude of men toward work.”***

**All Want Possessions, Power, Pleasure---But Not Work!**

“All the world is so constituted that if a man can avoid work, he does so! And yet he wants his share of enjoyment. As the heathen poet says: ‘*It is characteristic of all human beings to incline from work to pleasure*.’ All people like glory and possessions; everybody wants to rise in the world and aims at a prominent position. But when they are there and feel the work and worry it entails, they soon become disgusted and do not continue; for they sought nothing but their pleasure and ease. In like manner, everybody wants to find pleasure and delight in marriage, and then, when they enter it and do not find pleasure and delight, they become the enemies of marriage. The same thing is going on in all the other estates. As a result, those who are faithful in their positions are very rare birds indeed in this world. For faithfulness entails labor and disgust. He who wants to discharge his [her] duties in a right, God-pleasing manner will soon see what trouble he has to expect and how heavy the burden is. Consequently, he [she] will often complain, as the world cries, that it is a hard, miserable life. He will soon say; ‘Who would have believed that this position entailed so much trouble? Ah, if only I were rid of it!’ Indeed, my friend, if this is not what you wanted, you should not have gone into it in the first place [!]. If a person wants nothing but pleasure and delight or glory and wants to be at the head of things---who would not like that? But this is the way the world is. It likes nothing but the lust of the flesh.” **What Luther Says, Practical Anthology**, p. 1493 #4825. Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, MO. 1959

***“Yet God would have us carry on some honest labor, whatever the world may think of Work,” Luther remarks on Psalm 128:2, “***You will eat the fruit of your labor, blessings and prosperity will be yours.”

**Our Working Pleases God Despite What the World Thinks of It**

“Your work is a very sacred matter. God delights in it, and through it He wants to bestow his blessing on you. This praise of work should be inscribed on all tools, on the forehead and the face that sweat from toiling. For the world does not consider labor a blessing. Therefore it flees and hates it . . . But the pious, who fear the Lord, labor with a ready and cheerful heart; for they know God’s command and will. Thus a pious farmer sees this verse written on his wagon and plow, a cobbler sees it on his leather and awl, a laborer sees it on wood and iron: ‘Happy shalt thou be, and it shall be well with thee.” The world inverts the thought and says: Miserable shalt thou be, and it shall not be well with thee; for these things must forever be

*(continued on p. 7)*

**Luther** (continued)

endured and borne. But happy are those who lead a life of leisure and without labor have the wherewithal to live.” **What Luther Says, Practical Anthology**, p. 1493 #4826. Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, MO. 1959

***Finally, Luther admits to being a workaholic and encourages taking care of one’s self . . .***

**Do Not Over Work:**

“To be sure, work is prescribed for the body, to give it exercise and keep it from being idle. But a person should work in such a way that he {she] remains well and does not injury to his body. We should not break our heads at work and injure our bodies, as was done by many under the papacy in monasteries. They ruined themselves by entirely too much praying, fasting, singing, waking, scourging, reading, and lying in uncomfortable positions. As a result, they had to die an untimely death. I myself used to do such things, and I have racked my brains because I still have not overcome the bad habit of overworking. Nor shall I overcome it as long as I live. **What Luther Says, Practical Anthology**, p. 1497 #4839. Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, MO. 1959

*We ought to work as unto the Lord. We do best to show ourselves as workman and women who need not be ashamed…but always having the Word at work in our hearts and minds, we must be ready to provide a testimony of the One who has done such a great Work… “For You, and For Me.” That is our Lord Christ, who’s Work upon the cross of Calvary, did pay for and secure our entrance unto the Father, God, the ALMIGHTY. What Great WORK did Jesus do—for You? What is our reasonable response? Non-other than our Liturgy: The Work of Worship, Prayer, Attentiveness to the Holy Scriptures, seeking God’s face in every moment of life, asking for Jesus and the Holy Spirit to fill us to overflowing with light, love and grace. And to Rest on the Sabbath! Solo de gloria †††*

***Bad Girls Bible Study***

The Bad Girls of the Bible are at it again! Here is the schedule for the remaining sessions of the current Bible study series, based on the book **A Woman God's Spirit Can Guide**. All sessions begin at 11:00 AM in the dining room.

August 1 Chapter 6 – Priscilla and Aquila

August 15 Chapter 7 – Phoebe

August 29 Chapter 8 – Junia(s) and Addronicus

Sept. 12 Chapter 9 – Mary, Tryphena, Tryphosa, Persis, Lois, and Eunice

Sept. 26 Chapter 10 – Euodia and Syntyche

October 10 Chapter 11 – Apphia and Philemon

October 24 Chapter 12 – Sometimes God’s Spirit Guides Women into Ministry Leadership

**Let’s Read By Linda Knox**

**The Variety May Amaze you; Prepare to be Surprised!**

A library has many meanings and each person can find his own special way of using the wealth of materials offered. Our church library is no different in that it very often contains exactly the information that you are looking for, but you may take many roads to search it out. All collected items in some way have a religious theme of course, but you may be amazed at the variety! There are volumes for the youngest and the oldest, and sometimes they satisfy all ages.

A short, but beautifully written picture book: **Grandad’s Prayers of the Earth,** by Douglas Wood, exemplifies how this happens. The author states in his dedication of this book that it is “For grandparents and grandchildren everywhere who listen for the prayers of the earth.” Reading the book takes only minutes, but the seriousness of the subject does not leave out anyone or anything. The overall truth comes through each of Grandpa’s answers; until the wiser boy reaches an understanding taught to him by his grandpa. He has become a man.

**At Home with Jesus; Devotions for Children,** by Joslyn Moldstad, mother of six, has many experiences with guiding youngsters. As the operator of the “Jesus Lambs Family Day Care” in her home. She has written other books of a religious nature, and her husband, Pastor Don Moldstad, did the illustrations. This book appears very much like our regular little daily devotionals, “Our Daily Bread” and “The Word in Season.” A Bible verse provides the setting or theme for the story that follows it. At the end of each devotion is a prayer. None of the combined parts run more than two pages in length. Each one could be read by or for children of elementary age with little explanation of the meaning. Pick and choose the stories or follow order in the book.

**Family Life Issues** serves well for particular situations being a guide with Bible Studies or Groups. Our shelves hold the publications **Growing as a Blended Family** and **Growing as a Single Parent.** They contain questions faced by those in the predicaments that arise and practical solutions to help those involved.

Within the library are novels and some series for those who like mysteries and good stories. Look around and explore; what you discover may surprise you. Set an example for the young members of your family!

***A Few Thoughts to Ponder – From the Jewish Rabbis (wise teachers)***

**Regarding…Work and Rest**

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“Rabbi Simeon suggests that nothing stand in the way of continuous study of God’s word. As for the daily needs of life, do not worry! ‘When Israel (people of God) acts according to the wish of God, his [her] works will be performed by others.’”P550. The Talmudic Anthology,1966.

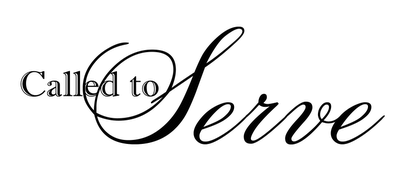
“The unfaithful worker is a robber. He [She] does God’s work deceitfully.” P550. The Talmudic Anthology,1966.

Employer and Employee: “A man should pray for the welfare of him who gives him employment.” p. 106. The Talmudic Anthology, 1966.

**A Thoughtful Writing:** *by St. Theresa of Avila, from:***Interior Castle**

“Just as the streamlets that flow from the spring are as clear as the spring itself, so the works of the soul in grace are pleasing to the eyes of both God and of men, since they proceed from the spring of life in which the soul is as a tree planted . . . . When the soul on the other hand, through its own fault, leaves this spring and becomes rooted in a pool of pitch black evil-smelling water, it produces nothing but misery and filth. It should be pointed out here that it is not the spring or the brilliant sun, which is the center of the soul, which loses its splendor and beauty; for they are always within it and nothing can take away their beauty. If a thick black cloth be placed over a crystal in the sunshine, it is clear that, although the sun may be shining upon it, its brightness will have no effect upon the crystal. . . . I once heard a person I know say that one favor God had granted her was the ability to realize that any good thing that we do has its source not in ourselves but rather in the spring where this tree, which is the soul, is planted and in the sun which sheds its radiance on our work. She says that she saw this so clearly that whenever she did any good thing, she betook herself straight away to its source, realizing that without his help we are powerless. She then went on at once to praise God, and as a rule, when she did any good action she never gave a thought to herself at all.” **Illuminations of the Synoptic Gospels, Anthology**. p.67. Leila Whitney Galbraith. 1989

**Prayer:** *Heavenly Father, you are the Source and Strength of my life. Guide my soul and bodily actions this day, may I be about the things you would have me do. May my work and my leisure be infused with your grace and love. May the people with whom I associate receive the illumination of your heart, my source. I give you the glory whenever I am gifted to do good for the benefit of another. Shine your crystal light into my life always. Amen*



**HEAD DEACONS:**

* **August – Annie Hess and Frank Schmersal**
* **September – Joe Hess and Vickie Smith**
* **December – Annie Hess and Nita Shank**

**August Altar Chairpersons: Bob Hampson and Nita Shank**

**September Altar Chair-person: Betty Valentine**

**ASSISTING MINISTERS:**

**Aug. 4 – Frank Schmersal**

**Aug. 11 – Gretal Shank**

**Aug. 18 – Annie Hess**

**Aug. 25 – Frank Schmersal**

**Sept. 1 – Gretal Shank**

**Sept. 8 – Annie Hess**

**Sept. 15 – Frank Schmersal**

**Sept. 22 – Gretal Shank**

**Sept. 29 – Annie Hess**

**Oct. 6 – Frank Schmersal**

**LECTORS:**

**Aug. 4 – Renata Provance**

**Aug. 11 – Frank Schmersal**

**Aug. 18 – Gretal Shank**

**Aug. 25 – Kevin Shank**

**Sept. 1 – Linda Shank**

**Sept. 8 – Michael Shank**

**Sept. 15 – Betty Valentine**

**Sept. 22 – Deb Zimmerman**

**Sept. 29 – Paul Harner**

**Oct. 6 – Annie Hess**

**WELCOMERS:**

**Aug. 4 – Linda and Ernie Shriver**

**Aug. 11 – Vickie and Jerry Smith**

**Aug. 18 – Linda and Steve Wantz**

**Aug. 25 – Sharon and Roger Adams**

**Sept. 1 – Julia and Sandy Hartle**

**Sept. 8 – Marta Hillis**

**Sept. 15 – Bryant Hoffman**

**Sept. 22 – Linda and Ernie Shriver**

**Sept. 29 – Vickie and Jerry Smith**

**Oct. 6 – Linda and Steve Wantz**

**ACOLYTES:**

**Aug. 4 – Molly Hess and Kevin Shank**

**Aug. 11 – Adele and Natalie Hess**

**Aug. 18 – Dennis and Kevin Shank**

**Aug. 25 – Adele Hess and Bryant Hoffman**

**Sept. 1 – Molly Hess and Kevin Shank**

**Sept. 8 – Bryant Hoffman and Gretal Shank**

**Sept. 15 – Natalie Hess and Gretal Shank**

**Sept. 22 – Bryant Hoffman and Dennis Shank**

**Sept. 29 – Adele Hess and Kevin Shank**

**Oct. 6 – Molly and Natalie Hess**

*Elias Lutheran Church Stewardship Report*

 *Facts and Figures*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Attendance** | **2019** |
| Total Sunday attendance through July 21, 2019 | 1187 |
| Average Sunday attendance | 48 |
| Total Wednesday attendance through  July 24, 2019 | 283 |
| Average Wednesday attendance | 14 |
| Average weekly attendance | 53 |

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Pastor’s Schedule

Pastor Jon’s schedule varies according to emergencies, visitations, and unforeseen circumstances. The pastor can be reached by the church phone at 301-447-6239, by cell phone at 240-422-2193, or by email at [jsgreenstone@verizon.net](mailto:jsgreenstone@verizon.net).

Monday: off, unless emergency.

Tuesday: visitations, meetings

Wednesday: 9:30 am service, office 10:30 am -12:30 pm, visitations, evening music and service rehearsals

Thursday: visitations, church office 2-4 pm

Friday: service/sermon preparation, evening programs

***Elias Communicator***

is a bi-monthly newsletter of

Elias Lutheran Church.

Services: **Sunday Worship – 10:00 a.m.**

**Sunday School – 9:00 a.m.**

**Wednesday Worship – 9:30 a.m.**

All are welcome to attend

and share God’s word.

We are located at

100 North Ave.,

Emmitsburg, MD

(301) 447 – 6239

E-mail: [eliasluth@gmail.com](mailto:eliasluth@gmail.com)

Website: [www.eliaslutheranchurch.org](http://www.eliaslutheranchurch.org)

Pastor: Rev. Jon R. Greenstone

**Deadline** for the October/November issue is **Sunday, September 22**



ELIas Lutheran Church is a praying congregation. We hold in communal prayer the people listed here and those in our homes, workplaces, and communities.

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**Prayers for Healing:**

Liz Adams, Paul Andrew, Mae Bolin, Emily (Lingg) Bromwell, Ruth Cluster, Kathy Crouse, Kris Eckhoff, Charles Eyler, John Eyler, Trevor George, Joyce Grimm, John Hemingway, Bob Hixon, Kristy Kittinger, Joani Kramer, Martin Manahan, Brian Reed, Bonnie Royer, Betty Stambaugh, Sandy Stillwell, Gary Toms, Janet Andrew Wallace, April Witkowski, and Bob Wright.

**Ongoing Prayer Concerns:**

Steve Adams, Nancy Andrew, Florence Bassler, Charles Bechtol, Harriet Buhrman, Ruth Clark, LeeAnn Delgar, Kathy Givler, Bob Hampson, Richard Herring, Rita Hinchey, Aruldass Jesudass, Mary Johnson, Linda Knox, Don Leatherman, Lois Orndorff, Bonnie Pastorett, Wanda Schuler, Patti Shank, Willie Shank, Diane Shockey, Ruth Slonaker, Joan Smith, Betty Valentine, Dottie Wagerman, Ginny (Crum) Welk, Dolores Wivell, and Virginia Wright.



**For those serving in the Military:**

Logan Councellor, Jacob Fannin, Nathan Jeffcoat, Noretta Kime, Lucas Mort, Sean Reaver, Austin Schaeffer, Ashley Shank, Tommy Shultz, and Jacob Whitney

Prayer shawls are available!

If you know anyone, on this prayer list or not, who would benefit from a prayer shawl, please see Betty Valentine (301-447-2507).

**August 2019**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SUNDAY** | **MONDAY** | **TUESDAY** | **WEDNESDAY** | **THURSDAY** | **FRIDAY** | **SATURDAY** |
|  | | | | 1  11:00 am – Bad Girls of the Bible | 2 | 3  8:00 pm – AA |
| 4  9:00 – Sunday School  **10:00 – Holy Communion**  Lector: Renata Provance | 5 | 6  6:00 pm – Nat’l Night Out  **CHURCH**  **COUNCIL**  **7:00 pm** | 7  **9:30 am - Holy Communion**  8:00 pm AA | 8 | 9    8:00 pm – AA | 10  8:00 pm – AA |
| 11  9:00 – Sunday School  **10:00 – Holy Communion**  Lector: Frank Schmersal | 12 | 13  7:30 pm – Paws to Pray | 14  **9:30 am - Holy Communion**  8:00 pm AA | 15  11:00 am – Bad Girls of the Bible | 16  8:00 pm – AA | 17  8:00 pm – AA |
| 18  9:00 – Sunday School  **10:00 – Holy Communion**  Lector: Gretal Shank  11:15 – WELCA meeting | 19 | 20  11:30 am – Ladies’ Day Out at Bollingers in Thurmont | 21  **9:30 am - Holy Communion**  8:00 pm AA | 22  5:00 pm – Men’s Outing | 23  8:00 pm – AA | 24  8:00 pm – AA |
| 25  9:00 – Sunday School  **10:00 – Holy Communion**  **(Service of Healing Prayers)**  Lector: Kevin Shank | 26 | 27  7:30 pm – Paws to Pray | 28  **9:30 am - Holy Communion**  8:00 pm AA | 29  11:00 am – Bad Girls of the Bible | 30  8:00 pm – AA | 31  8:00 pm – AA |

**September 2019**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SUNDAY** | **MONDAY** | **TUESDAY** | **WEDNESDAY** | **THURSDAY** | **FRIDAY** | **SATURDAY** |
| 1  9:00 – Sunday School  **10:00 – Holy Communion**  Lector: Linda Shank | 2  **LABOR DAY** | 3  **CHURCH**  **COUNCIL**  **7:00 pm** | 4  **9:30 am - Holy Communion**  8:00 pm AA | 5 | 6  8:00 pm – AA | 7  8:00 pm – AA |
| 8  9:00 – Sunday School  **10:00 – Holy Communion**  Lector: Michael Shank | 9 | 10  7:30 pm – Paws to Pray | 11  **9:30 am - Holy Communion**  6:30 pm – choir rehearsal  8:00 pm AA | 12  11:00 am – Bad Girls of the Bible | 13    8:00 pm – AA | 14  8:00 pm – AA |
| 15  9:00 – Sunday School  **10:00 – Holy Communion**  Lector: Betty Valentine | 16 | 17  11:30 – Ladies’ Day Out at Taverna  7:00 pm – Council of Churches at Toms Creek | 18  **9:30 am - Holy Communion**  6:30 pm – choir rehearsal  8:00 pm AA | 19 | 20  8:00 pm – AA | 21  7 :00 pm – Swing Dance Night  8:00 pm – AA |
| 22  9:00 – Sunday School  **10:00 – Holy Communion**  Lector: Deb Zimmerman | 23 | 24  7:30 pm – Paws to Pray | 25  **9:30 am - Holy Communion**  6:30 pm – choir rehearsal  8:00 pm AA | 26  11:00 am – Bad Girls of the Bible | 27  8:00 pm – AA | 28  8:00 pm – AA |
| 29  9:00 – Sunday School  **10:00 – Holy Communion**  Lector: Paul Harner  5:00 – Family Night | 30 |  | | | | |





**SEE YOU AT ELIAS…IN THE MEANTIME, WE ARE UNITED IN CHRIST OUR LORD**

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**Elias Communicator**

P.O. Box 465

Emmitsburg, MD 21727