St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church 627 South Washington New Ulm MN 56073

Return Service Requested

Welcome to St. John's!

Fall Schedule Begins August 21st: Add 11 am service

627 S. Washington St.

www.stjohnsnewulm.com

Worship Times

Sundays: 8 & 9:30 am

Contact Us

Phone: 507-354-6744

Fax: 507-354-7455

Saturdays: 7 pm

Non-Profit Organization U.S. POSTAGE **PAID** NEW ULM, MN PERMIT No. 157



Staff

Pastor Wayne A. Laitinen

Bookkeeper wlambrecht @ newulmtel.net

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wayne.laitinen@gmail.com

Pastor Jeffrey A. Bovee revbovee@gmail.com

Staff Minister Kelly Emde kremde@comcast.net

Church Office stjohnsnewulm@gmail.com

Administrative Teacher



August 2016

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IT'S SUMMER AGAIN

Genesis 8:20-22 Then Noah built an altar to the LORD and, taking some of all the clean animals and clean birds, he sacrificed burnt offerings on it. ²¹ The LORD smelled the pleasing aroma and said in his heart: "Never again will I curse the ground because of man, even though every inclination of his heart is evil from childhood. And never again will I destroy all living creatures, as I have done. ²² "As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease."

Wow, it sure is hot and humid out there, isn't it? Those are the kinds of things we hear and say this time of year. Of course, when winter comes, we will complain about how cold it is. It's a part of living in the Midwest. Changes in the seasons bring with them weather conditions, with periods of light and darkness, indicative of those times of year. In fact, we would find it more than odd to have snow in July or August, or to have 90 degree temperatures in January. We learn to expect the changes in the seasons.

But as the seasons change, do we always remember that God promised it would be so? Noah and his family, after having drifted for over seven months, and then having waited another five, stepped off the Ark. Noah built an altar to the LORD, and sacrificed burnt offerings on it. These offerings indicated total dedication to God and were used as a means showing complete trust in the promises he had fulfilled to Noah and his family.

Now, if you have ever smelled burning hair and feathers, you might say it is not the most pleasant aroma in the world. However, when God smelled Noah's offerings, the Bible tells us: The LORD smelled the pleasing aroma...

The aroma was pleasing to God, even though it was offered by a sinful man who shortly afterwards would get drunk and make a shameful spectacle of himself in front of his sons. It was pleasing and acceptable to God because it was connected to the promise God had made to Noah and his family. God had promised to deliver them, not only from the waters of the flood, but from the sinful, unbelieving world around them. And also, as the writer of the book of Hebrews tells us: By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family. By his faith he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness that comes by faith (Hebrews 11:7). Noah preserved the promise of the coming Savior who would justify the human race by his righteous life and innocent death in our place.

Noah, by faith, did as the LORD had commanded him. His offerings to God given by faith were pleasing to God, since they embraced the gracious promises of God and hallowed God's name to give him the glory.

As a result, the Bible says, God ...said in his heart: "Never again will I curse the ground because of man, even though every inclination of his heart is evil from childhood. And never again will I destroy all living creatures, as I have done. "As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease."

As the seasons change, we are reminded that we, sinners even from childhood, are the recipients of this gracious promise from God. Summer is still hot, and winter is still cold, but more important than that, God promises to be merciful. He withholds the destruction which we really deserve, and shows us mercy. God desires all sinners to repent and trust in his forgiveness and salvation.

Many years after the Flood, God would send his only Son, Jesus Christ, who would deliver the human race from all sin. Jesus would be our substitute in life by living a perfect life in our place. He would be our sacrifice in death by dying to take the punishment we deserved for our sin. He would pay our debt to God, and by his offering, he would make us a pleasing aroma to God. He would invite us to the waters of baptism, which are prefigured by the Flood, and wash us clean in the gospel promise of his forgiveness.

We see in the heat of summer and the ripening grain of the coming harvest, that God fulfills his promises. And as we see his promise fulfilled, let us be reminded that in the change of the seasons there is a greater promise. God, in his mercy, does not give us the punishments we deserve, and in his grace he gives us blessing we do not deserve. He forgives us in Christ and has made us acceptable and pleasing to him. By faith, may we therefore offer to God all we are and have, knowing that in Christ we are an offering, pleasant and aromatic to our Lord. To sinners such as we he has granted pardon, peace, and eternal life because he never goes back on his promises.

In Christ, Pastor Jeffrey A. Bovee

Women's Summer Devotions

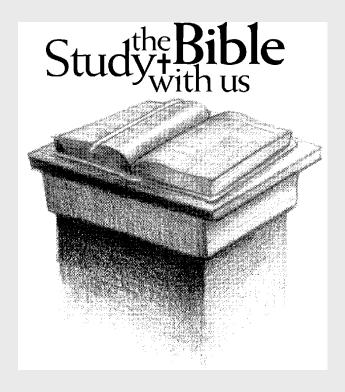
The Friday morning women's Bible study group invites all women and moms to join them during the summer months for devotions in the park. We meet at 10 am at the listed park and read a devotion followed by free play and a picnic lunch (optional). Feel free to bring a friend! If you have any questions please contact Sarah Strackbein at 612-361-0425.

August 5 Hermann Heights Park

12 Lincoln Park

19 Harman Park

26 Highland Park



Happy Birthday!

- 1 Amy AcreeSarah DinseCarol LaitinenDale Mack
- Lexi FischerNatalie HennigRyan Walters
- Roxanne Janni
 Jeanie Sather
- 4 Joseph Goeglein Shirley Mielke
- 5 Wesley Grob Joshua Karstens
- Eva Bellig
 Laura Gieseke
 Savannah Hess
 Melissa Mielke
 Lucas Pehling
 DJ Peterson
 Rylee Weisensel
- 7 Jennifer Mehlberg
- 8 Dennis ClobesLogan EnterPeter HussmanKristin Ulicky
- 10 Roger Besemer
 Anthony McDermott

- 11 Liza Filzen
 Ricky Konakowitz
 Kristin Nilson
 Solomon Stoering
- 12 Elin Bellig
 Gary Carmichael
 Lotti Filzen
 Lori Holden
 Tyler Rubie
- 13 Kurt Karstens
- 14 Ruth Koelpin Hannah Spivey Susan Vogel
- 15 John Schmidt
- 16 Dianne Gaub Kerri Jackson Dennis Jaspersen Janice McClellan Marlene Rolloff
- 17 Violet Hammer
- 18 Caitlin Montgomery
- 19 Patricia Gutzke Elaine Neitzel
- 20 Justus BorgwardtMindy DomeierCharlene Friedrich

- 21 Carol Behrens
 Brian Hennig
 Chelsey Kral
 Priscilla Meinert
 Shasta Thomas
- 22 Carla Karstens Emily Wessel
- 23 Micah Biesterfeld Kathryn Dinse
- 24 Brandon Karstens
- 25 Tracy Berg
 Ross Gieseke
 Trapper Holden
 Katherine Pansch
 John Paulsen
- 26 Terry Marks
- 27 Sheree Danell Paul Gutzke
- 28 Harold Lange
 David Rausch
 Ethan Schmidt
 Mara Weisensel
- 29 Sharon Gilman Connie Lingl Cody Schroeder
- 30 Beth Filzen Tiphanie Meinert Jeremy Pope
- 31 Natalie Borgwardt

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Your Synod at Work

Reformation 500 Committee

A Reformation 500 Committee was appointed by WELS President Mark Schroeder in 2009 for the purpose of guiding the celebration of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. The anniversary year is coming up in 2017. Although we have already mentioned this committee in a previous column, we thought it might be worthwhile to review the work of the Reformation 500 Committee again.

The Committee set two goals when they began their plans: (1) no funds were to be used that would take money away from the ongoing ministry of the synod (projects would have to be funded in other ways), and (2) the celebration of the Reformation would be an opportunity to educate WELS and others on the important truths the Reformation brought to light.

A logo was developed to serve as a visual identity for the celebration. The logo is available for individual congregation, conference, and district events and publications. Encouragement was also given to districts to begin planning for their conventions by choosing Reformation themes. The purpose was to encourage those gatherings and not directly plan them. While the Committee was doing their work, they established a third goal: To use the celebration of the Reformation as an opportunity to share the gospel with the communities that surround our congregations.

The Committee believes that the focus of our celebration should include reaching out to those who do not share an appreciation for the gospel that we treasure. The Committee encourages local congregations to use the anniversary as an opportunity to share Christ with their own communities. Therefore, together with the Board for Home Missions and the Commission on Evangelism resources are being developed for each congregation to reach out with special services and information geared to those on their prospect lists.

A webpage is also being created to be a source for all things Reformation 500. The webpage will highlight the books and materials when they become available. Also, resources for use by congregations will be available on the site to download. Information regarding rallies and other gatherings in the districts of the synod will be posted for easy reference.

Gerald Woodley



From Your Staff Minister

In August and September, we will have Lifetouch at the church to take pictures for a pictorial directory. We will have a laptop(s) in the narthex to electronically schedule your appointment and a signup sheet on weekends without the laptop(s). Assistance will be provided when needed. The dates for the photo sessions are August 2-6, 16-18 and September 6-7.

Vacation Bible School was a success with 74 students and 25 teachers and assistants. Thank you to all who participated in any way!

Sunday School and the full schedule of Bible classes will begin after Labor Day. We will resume the 11 am service on August 21.

"For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests." (Eph. 6:12-18a)

Kelly Emde

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St. Paul's Lutheran School

BoCD Work (SP Board of Child Discipleship) New Teacher Mr. Nick Kressin with wife, Heather (Danell) has officially begun his ministry work at St. Paul's School. He has met several times with the 5th & 6th grade level to help prepare for the new school year. He is excited and looking forward to beginning his ministry here in New Ulm. Please keep him and all the St. Paul's Staff in your prayers.

Kindergarten Thirty-one students have signed up for kindergarten at this point. Members who may have not yet registered should get their registration in. Enrollment is expected to dip slightly in the 2016-17 school year with the number at about 277 at this point for K-8 (St. John's -93 students (up from 88)– 33.6%) (35 non-member students – 7 other WELS). The number last reported for PreK is 36 students. Ms. Nikki Steenbock will continue to help out with the morning sessions of Pre-K which are over the 10 student limit for a teacher. Online registration forms are available for a few open afternoon spots.

Facility Improvements Several building improvements and classroom purchases either have been completed or are being planned. The plans include the replacement of carpeting in Mrs. Grunwald's and Mr. Kressin's classrooms; purchase a few new Chrome-book Computers for grades 7-8 to replace older models; tables were also purchased replace the old tablet desks in the lecture room (partial After School Care purchase). The gym received additional coatings of finish appropriate for the year following the new update. The old Wooden Structure Play area was torn out and a new structure will be constructed on the southern portion of our property. It will be just north of the new road that is being put in. A fence will eventually be constructed to separate the play area from the road. The cost of the new play structure, installation, and landscaping came to over \$71,000. The playground fund of over \$31,000 will be used for the playground as well as an Estate gift earmarked for school equipment. St. Paul's School hopes to use a variety of events such as the Amazing Race in August to raise funds to replenish some of the funds to be used School's website: www.splnewulm.org/school for future equipment needs. The installation of the playground is anticipated shortly after school begins.

The first work under the umbrella of New Building Construction has begun. Handicapped Bathrooms are being completed on both the first and second floors. Although not completed, the bathrooms are scheduled

to be completed before the school year begins on August 30. The new road which will serve as an additional exit for our people is underway. It is also hoped to be completed in time for the school year to

After School Care Director Applications are being sought for the After School Care Program Director. Please call the school office at 507-354-2329 if you are interested in finding out more about the position. Mrs. Eckstrand took her call to Hutchinson to teach PreK with additional classes for K-2. We hope to have a new director in place for the start of the new school year.

Tuition Assistance Following the June 30 deadline for submitting assistance applications at St. Paul's School, the T-A Committee met to distribute funds available. Tuition assistance grants were awarded to 17 families (41 children). Eight families benefited from the policy that allows the fourth and any additional children to enroll tuition free. Grants from various assistance funds totaled \$17,170.

Registration will take place on Thursday, August 4th and includes Lifetouch school pictures for students and staff. - 10:00 am-2:00 pm and 4:00 pm-7:00 pm AT ST. PAUL'S CHURCH, PARISH CENTER.

The 2016-17 school year will begin on Tuesday, Aug. 30th for grades 1-8 following the Opening service at about 8:20. Kindergarten will begin on Wed., Aug.31st. There will be no school on Friday, September 2nd nor Monday Sept. 5th for a Labor Day weekend break.

Calendar

Aug 2-3 Faculty In-Service

Aug 4 Registration with School Pictures at St. Paul's Church

Aug 17 Faculty In-Service at MVL

Aug 27 Amazing Race/Silent Auction

Aug 30 School Begins: 8:20 am Opening Service

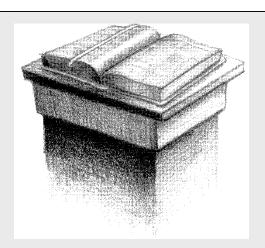
Sep 2-5 NO School: Labor Day Break

Respectfully submitted, James L. Dretske, Administrative Teacher: jdretske@splnewulm.org

Church Service on T.V. Mondays: 6 pm Tuesdays: 1 pm Thursdays: 10 am on **Comcast Channel 14** NUTelecom Channel 3

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Aug. 7 Luke 12:32-40 Keep Watch! Aug. 14 Luke 12:49-53 The Prince of Peace Came to Bring Division Aug. 21 Luke 13:22-30 Strive to Enter by the Narrow Door Aug. 28 Proverbs 25:6-7 Humility: Shyest of all Virtues



Pictorial Directory

Our church will be producing a new pictorial directory with Lifetouch. Our photo dates are:

August 2nd - 5th from 2 - 9 pm August 6th from 9 am - 4 pm August 16th - 18th from 2 - 9 pm September 6th - 7th from 2 - 9 pm

All photography will take place in the church basement on the above dates for your convenience.

You will receive a complimentary portrait session, 8x10 portrait, and directory for participating. If you would like to bring in a personal item to photograph with such as sporting equipment, an instrument, a medal, jewelry,

a Bible or pet that is encouraged and will be incorporated into your portrait session.

Should you know anyone that has or would like to attend our church, every family is welcome to invite others at this special time and they too will receive the benefits of the portrait session.

Go to www.appt.lifetouch.com to sign up for your session.

Women of St. John's

A few photographs taken at the June picnic are displayed in the narthex. The ladies in attendance brought their own meal. Thank you to the ladies who provided beverages and desserts.

We are all unique, having received various gifts and talents from our Creator and having our own special interests and hobbies. Psalm 139: 13-14 "For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well." We find ourselves in different stages of life and with various responsibilities. Perhaps you are at a place in your life in which you would like to share your gifts, talents and ideas with your sisters in Christ at St. John's, and make use of opportunities for devotions, hymn singing, receiving information about ministry and service available to women at St. John's, or planning activities such as presentations, projects and

outings. Colossians 3:17 "And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him." The Handbook for Women of St. John's states: "The purpose of Women of St. John's, as we work together for the good of Christ's kingdom, is to provide opportunities to grow in Christian knowledge and understanding through the study of God's Word; to demonstrate fruits of faith through service within the congregation, in the community, and beyond; to strengthen and support one another through Christian fellowship; and to complement other services currently being provided within our congregation."

Please contact Marley Kuckhahn at 359-2074 or kuckma@newulmtel.net or Jeneane Thiesfeldt at 359-7018 or thiesfjm@gmail.com if you would like to share some of your thoughts in response to this message.

Council Digest - July 2016

• Membership Changes Transfers Out

Ethan and Molly Brooks to Christ, Pewaukee, WI Heather Kressin to St. Paul's, New Ulm, MN

The Second Quarter Meeting of the St. John's Voters

Eighteen voters were present on Tuesday evening, July 26, to consider reports from the various boards and a recommendation from the church council. The following recommendation from the council was ratified by the voters: "Transfer an amount of \$50,517 from the Estate Funds to cover the home operations deficit for 2015." This action was taken in spite of reservations expressed by both council members and the voters. It will reduce the balance in the Estate Funds to about \$130,000. Although similar action has been taken in the past, the continuing use of Estate Funds to cover ongoing operational expenses is not sustainable in the long term. It also hampers the ability of the congregation to use these funds in the future for special purposes, such as facility needs. Although not their intended purpose, these special funds also serve as a source for internal borrowing in situations like this, allowing our treasurer to pay the salaries of our called workers and keep the lights on in our worship complex when weekly offerings fall short of our needs.

Unfortunately, the action taken by the voters is only a partial solution to the financial deficit faced by the congregation. Reports from the treasurer and financial secretary at the voters' meeting showed that through the first 6 months of 2016, expenditures have exceeded receipts by almost \$70,000. This deficit will be on the minds of the church council as it begins preparation of the 2017 congregational budget later this month.

It was encouraging to read in the Sunday bulletin for the weekend of July 23-24 in the "fruits of faith" report that congregational gifts for the previous week had actually exceeded the weekly need. However, the same report the following week was more typical with gifts covering less than 60% of the need. While this is a small sample size and there can be many reasons for the fluctuation, the large deficits recently faced by the congregation are an indication that, in general, receipts are not keeping pace with expenses.

If St. John's were a business, we would be examining our business model and looking for ways to increase revenue or curtail expenses as a way of balancing the budget. As an arm of ministry, Pastor Bovee's recent sermon on Luke 12:13-21 provides a better approach for our congregation. The Luke account finds Jesus telling a parable about a young man faced with the dilemma of what to do with his abundant wealth. Jesus used the parable to remind his listeners that spiritual riches are more important than the accumulation of earthly riches. The St. John's voters adopted the current budget with the confidence that, under God and by his blessing, it would support the gospel outreach of the congregation within our community and as partners in the work being done by our Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod. Knowing that Jesus has made the ultimate sacrifice for our sins, may we be motivated to respond with gifts of love to support the work he has directed us to do. Whether it is attending a voters' meeting, reaching out to a neighbor in need, serving on a board or committee, bringing our first fruit offerings or any of the other countless opportunities for service he has placed before us, may we be truly rich in Christ.

Submitted by Steven Thiesfeldt, Congregational chairman

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Archives

Miscellany

Like previous months, some more items from service bulletins, newsletters, and council and congregational minutes from 60, 50, 25, 10, and 1 years ago. Hope you will find them interesting. Comments, questions, suggestions and even corrections are welcome to kruegerh@mlc-wels.edu.

1956, Pastor was Rollin Reim. Various Young Peoples Society activities were reported during the year. A "winter frolic," skating and tobogganing at Garden Street Park (Feb.). An excursion trip to Rochester including Sunday services at a new mission congregation and visits to "some of the scenic wonders of the territory" including the Crystal Caves (July). An outing labeled "they-know-not-where" including a "hearty feed" with a reminder to "wear warm hiking clothes" (Oct.).

1966, Pastor was Frederick Nitz. The dedication of the superstructure took place on December 11. A report in the December 25 service folder noted that total cost would appear to remain within the estimate of \$160,000.

1991, Pastors were Norval Kock and David Kolander (as of Aug); David Zabel was Director of Christian

Education. The May Newsletter included the following from a report by Prof. Roland Hoenecke: "Happy Anniversary Archives!" noting that it had been five years since the establishment of an archives collection. Prof. Hoenecke was the archivist. Thanks to him for the material for these articles. Suggestions for a name for the monthly newsletter were requested—the beginning of the Fortress.

2006, Pastors were Jeffrey Bovee and Wayne Laitinen; Administrative Teacher was James Dretske. The September Board of Trustees report noted that storage rooms housed lots of "stuff" which suggested work for an archivist. Bob Krueger volunteered to work on this if room could be found to do the work. The rest is history. Room for file cabinets and the "stuff" were provided in the balcony storage room.

2015, Pastors were Jeffrey Bovee and Wayne Laitinen; Administrative Teacher was James Dretske. Christian Walz, a Bethany Lutheran Seminary student served his early field experience at St. John's by way of serving as the lead Bible class teacher and conducting the confirmation class.

To be continued.

Bob Krueger kruegerh@mlc-wels.edu

MLC Ladies Auxiliary

Copies of the minutes of the spring meeting are available in the narthex. During the summer, the shelves of the MLC Food Bank continue to be stocked with non-perishable items and gift cards that are provided to second-career students and their families. The board members continue to make preparations for the fall annual meeting which will be held at MLC on Saturday, October 15th, 2016. Your support and

prayers for MLC students, faculty and board members are deeply appreciated. If you have any questions or have a desire to become more involved in the auxiliary, please contact Jeneane Thiesfeldt at 359-7018 or thiesfjm@gmail.com.

August Offering Envelope

The Lutheran Women's Missionary Society is women dedicated to serving Jesus by increasing awareness of, interest in, and support of the mission outreach of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS). They encourage women (and men) to learn

about, pray for, and support with their offerings our mission efforts here in North America and around the world. We have sisters and brothers in the faith in over 24 countries around the world being served by WELS missionaries, going where we cannot go.

ST. JOHN'S EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH NEW ULM, MN 56073

August 2016 354-6744

New Ulm, M	N 56073						354-6744
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	UESDAY WEDNESDAY		HURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	7 pm Women's Bible Class	2 2-9 pm Directory Pictures 6 pm Education	2-9 pm Dir	y Time rectory ictures 4 2-9	9 pm Directory Pictures	5 10 am Women's Devotions, Hermann Heights Park 2-9 pm Directory Pictures	6 9-4 pm Director Pictures Worship 7 pm W/ Communion
7 Pentecost 12 Worship W/ Communion 8 & 9:30 am	8 6:30 pm Elders 7 pm Evangelism 7 pm Trustees 7 pm Women's Bible Class	9 4 pm Oak Hills Living Center Service	·	y Time	1	12 10 am Women's Devotions in the Park, Lincoln Park	13 Worship 7 PM
14 Pentecost 13 Worship 8 & 9:30 AM	15 4 pm Ridgeway on 23rd Service 7 pm Women's Bible Class	Pictures	2-9 pm Dir	y Time rectory 2-9	9 pm Directory Pictures	19 10 am Women's Devotions in the Park, Harman Park	20 Worship 7 pm W/ Communion
21 Pentecust 14 WORSHIP W/ COMMUNION 8, 9:30 & 11 AM Fall Schedule Begins	22 10:15 am MLC Opening Service	23 4 pm Oak Hills Living Center Service 7 pm Council	24 11 am Story	y Time	5	26 10 am Women's Devotions in the Park, Highland Park	27 Worship 7 pm
28 Pentecost 15 WORSHIP 8, 9:30 & 11 AM 1:30 pm MVL Opening Service	29	30 8:15 am St. Paul's School Opening Service	Correspondence Pastor Jeffrey Bovee revbovee@gmail.com Pastor Wayne Laitinen wayne.laitinen@gmail.com Staff Minister Kelly Emde Church Office stjohnsnewulm@gmail.com Wendy Lambrecht wlambrecht@newulmtel.net Jim Dretske jdretske@splnewulm.org				
T.V. Service: Mondays: 6 pm Tuesdays: 1 pm Thursdays: 10 am on Comcast Channel 14 NU Telecom Channel 3				Looking Ahead Sep. 6-7 Directory Pictures Sep. 11 Adult Bible Class and Sunday School begins Sep. 14 Special Speaker at MLC			