

SCANDIAN GROVE LUTHERAN CHURCH

NEWSLETTER

County Rd. 52, St. Peter, MN (507) 246-5195

September 2018

Striving to Live, Love, Serve, all for the Glory of God.



WOMEN
of the

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

"Serving our neighbors through missions"

The next meeting of the Church Women is set for 9:00am, September 8 at Judy Schultz's home. Devotions will be given by Rhonda Hermanson and a business meeting will follow.



MN Valley Conference
Women of the ELCA

Fall Gathering

Saturday, October 13, 2018

Augustana Lutheran Church, Gibbon MN

Coffee starts at 9:00am and the Gathering will be from 9:30 to noon, with lunch to follow.

The speaker is Pastor Diana Hunstad, with uplifting remarks around the theme *"Here I am Lord - send me!"*

The registration fee is \$10.00 per person
Please RSVP to Maria Lokensgard if you are planning to attend.



Please **NOTE**

There are now offering envelopes available by the bulletin board in the narthex.

Fall Clean-Up Day Scheduled



Come help spruce up the church for fall! Fall church clean-up day is scheduled for Saturday, September 8 at 9:00am. Potluck lunch at noon.

September 9 Is Rally Sunday

Both Sunday School and Adult Forum will begin at 9:00am. Heidi Scheurer will be leading Sunday School for the children. All are welcome!



The Adult Forum group will be meeting in the library at 9:00am. Come, enjoy a spirited conversation of the matters at hand.

Rally
SUNDAY

New Members



Please join us on September 9 to welcome our new members, Sara, Brady,

Marshall, Jesse and Morgan Bye! There will be coffee and coffee cake served after the service so people have a chance to meet & greet them.

Blessing the Fall Harvest

It's the Annual Tractor Roll-In Service on Sunday, September 16. We'll be joining Trinity Lutheran Church -Sibley for 9:00am fellowship and 10:00am worship. All are invited. *There will be **no** worship at the SGLC location.*





Dear Friends in Jesus,

Why don't people come to church?

This is the question I probably hear most as a pastor. And often this is the question that diverts much of the energy of church leadership. Too often we try to answer this question without actually seeking out and asking the very people who don't come to church. We lump individuals into larger categories as if there is one answer to the question rather than many. We wonder about our inactive friends and family, the youth, and families with young children, etc., more than we actually reach out to them in conversation. I know we hesitate for fear of offending someone, but, it is less than helpful to guess what the answer may be. Too often this results in the blame game.

It is a familiar strategy of human nature. In Genesis, when God calls out in the garden "Where are you?" Adam blames Eve for why they are hiding, Eve blames the serpent and the serpent blames God! We look outside ourselves for answers rather than inside our own heart. I know from my own personal experience, how hard it is to take responsibility for what part I play in a difficult situation. For example, when something isn't right with me physically, I too often look for outside solutions before I do the work that will affect the most change - good nutrition and exercise.

In the extreme, this tendency of human nature towards finding solutions to our unease outside ourselves leads to scapegoating. We blame someone else in our family, our church, or our country for our problems.

I wonder if our question about why people don't come to church is a way to get those of us who do participate in church "off the hook." On Sunday July 29th I addressed this question in my sermon. I read the article, *Why Don't People Come to Church?* by Rev. David L. Hansen. His article is included in this month's newsletter and was originally published in The Lutheran Page 2

magazine. I thank one our members, Hubert Anderson, for sharing it with me.

When Rev. Hansen asked the question "why don't people come to church?", the overwhelming answer he received was that what keeps them away is the people inside the church. I was not surprised by that answer and agree we have work to do in the church of being less judgmental, and more kind, appreciative and forgiving of one another.

I would like to follow Rev. Hansen's lead and admit I, and other pastors, have been part of the problem too. So if (or when) I have hurt or disappointed any of you by my actions or lack of action I am truly sorry and ask your forgiveness. Pastors are usually trying to do our best most of the time, but sometimes we fall short.

Research shows there is another significant reason people don't come to church; it doesn't make a difference in their lives. They find church to little relevance to their daily life – it doesn't connect.

And so when we get lost down the rabbit hole of asking "why don't people come to church?" or the related question - "how do we get people to come to church?" we are sidetracked from some other questions I believe we should be asking:

- *Is the church helping people feel a sense of God's presence?*
- *Is the church helping people receive and practice love and forgiveness in their daily lives?*

These are the questions – these are the goals that make a difference. These are the concerns why I feel called to serve as a pastor.

It is your mission as church members (if you choose to accept it) to invite neighbors, co-workers, friends and family people to come and see. Invite them to a particular Sunday, and then sit with them and show them how to use the bulletin and hymnal. And if church matters to you, please tell them why. You can make a difference.

And for people who came to church in the past, but have been absent for whatever reason, they might like to hear, "I miss you. Rather than, I

haven't seen you for awhile. Or, "I wonder if we have done something that has hurt you or failed to care for you in a real way? Would you give us another chance? Would you come to church and sit with me this Sunday?"

We need to mend broken bridges. God will help us if we seek and follow the Spirit's guidance. But in order to discern that guidance, we need to be growing spiritually as individuals and as a congregation of faith. That is the task set before us in the immediate future. We really need everyone reading this letter to join in the holy work to which God is calling us.

Peace be with you, Pastor Shelly

Please **NOTE!**

The **Transition Team** will meet on Wednesday, September 5 at 6:30pm.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS			
1	Byron Norell	11	Jonathan Schultz
2	Emilie Lokensgard	12	Carl Johnson
	Michael Hermanson		Maxwell Benoit
3	Bonnie Rieger	13	Terry Pankratz
5	Tianna Schott	20	Nathen Engel
6	Kayla Braun	21	Lee Schott
7	Robert Bjorklund	23	Brent Johnson
	Lincoln Bjorklund		Sharice Webster
	Trevor Wiest	24	John Tostenson
8	Don Hermanson	25	Margaret Erickson
9	Jeff Allerson		Christine Engel
	Madison Norell	29	Alex Johnson
	Magnus Soderlund		Amara Schott
	Karen Gerhardson		



Thank you to everyone for all of the cards and greetings that I received for my birthday! Hubert



Thanks to all who volunteered at the fair, donated prizes, helped with the service, or worked on entry day. Once again, we needed a lot of help and Scandian Grove members delivered. I am blessed to be surrounded by all of you! Joni



Thank you to all of you who worked, baked bars, or were a donor for the bloodmobile at Nicollet on August 22. Being a part of the bloodmobile is easy and rewarding. Judy



Thank you to the volunteers that stepped forward to be on the Fall Supper Committee! Their first organizational meeting will be on Wednesday, September 12 at 6:30pm.



Senior Choir practice will kick-off with Wednesday evening practices at 7:00pm beginning on September 5. Anyone and everyone is welcome to join.

	September 2018	October 2018
ALTAR GUILD	Kelly Norell Jim Allerson	Kelly Norell Jim Allerson
READERS	Wallace Larson	Solveig Langr
USHERS	Maria Lokensgard, Lee Schott Norm & Charles Wolf	Tim & Seth Lokensgard Collin & Tammy Johnson
COUNCIL COMMUNION ASSISTANTS	Solveig Langr Heidi Scheurer	Joni Anderson Solveig Langr
COUNCIL HOST	Solveig Langr	Heidi Scheurer

The Scandian Grove Lutheran Church Council meeting was called to order by President Bruce Norell at 6:45pm on Tuesday, August 14, 2018.



Present: Pam R, Bruce N, Doug S, Marty S, Dick K, Theresa B, Wallace L, Gordy R, Joni A. and Solveig L.

Excused: Pastor Shelly and Heidi S.

Secretary’s Report

Marty made a motion to accept the secretary’s report with no corrections or additions. Theresa seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The secretary’s report from a special meeting held on Wednesday, July 18, whereat Pastor Linda Peterson came from the Synod office to discuss the call process with us was not available. The minutes from this meeting will be read at the next Council meeting.

Correspondence

Letters of thanks from three food shelves were shared.

Financial Secretary’s Report

The Financial Secretary’s Report was given by Marty. Theresa made a motion to accept the report with no additions or corrections. The motion was seconded by Solveig. The motion passed.

<u>Financial Secretary’s Report</u>		<u>Treasurer’s report</u>	
Food Shelf	\$100.00	Beginning Balance	\$-1,166.44
Improvement Fund	649.50	Deposits	11,463.50
Memorial Fund	25.00	Expenses	11,321.88
World Hunger	25.00	Sunday School Fund	1,206.25
General Fund	10,180.00	Checkbook Ending Balance	-1,024.82

Treasurers report

The Treasurer’s Report was given by Wallace. Gordy made a motion to accept the treasurer’s report with no additions or corrections. The motion was seconded by Marty. The motion passed.

Pastors Report Highlights

Stewardship and Property Committees have been meeting, and will continue to meet once a month for the remainder of the year. The congregation has the following financial needs: \$16,000 for the new septic system that was just put in, \$10,000 for basic repairs on the parsonage, \$7,000 to replace the credit line debit. A giving request draft letter has been created by Pastor Shelly on behalf of the leadership of the church, which will be mailed shortly to the congregation. Additionally, Pastor will be having a stewardship emphasis (time, talent or finances) once a month during worship, in the bulletin, and in the newsletter. The Property Committee has decided to hold off until January to begin work on the parsonage.

Council Retreat Options-either Saturday, September 15 or Sunday, September 16. The agenda will be to help formulate convictions, value, purpose of SGLC in the future in order to inform the Ministry Site Profile. Pastor will be giving the Council Members homework to complete.

Nicollet County Fair On August 12th @ 10:00am Pastor Shelly led a service at the fair. There was a pancake breakfast in Johnson Hall afterwards. This was a success--good turnout! Lots of fun!

Transition Team continues to conduct interviews and will have their next meeting on August 31. At that meeting we will begin to look at how to complete the Ministry Site Profile. We have obtained a copy of the last one that was written and will be using that as a starting point.

New Members Pastor recommends we receive the Bye Family (Sara, Brady, Marshall, Jesse and Morgan) as members of Scandian Grove by September 9.

Visitation Schedule Pastor has set a monthly visitation schedule with many of our homebound members (six) so that consistent communion visits are made. She is still trying to get through the list of active and inactive members to visit, and also all Council Members. If you would like her to visit

your home or go for coffee let her know.

VBS 32 children preschool through 5th grade attended joint VBS. Two nights at SGLC and two nights at Trinity. There will be a meeting with Trinity at the end of the month to evaluate, set dates for next year, and discuss other ministries we might share in the future.

Nursing Home/Assisted Living Worship in August every Thursday at Benedictine, one Thursday each at Heritage Meadows, Ecumen Sand Prairie and Prairie Hill.

Annual Tractor Roll In Sunday, September 16. Plans for this are in the works. Pastor Scott will preach at Trinity.

Worship & Music Committee will meet on Tuesday, September 18 at 6:30pm.

Education Committee Pastor has met with Sarah and Heidi. The plan will be to have traditional Sunday school every other Sunday, and a Christmas program jointly with Trinity-Sibley. We would like to involve the whole congregation in learning activities, perhaps on the alternate Sundays. This is being discussed and worked out. Heidi will teach the younger group and Sara will take the older group. Pastor is finding curriculum. People are needed to provide opening music for SS.

Old Business

The **Septic System Project** has been completed. All went well or better than expected. The project came in slightly under budget. There was an additional cost involved with needing a sump pump put in the basement, but thanks to Tom Eckberg donating loads of sand, money was saved.

As mentioned above, the service at the **Nicollet County Fair** on Sunday, August 12 was a success. There were 108 people in attendance. We hope to do this again next year.

The **Lutefisk Committee** has six people signed up. We need six to seven more before August 31 in order to hold the Fall Supper.

New Business

The **Transition Team** plans to wrap up interviews in September and begin to write the MSP. Pastor Shelly and Solveig will be in charge of writing the MSP.

Fall Clean-up is on the calendar for September 8 at 9:00am.

The **Stewardship Committee** received a bid for the parsonage to fix the plumbing and fixtures in the bathroom. Anticipated need: \$10,000.

A meeting for the **Education Committee** is set for August 29 at 6:30pm. The purpose of this meeting is to brainstorm and discuss how we can all work together as a congregation intergenerationally to enhance the education of both children and adults.

Council voted to have the **Council Retreat** on Sunday, September 19. This will be held between the **Tractor Roll In** and the **Annual Harvest Fest**.

A special **welcome** for our new members, The Bye Family, will be held on September 9 during church. Council will serve coffee and coffee cake after the service.

Dick made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion was seconded by Pam. Motion Passed.

Bruce Norell led us in The Lord's Prayer.

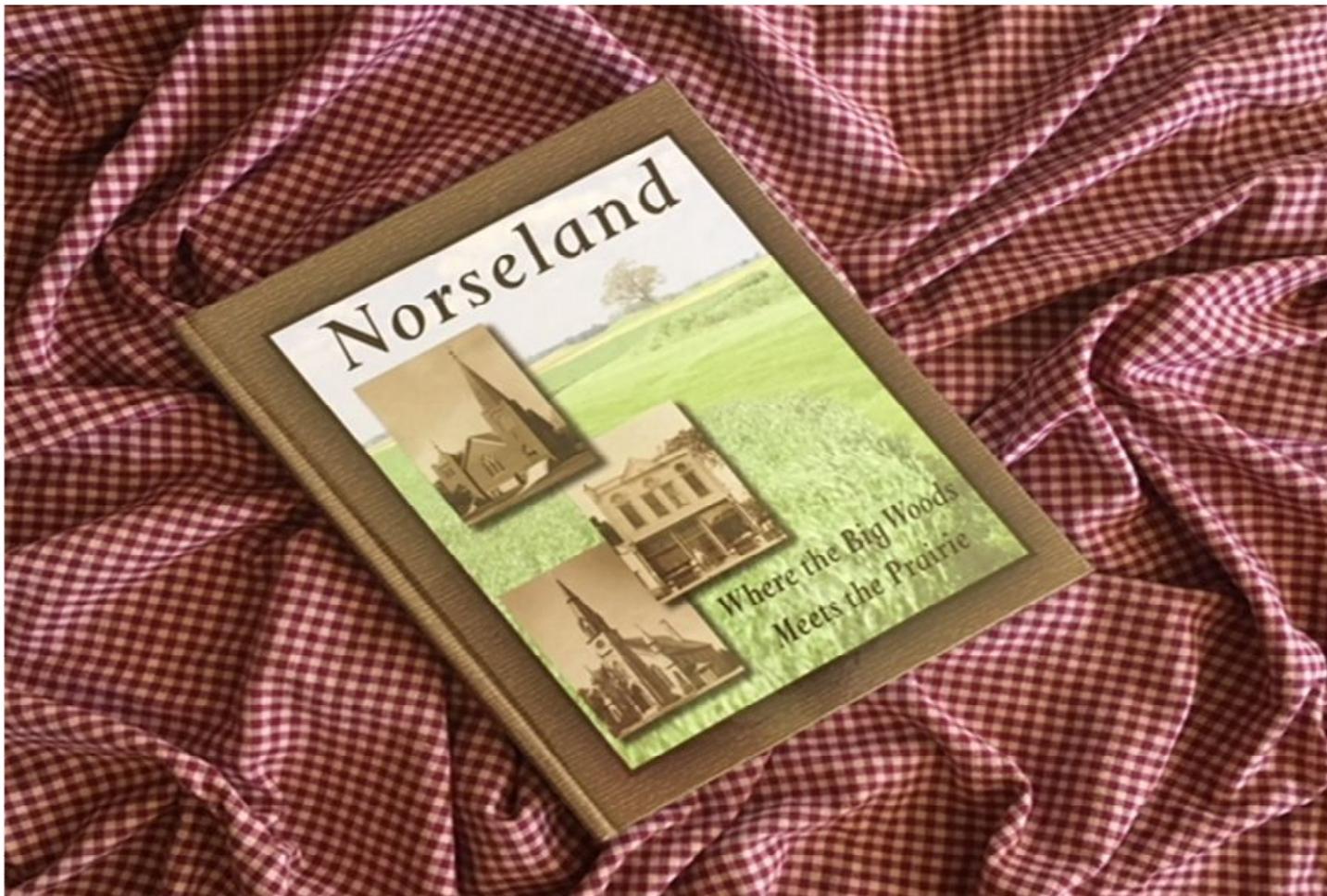
Respectfully submitted, Solveig Langr, Secretary Protem



Pastor Shelly will be on vacation September 21-23. She will then be attending the *Faith & Addiction Conference* for continuing education from September 28 - 30.

Pastor Dan Buendorf from Saint Peter will provide pulpit supply on Sunday, September 30.

In the meantime, if pastoral care is required in her absence, Pastor Scott (Trinity of Gaylord) can be contacted at 320-247-0618.



Community Common Read

NORSELAND: Where the Woods Meets the Prairie

Read any part of the book that interests you and bring stories to add to the memories...

Sunday, September 16, 2018 at 4:00pm

Join us as we continue celebrating
Norseland Community - 160th Anniversary

Scandian Grove Lutheran Church

Year of Confusion

By Frances Havergal

I have finished the race. 2 TIMOTHY 4:7

Sometimes there aren't enough minutes in a day—or days in a year—for all our work. Well, then, how would you like to have a 445-day year? It happened once. The early Romans established their calendar on a lunar model, and their year had only 355 days. In 46 B.C., Julius Caesar mandated a new solar calendar, making the year 365 days long. To bring the new calendar on track, he added two extra months to that year, sticking them between November and December, and he also squeezed three extra weeks between February and March. The result was a one-time-only year of 445 days, which became known as the "Year of Confusion."

Sometimes every year seems like a year of confusion. But the secret to getting all your work done isn't adding days to the year, it's doing only what the heavenly Father has ordained for you. When Jesus ascended to heaven, there was still much work to be done, yet He said, "*I have finished the work which You have given Me to do*" (JOHN 17:4).

Ask God for His agenda each day, and don't let the *urgent* usurp the *important*. Make sure to finish the work He gives you day by day.

Place all the hours of this day quite simply at His disposal, and ask Him to make and keep you ready to do just exactly what He appoints.

Taken from the devotional "Pathways," *Your daily walk with God*, by Dr. David Jeremiah of Turning Point.

Special Meeting

The Stewardship and Property Committees will be meeting jointly on Tuesday, September 4 at 6:30pm. We are looking to develop a plan to invite the congregation to consider how we have been blessed individually and what it means to be a steward of the church and in the faith. We are discussing projects and making informed recommendations to the Council regarding the work and the resources needed to complete necessary upgrades.



The Worship & Music Committee will be meeting on Tuesday, September 18 at 6:30pm.

Shoes For Dollars For Scholars

The Saint Peter-Kasota Dollars for Scholars Chapter is collecting *gently* worn, used and new shoes to help raise funds for local student scholarships.

Collection boxes are located in the Narthex, at First Lutheran Church, Saint Peter High School, and the Saint Peter Library through September 30.



Any style and all sizes are welcome!
Shoes must be in

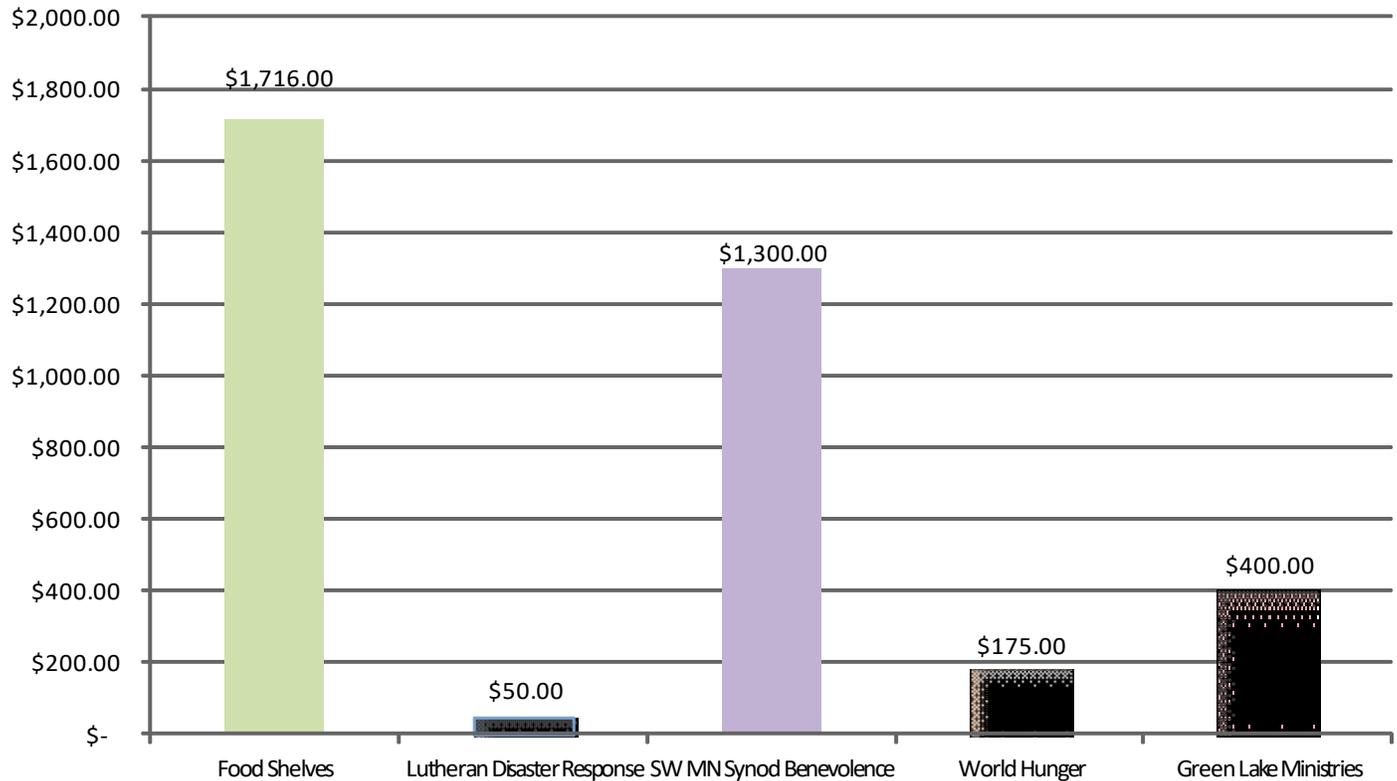
good condition, no wheelies, soles must be attached and no holes. Thank you for keeping this in mind as you organize your closet for fall!

Your first thought in
the morning should be

"thank you"



Scandian Grove Total Giving



Total benevolence giving thru July 31, 2018--\$3,641.00

Any questions, please direct to Vicki Hermanson

Financial Report-July 2018

Fund	Beginning Balance	Deposits/Transfers/ Increases	Expenditures/Transfers/ Decreases	Ending Balance
General/Checking Fund	-1,166.44	11,463.50	11,321.88	(1,024.82)
Checking/Sunday School Fund	1,206.25	-	-	1,206.25
TOTAL CHECKING/SUNDAY SCHOOL FUNDS	50.25	-	-	181.43
NCB Credit Line	7,700.00	-	-	7,700.00
Improvement Fund	6,261.32	553.00	-	6,814.32
Memorial Fund	4,599.50	145.00	-	4,744.50
Scholarship Fund	3,182.26	-	400.00	2,782.26
Family Medical Fund	3,229.15	-	-	3,229.15
Historical Committee Acct	426.56	-	-	426.56
Mission Investment Fund	80,611.00	-	-	80,611.00
LPL Fund	27,574.49	129.01	4.99	27,698.51

THANK-YOU!! Your gifts make a difference in the congregation,
community, and throughout God's World.

Scandian Grove Lutheran Church Calendar

September 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			29 6:30 pm Education Committee Mtg	30	31	1
2 9:00 am Worship & Communion	3 Labor Day	4 6:30 pm Stewardship & Property Committee Joint Meeting	5 6:30 pm Transition Team Meeting 7:00 pm Sr Choir practice	6	7	8 9:00 am Fall Clean-up day at Church w/potluck at noon 9:00 am WELCA Mtg at Judy Schultz's Home
9 Rally Sunday & New Member Sunday 9:00 am Sunday School & Adult Forum 10:00 am Worship with Meet & Greet to follow service	10	11 6:30 pm Council Meeting	12 6:30 pm Fall Supper Committee Mtg 7:00 pm Sr Choir practice	13	14	15 Newsletter Deadline Don't Miss the DEADLINE!
16 Food Shelf Sunday Annual Tractor Roll-In at Trinity Lutheran-Sibley 9:00 am Fellowship 10:00 am Worship NO Sunday Morning Events at SGLC Location 4:00 pm Book Club Community Read	17	18 6:30 pm Worship & Music Committee Mtg	19 7:00 pm Sr Choir practice	20	21 <i>Pastor Shelly on Vacation</i>	22 <i>Pastor Shelly on Vacation</i>
23 <i>Pastor Shelly on Vacation</i> 9:00 am Sunday School & Adult Forum 10:00 am Worship	24	25	26 7:00 pm Sr Choir practice	27	28 <i>Pastor Shelly-Continuing Ed</i>	29 <i>Pastor Shelly-Continuing Ed</i>
30 <i>Pastor Shelly-Continuing Ed</i> 9:00 am Sunday School & Adult Forum 10:00 am Worship Dollars for Scholars Shoe Drive ends						



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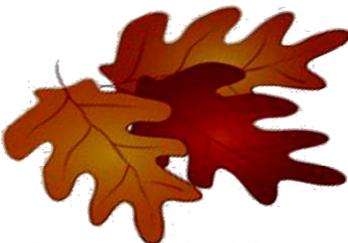
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Scandian Grove Lutheran Group



July 29	70
August 5	60
August 12 (Nicollet County Fair)	108
August 19	67
August 26	72

NewsLetter
DEADLINE
September 15

 **Fall Clothing Drive**

Donate clothing, shoes, purses, hats, belts, bedding & any type of material!

Place in tall plastic kitchen bags with drawstrings.

Information about the drive:

Call Oather Martin at 320-583-9011.

The Last Africa Companionship Clothing Drive for 2018 is the month of October.

Our Southwestern Minnesota Synod of the ELCA is partnered with the Southeastern Diocese of Southern Africa to walk together in ministry. Our Minnesota Valley Conference is paired with the Vryheid Circuit. Funds collected from the clothing drive will pay for the packaging and sending of nutritious meals to all congregations in Vryheid.