



FIRST LUTHERAN BROOKINGS

Fostering Faith. Creating Community. Loving All.

Volume 25
Issue 4
August &
September
2024

Greetings in Jesus' name, First Lutheran friends!

This summer has been a full one so far around our congregation. Full of worship, full of learning, full of travel, full of changes, full of challenge, full of joy. In every possible way, we can say: our cups runneth over.

This summer has been full of dreams of what God is calling us to do in faith. We've begun to envision an outdoor worship space north of our playground that could serve as a location for connection with God, with nature, and with our neighbors. We've begun to envision a new entrance to our building that would be welcoming and accessible to all. We've begun to dream of how to continue to walk in faith this coming year with 21 youth returning energized from the Gathering in New Orleans and 50 children who loved Vacation Bible School. Bring your cup of dreams and visions to the table and be a part of what's next.

This summer has been full of Jesus leading us beyond our differences and into greater unity as we've worshiped altogether led by the variety of musical gifts of members of this faith community. We've thrived on the gift of seeing our friends in faith who typically attend a different service than ourselves. We've worked to see each ministry team and initiative in our congregation as a part of a greater whole with each of us cooperating to contribute what we have and trust God to make it more than enough. Bring your cup of peace and openness and be a part of what's next.

This fall will be full too. We will prepare to welcome two new staff members to fill out the team that equips and empowers us all to answer God's call. We will witness our quilters completing an audacious goal of hundreds of quilts for Lutheran World Relief and local ministries of care. We will sing songs of joy and lament. We will greet folks coming to church for the first time or returning after a long time away. Bring your cup of hospitality and be a part of what's next.

As we fill up our calendars, let us not empty ourselves without a refill. Christ has poured himself out for the sake of the world God loves, giving his life for us. He has done this in order to fill our cups to overflowing with love and grace we can never earn. When we find ourselves pouring out without resting in God's peace or soaking up our belovedness and that of our neighbor and all creation, we risk running dry. Even so, Jesus arrives, with Living Water, flowing from our baptism and rejuvenating us so that we will be quenched and lush with abundant life.

Empty or full, bring your cup to the table. You will find the hope that comes with a refill and the joy of sharing what overflows with those who seek refreshment.

With a cup lifted high, Pastor Jess

Position Description: Children, Youth and Family Ministry Director: Full-time Program Staff
Primary Function: This position provides leadership and support of FLC's ministry with those in the "first third" of life, their families, and our cross-generational community of faith. It is a position that requires creativity, vision, strong people skills including leadership, effective communication, planning and organizing skills, and the ability to work as part of a team.
Core Ministry Area: With the direction of the Senior Pastor and support from the Coordinator for Congregational Life, the CYF Ministry Director works to support ministry with those from birth through high school graduation and their families. The CYF Ministry Director ensures that the mission of First Lutheran Church: Fostering faith. Creating community. Loving all. is lived out among the children, youth and families of our congregation and wider community.
Please see full description on our website or contact Pastor Jess with questions.

Join
Our
Team



Memorials given in memory of

Magnus Olson
Ruth Gabriel
Earl Rue
Julie Pederson
Doreen Benson
Robert Pollmann
Sue Grant

**The Membership Records of First Lutheran Church
from June 2024- July 2024**

Baptisms

Adalyn Marie Gebhart, daughter of Zachary & Anna Gebhart
Vince Jacob Staniszewski, son of Scott Staniszewski & Rena Berg
Sutton Gary Lee Gross, son of Michael Gross & Kayelee Johnson
William Briggs Bushong, son of Austin & Heidi Bushong
Jack Peter Sandager, son of Peter & Amanda Sandager
Holland Kay Pedersen, daughter of Andrew & Erin Pedersen

New Members

Chuck & Mary Barry
Reid & Alysha Hamann, Noah, Meredith & Caleb

Deaths

Steve Swartos David Lombard
Sue Grant Robert Pollmann

Brookings County Food Bank Donations **May 37 items**
June 55 items



AUGUST 18	NOON	JOURNEY TO DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING
AUGUST 21	5:30PM	CONFIRMATION MENTOR TRAINING
AUGUST 25	NOON	NURSERY EMPLOYEE TRAINING
AUGUST 28	7:00PM	FIRST YOUTH GROUP GATHERING (10TH - 12TH GRADE)
SEPTEMBER 4	7:00PM	10TH GRADE PARENT AND STUDENT MEETING
SEPTEMBER 8	9:30AM	RALLY SUNDAY, 8:30 & 10:30 SERVICES, BACKPACK BLESSING
SEPTEMBER 11	6:00PM	1ST NIGHT OF WEDNESDAY JOURNEY
	7:00PM	9TH GRADE PARENT AND STUDENT MEETING
SEPTEMBER 15	BOTH SERVICES - 4 YEAR OLD STEPPINGSTONE	
	9:40AM	1ST SUNDAY JOURNEY
SEPTEMBER 18	7:00PM	6TH-8TH GRADE CONFIRMATION FOR PARENTS & STUDENTS
SEPTEMBER 22	BOTH SERVICES - 3 YEAR OLD STEPPINGSTONE	
SEPTEMBER 25	7:00PM	1ST NIGHT OF REGULAR CONFIRMATION

**REGISTER FOR JOURNEY
OR CONFIRMATION
USING THIS QR CODE**



NOTE: ONLY THE FIRST MEETING OF EACH GROUP IS LISTED. PLEASE REFER TO THE CALENDAR ENCLOSED IN THIS NEWSLETTER OR THE CALENDAR ON THE WEBSITE FOR OTHER DATES

It is hard to believe that we are halfway through the summer months. Where does the time go? I hope everyone was blessed with some fun summer activities or gatherings with family and friends!

Another **'hard to believe'** is that it will already be a year in August for my employment with First Lutheran Church and Mission Coffeehouse. I am extremely happy in my position and continue learning and growing every day. I have met and continue to meet so many wonderful individuals.

I absolutely love working with all the Mission Coffeehouse volunteers as well as the other ministries within First Lutheran Church. A huge thank you, as always, to all volunteers dedicating their time and making things happen!
Cheers to a Year!

Mission of the Month continues to be a success for organizations near and far. Thanks to all for your generosity and support. It is an amazing feeling when we can be a part of helping community groups. For those unfamiliar with the Mission of the Month, free will donations and/or tips for coffee, caramel rolls and lunch go towards the selected organization picked by committee for each month.

Thank You!

Just around the corner the fall activities will start up again. We provide a Wednesday night meal from 5-6 pm before Journey classes begin. It is a free will donation meal and everyone is welcome. Soon we will also be into craft shows to enjoy. There is certainly always something that keeps things exciting throughout the year.

During the summer months, the caramel rolls continued to be extremely popular. Our morning groups keep us on our toes and have increased certain mornings of the week to enjoy a delicious treat from our snack selection, an excellent cup of Kool Beans coffee and enjoying each other's company in an amazing atmosphere. Business has not disappointed! Thanks to all our customers for enjoying their time with us at MCH!

As summer ends soon, we will start our fall hours in September and be open on Fridays once again. Thank you to First Lutheran Church for all your support and the volunteers for your time and dedication. We are looking forward to the next couple of months as we transition into fall activities.

Sincerely,
LaDeane Harrison



Mission of the Month



LaDeane presented a check for \$1,716.78 to Cathy Ching of the Brookings Backpack Project, the Mission of the Month for May.



LaDeane presented a check for \$1,306.13 to Dee Shanley representing Belize: Connecting to Corozal. This was the Mission of the Month for June.



PRESCHOOL NEWS

WELL, IT IS THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN. SCHOOL WILL BE STARTING SOON! THE FIRST LUTHERAN PRESCHOOL STAFF IS ANXIOUSLY ANTICIPATING THE UPCOMING SCHOOL YEAR! WE ARE HAPPY TO GET BACK TO DOING WHAT WE LOVE: TEACHING AND NURTURING GOD'S GREATEST GIFTS.

WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING ALL THE RETURNING STUDENTS AND FAMILIES AND MEETING ALL THE NEW ONES AT OUR FALL OPEN HOUSE. THIS IS A SPECIAL NIGHT FOR CURRENTLY ENROLLED STUDENTS TO COME IN, MEET THE STAFF AND FAMILIARIZE THEMSELVES WITH THE CLASSROOM. THE FAMILIES WILL SIGN UP FOR A 15-MINUTE TIME SLOT ON WEDNESDAY EVENING, AUGUST 21.

WE STILL HAVE SOME PRESCHOOL OPENINGS FOR THE UPCOMING SCHOOL YEAR. PLEASE CONTACT THE PRESCHOOL OFFICE FOR MORE INFORMATION 605-697-2756 OR SUEANN@FIRSTLUTHERANBROOKINGS.ORG.

THE FIRST DAY OF PRESCHOOL CLASSES IS TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3. THE STAFF AND I LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING EVERYONE SOON!

SUEANN

"The singing of God's praise is the part of worship most closely related to Heaven"

Isaac Watts

Summer worship blended services have been a blessing to many. Thank you to Jenna York, Lisa Svobodny, Mary Ermel, Pat Anderson, Rick Jensen and the Praise Band for leading us in songs and hymns. It has been a delight to hear the voices of children singing along on songs they have learned in Journey to Discipleship or Vacation Bible School. We return to two services on September 8th. Traditional services will be at 8:30 and Contemporary services at 10:30.

Sanctuary choir will return to regular rehearsals on Wednesday, September 25th at 7:00 pm. I will continue as director and Mary Ermel will serve as our accompanist. We are always looking for more members, so please join us if you love to sing praises to our God. The choir sings 2 or 3 Sundays a month.

The Hand Bell Choir, under the direction of Barbara Horten, will also begin rehearsals Wed., September 25th at 5:45 pm. Barbara is looking for more ringers so, contact her if interested.

GOOD NEWS from the Hand Bell choir! One octave of tone chimes has been gifted to the hand bell choir. We are looking forward to hearing them in worship.

Pat Anderson - Music Coordinator for 8:30 service
Phone number- 605-731-6433 Email- patandllyle67@gmail.com

Barbara Horten Phone Number 605-695-1147 Email: bjhetal@hotmail.com



YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

Happy August! This summer has passed in the blink of an eye!

There has been a whole lot happening in the quiet of the summer at FLC but what have some of the highlights of the summer been so far?!

In June Youth Group gathered at Lake Campbell for an evening of fun and fellowship. Confirmation folks had a few opportunities to gather but due to weather things didn't play out as hoped. Our last summer gathering will be on August 12th for an outdoor field day of fun, games, and fellowship. This will be my last event, I do encourage youth to attend as a goodbye of sorts.

2024 ELCA Youth Gathering

CREATED

TO BE MYLE
the table Young Adult Gathering

It finally came to pass, our long awaited, community supported summer trip of a life time! NOLA! NEW Orleans, Louisiana was a treat for our crew of 25!

We are Created to Be!

- We are Created to Be Brave
- We are Created to Be Authentic
- We are Created to Be Free
- We are Created to Be Disruptive
- We are Created to Be Disciples

Through this week away our youth learned first hand what the communities outside our tidy midwestern bubble can look like. In a new place, surrounded by caring locals and Lutherans from far and wide to guide them with words, action, and education on how we may be able to live into God's hopes for us.

Imagine walking down any given street in a major city and seeing hoards of youth in matching shirts! Everyone in town knew something was going down. And that something was the 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering! Folks flocked from all over the US, Puerto Rico, Canada, and even a speaker from The Holy Land!

In our evening mass gatherings- of 18,000 people- we heard from pastors, authors, professors, as well as youth and young adults on the main stage. Every story was different but they uplifted what it means to be

"Created To Be".

Relating to God in our fast paced modern age can seem hard but we had the opportunity to be ushered into a wave of God's creation in a new light. The week went by in a flash where we began in worship with the three synods from the Dakotas and ended in a full service with communion in the mass gathering. We had the opportunity to explore the city both in a scavenger hunt and in our own hunt for beignets and jazz. We had hours dedicated to an interactive center where we could play, learn, create, and rest. This looked like college ministries, Global miniatures, life simulators, community art and so much more. On our Accompaniment day we learned about environmental injustice and ethical power sources (84% of South Dakota's electrical net generation is from renewable resources!). Of course most folks are excited by the food in NOLA. We were among them trying many new and delicious foods: Charbroiled oysters, grits, jambalaya, and red fish to name a few.



"God loves our unique personalities and God's image shines through the you that is truly you and that is you that God set free" - Drew Tucker



"You were precious before you could prove it" - Dr. Michael Chan

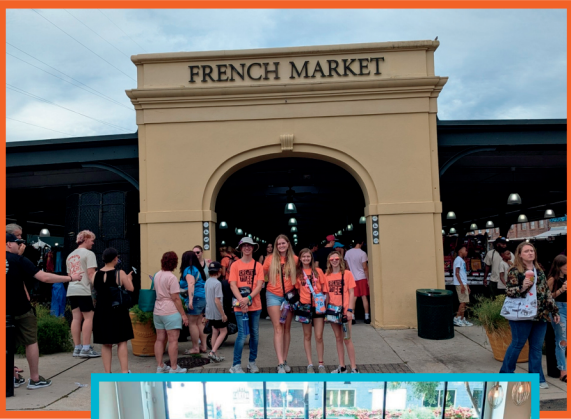
The food and the music will linger in our minds just as the liquid IV will linger in our water bottles but the experience of seeing a stadium FULL of youth excited to praise God together, that feeling of belonging has created a core memory for a lifetime. There is a kind of energy and excitement that can only come from a youthful exuberance for God. Most of our youth had no idea what they were getting themselves into but they were all in and they will most definitely bring that fire with them wherever they go.

Thank you to the adult leaders who helped to make this trip happen safely from start to finish. Geoff and Alecia, y'all are amazing and we are lucky to have had you.

Thank you to every human who donated to help make this trip happen, we would not have gotten far without your commitment and vision for the future of our church and the current value our youth bring to our space. You sent them off to learn what makes up an ELCA Lutheran, and they have come back knowing more clearly who God has **"created them to be"**.



"Human beings deserve to be safe and free"
- Sally Azar



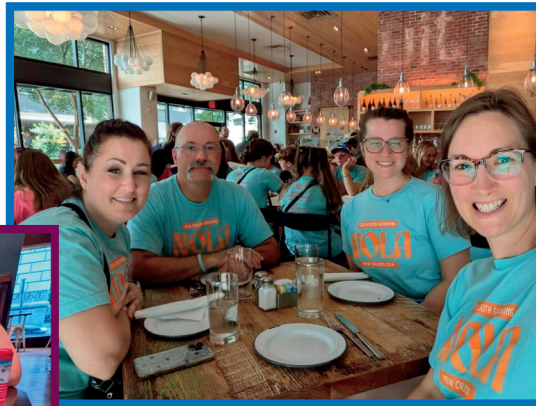
"Instead of being bound by the expectations of others contorting myself into the most uncomfortable positions for their approval- I found myself chasing the freedom of expression that God intended for all creation"
- Keats Miles-Wallace



"We are created for a purpose every one of us. We are not a mistake. I am not mistake. You are not a mistake." - Lori Fuller



Be anyways people. No matter what life brings, may you dance anyways. Share your scars anyways. Sparkle anyways. Believe the dumpster anyways. Know you are loved, always."
- Jacqueline Bussie



"Our first great act in this world is to be changed, from a creature that lives in the depths of the womb, into the being that belongs to the whole human community. We are born in the shadows, but we are made to be light to all around us" - Dr. Michael Chan



"To be named is to be loved and to be loved is to be seen. And to be seen is to know that the full you, the shiny you, the messy you, the confused you, the strong you, the awkward you, the everything you - is so deeply and wildly loved. Is so deeply and wildly enough." -Emily Harkins



Quotes are from speakers at the Gathering

DRUMMM ROLL PLEEEAASSSEE....

Next July our youth will be headed to Winston-Salem, North Carolina for a service trip to support an amazing ministry called The Dwelling. The Dwelling is a ministry for all, but closely works with folks who are unhoused in the area. This service experience will be open for this year's 8th graders- 12th graders! And yes, we absolutely need more caring adults to support our youth and help lead this life altering experience. With all that goodness having been shared, we are seeking a handful of humans to join in our effort to be a caring adult for our youth! Talk to Pastor Jess if you feel a call to be present in your thriving youth ministry. And make sure to register your children and youth for programming!

What is coming up?

Confirmation:

- August - 11th Summer trip folks lead worship and share about their trip
- August - 11th - Goodbye Brunch for Madison after 9am service
- August - 12th - Field day fun for all middle and high school students 6:30-8:15pm
- August - 21st - Confirmation mentor training 5:30-8pm
- September - 4th - 10th grade parent meeting
- September 18th - 6-8th grade confirmation begins at 7pm - parents are asked to join us
- September 25th - Typical Confirmation rolls out

There will be a confirmation retreat this fall, keep your eyes peeled for more information

10th Grade Confirmation:

- September 4th - Student and parent meeting 7- 8:15pm
- September 15th Faith Project Workshop 1:30-3:30pm
- September 27th - Posters due
- October 11th - All other projects due
- October 26th - Faith Showcase in evening - ALL ARE WELCOME!
- October 27th - Affirmation of baptism at 10:30 service

Youth Group:

- August - 7th - Youth worship planning
- August - 11th Summer trip folks lead worship and share about their trip
- August - 11th - Goodbye Brunch for Madison after 9am service
- August - 12th - Field day fun for all middle and high school students 6:30-8:15pm
- August - 28th - First night of youth group with regular Wednesdays to follow

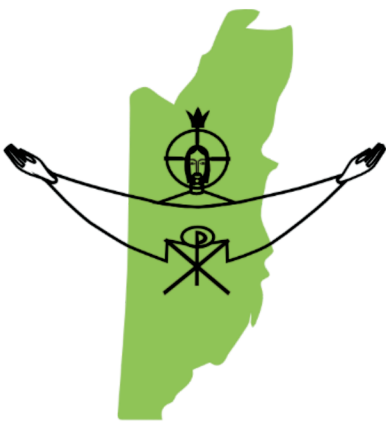
There will be a retreat this year, keep your eyes peeled for more information!

I lift thanks and praise for the opportunity to lead and grow alongside the miraculous youth in our congregation. I will deeply miss the home our wonderful community has provided. I leave knowing our Church is strong, our youth are brave, and God is good especially as we listen for the next right step. I pray over the current and future ministries of First Lutheran, especially those who step into leadership roles, be that volunteer or paid. It takes a village to raise our young people and there is no age or time that one "phases out" of caring for those who carry our future.



*In great love and adoration,
Madison McCabe
Director of Youth Ministries*





belize

Celebrating FLC Connections in Belize



A big thank you to all who visited the Mission Coffeehouse in June, enjoyed a cup of coffee, and helped fill the Tip Jar! Those donations provided scholarships for students at our mission site in Corozal, Belize. This mission began in 2012 and continues to provide hope for children.

By now, FLC Missionary Dee Shanley has returned to Belize to continue serving as a volunteer sewing teacher at our partner school for the 2024-2025 school year. She brought scholarship funds for 32 students with her and relays a BIG heartfelt Thank You from Alvin L. Young Nazarene High School staff and students for this life-changing support.

Karimi, a scholarship recipient writes:

I believe in God and that he can change someone's life and help them, just look how much he has changed mine, and with him by my side I can do and go anywhere. I thank you for helping me and I promise that I will do my best, may God bless you, and thank you.

Meet Kety Alvarado, Dee's protégé! Ms. Kety is a single mom looking for employment to support herself and her daughter. Ms. Kety has learned from Ms. Dee over the past year and helps in the sewing room with a goal of earning a sewing certificate from Christian Sewing Partners of Belize. Then there might be an opportunity for her to teach alongside Ms. Dee and receive monetary support from the government for her service. Pray for God's grace that this dream will be realized!



MISSION TRIP 2025



Will YOU Be Part of It??

Watch for our travel plans and prayerfully consider what your role might be.

Pray with us for another FLC opportunity in Spring 2025 to share God's generous love in this special place.

3rd Annual

Mission Coffeehouse
First Lutheran Church

Deck the Halls for Belize

Silent Auction Bidding on Beautifully
Decorated Christmas Trees

November 9-24, 2024



BELIZE Mission Partners in Service and Learning FLC

PURSES

for a **POWERFUL PURPOSE**

with
Christmas Tables

\$25
advanced tickets only

Salad & Dessert Luncheon
Friday, December 6, 2024
11:30am

First Lutheran Church, 337 8th St, Brookings, SD
Doors open for shopping at 9:00am

Featuring

Dee Shanley A Mission Journey

First Lutheran missionary in Belize, Central America
- donations to benefit local & Belize ministries

Shopping December 6-8

New-Fashion Quilting Bee Serves Others

If walls could talk, the concrete blocks of a gym built for bouncing balls would report hearing a different sound on Saturday, June 15: the hum of 24 sewing machines and the chatter of 68 workers gathered for a new-fashion quilting party. The occasion was the second annual First Lutheran Church (FLC) Quilting Bee, held to support the ministry of Lutheran World Relief (LWR). In 7 hours, the crew, ages 6 – 95, completed and boxed up 40 quilts with 20 more waiting for a finishing edge. The children, meanwhile, focused on ripping and winding cotton sheet strips for bandages. They produced forty coils that will be sent to Global Health Ministries for distribution.

The volunteers, coming from various churches in the area, were energized from 9 to 4 with 2 coffee breaks and a boxed lunch at noon. Thrivent Action Team grants provided the food and the sewing notions. Additionally, FLC quilters have appreciated the generous donations of fabric from church and community members.

Mary Tereszkievicz, a visiting guest from the LWR warehouse in Baltimore, MD, provided expert advice and thanked the group for serving the needs of people they will never meet. She specifically recognized FLC quilter Faye Dahl for faithfully encouraging others in this ministry by challenging the FLC quilters to reach a goal of 400 quilts produced this year. Tereszkievicz explained that the national office has noticed the work accomplished in Brookings for some time now.



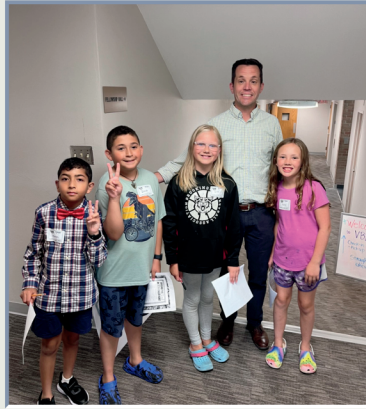
Above: Mary Tereszkievicz thanked some quilters

Right: Jamie Lennon from Lutheran World Relief guides his daughter in tying knots.

Below: Pastor Trey, August & Calvin work with Lon Moeller to roll bandages



VBS was held July 22-25. Led by the CYF team, 50 kids learned how to heal and restore God's world and how he heals and restores us too.





A great big THANK YOU to Kari York who has completed her season of ministry with us as Director of Children's Ministry. Kari faithfully shared her gifts in this role through a time of much change and transition. Kari was a steady presence for children and families of First Lutheran Church when so much was shifting. She provided creative remote faith formation experiences when the pandemic arrived. She served through an interim period and helped us get our start as new pastors three years ago. She loves the families of our church, and her care for them showed it. So many children have learned about Jesus thanks to her organization and leadership of our Journey to Discipleship Christian Education ministry. Thank you, Kari, for all that you have given us. Thank you to your family for their support of this congregation's life. We hope to see you around still, with your bright smile and radiating energy that remind us of the love God has for all of us. We will be praying for you in your next season.



A great big THANK YOU to Madison McCabe who is completing their season of ministry with us as Director of Youth Ministry. Madison has served with creativity, faith, and patience through a tumultuous time. Madison also provided unique opportunities for youth and families to connect with God and each other when in-person gatherings weren't possible during the height of Covid. In fact, Madison arrived when meeting people in person was a rare possibility, and they managed to build relationships anyway. Madison's energy, care, and wise-beyond-their-years presence has helped youth find their place in our congregation and follow their curiosity to discover more about God and the world God made. Thank you, Madison, for sharing your life with this congregation. We hope the road God is leading you down is full of joy and God winks. We trust the future God has for you and for us. We will hold you in prayer with gratitude for the way your ministry has opened up new pathways for us.





First Lutheran Church
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If you have an article or information for the October/November Newsletter, please have it to the church office no later than 5:00pm September 12.

If you would like information put in the Sunday announcements, please have it in the church office by noon the Monday before.
Thank you!

**ATTENTION
MEMBERS: PLEASE
MARK YOUR
CALENDARS TO JOIN
US FOR OUR ANNUAL
MEETING TO BE HELD
ON SEPTEMBER 29TH
BETWEEN SERVICES
AT 9:40 IN THE
SANCTUARY**

**PLEASE JOIN
US AS WE
RETURN TO
TWO
SERVICES ON
SUNDAY,
SEPTEMBER
8TH AT 8:30
AND 10:30**

X

X

X