



## From Pastor's Desk Why?

By Rev. Jason M. Braaten

Everyone is familiar with this tale, I'm sure:

A new bride is making her first big dinner for her husband and tries her hand at her mother's brisket recipe, cutting off the ends of the roast the way her mother always did. Hubby thinks the meat is delicious, but says, "Why do you cut off the ends — that's the best part!" She answers, "That's the way my mother always made it."

The next week, they go to the old bubbie's house, and she prepares the famous brisket

recipe, again cutting off the ends. The young bride is sure she must be missing some vital information, so she asks her grandma why she cut off the ends. Grandma says, "Darling, that's the only way it would fit in my pan!"

Often the point made by those who make use of this little tale is to show how we can end up doing some pointless things if we simply do what our parent's did. And so we shouldn't just do what they did. I suppose it's possible, but unlikely.

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But I submit that the real point of this little tale is that ignorance shouldn't dictate what we do or don't do. Knowledge does. And thus we should seek to know *WHY* our forefathers did what they did.

*So why do we worship the way we worship?  
Why is Christian Worship liturgical?*

Liturgical worship is worship according to a set and traditional format drawn from the sacred Scriptures. These words of the holy liturgy are words that have been handed down to us through generations of Christianity, some from the very beginning. While there are variations in those forms and in the words used, the basis of Christian liturgy is consistently the use of a standard structure drawn from the wells of sacred Scripture.

This is a safeguard against false worship. For where the Word of God is wanting, there the devil rushes in with his lies. If the structure of Christian worship were left to the whim of a preacher or anyone else, then it would only be a matter of time before those whims would turn away from the sound words of Scripture. For there is nothing good in our flesh. Everything depends on the Word of God. Therefore it is right that our worship be continuously staid upon a sound structure, a solid foundation, that upholds the Word, that is the Word.

Second, liturgical worship is using God's own words to speak to God. God gives us His Word, and we speak it back to Him. This is liturgical worship. The Psalms, which have always had a prominent place in the worship of Christians, are both words of

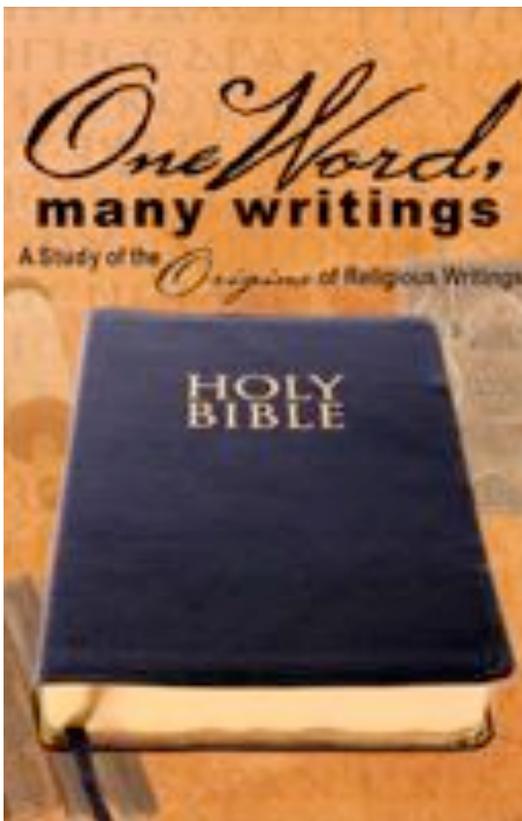
A large, stylized white graphic of the word "why?" on a black background. The letters are thick and rounded, with a question mark at the end. The 'y' has a long, curved tail that loops back under the 'y'.

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God and words of prayer. He gives us the very words with which to pray to Him. He gives us everything. Liturgical worship is the employment of these words. We pray using the words He gave us. And in this way we rejoice in them.

Third, liturgical worship is giving honor where honor is due. The Church of all times has worshiped in this manner. When we do the same we show our respect for the Christian tradition of all times. G. K. Chesterton says that tradition is the democracy of the dead. To follow tradition lets those who can't speak now because they are long passed, speak to us and hand on to us what they thought, what they deemed best. For we worship not by ourselves. We worship with all the saints of heaven, with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven.

With this in mind, on Sunday, August 26, we will begin a new topic in Bible Class entitled "WHY?!?" We will study and consider why we do what we do, why we say what we say, and why we sing what we sing. Come and join us. Learn why, so that you never cut off the tastiest part of the brisket.



**The Book of the Month**  
**Grace Upon Grace:**  
**Spirituality For Today.**

In a culture where it doesn't seem to matter what you believe, it is imperative that Christians be able to recognize His Word over the many other writings available.

In *One Word, many writings*, Dr. Adam Francisco digs into the source and origins of other popular holy writings and compares them to the Bible.

Writings examined:

Old Testament

New Testament

Gospel of Thomas

Qur'an

Analects of Confucius

Tao te Ching

Lotus Sutra

Upanishads

Baghavat Gita

Book of Mormon

New World Translation

Dianetics: The Modern Science of Mental Health

## From the President

### Suffering Together; Rejoicing Together

By Rev. Matthew C. Harrison

If one member suffers, all suffer together. If one rejoices, all rejoice together. Right now, there are many rejoicing, and there are many suffering.

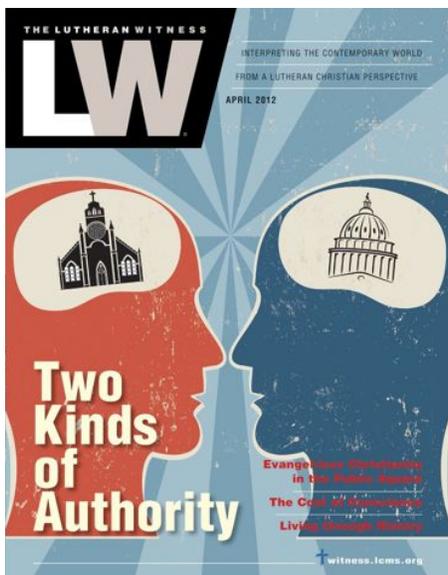
Luther says when you're walking along, and you strike your little toe on a chair or a table leg, what happens is the whole body bends over, the face grimaces, and the body grabs that little toe. There is no use saying, "That's just a little toe," because the whole body suffers.

This, I realize, is a tumultuous change in the life of our Synod. I wish to thank President Kieschnick for his heart for evangelism and his deep desire to move this Synod forward. Many are suffering, and it will be very challenging times to work together.

I wish to inform you that you have kept your perfect record of electing sinners as president of the Missouri Synod. I guarantee you I will sin and fail. I will fall short. I will sin against you. I wish also to



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say that right now I forgive all who in any way have sinned against me or anybody else and plead your forgiveness for anything that I said or did that offended you.

I beg of you your prayers. I beg of you your daily prayers and intercession. These are challenging times. I promise you that I will be as straight with you as I possibly can, to the best of my ability, guided by the Spirit of God.

I pledge to you that I will not coerce you. I will do my best, by the Word of Christ, to lead with the generous Gospel of Jesus Christ, which forgives us all of our sins and motivates us to love and care for our neighbor in mercy and compassion. And I will work as hard as I possibly can for unity around the clear and compelling Word of God and nothing else.

• • •

I'm so impressed by you at this convention, how you've borne with one another, been patient, asked for forgiveness. This is the greatest privilege and honor of one's life, to stand before this body in this fashion. I could never imagine it.

And I pray the Lord will bless you in the days to come, to work for unity and love and compassion, that the Gospel of Christ may go forth from all of us in every single place everywhere around the world that many may know—many, many more may know—the Gospel of Jesus for eternal life. The Lord be with you.

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## Education Corner

# What Do the Olympics Have To Do With God's Word?

By Tim Chaffey

It is a tradition like no other. Every four years, sports fans are captivated by the summer Olympic Games, which are taking place in London, England. Fans from every country on earth flock to the site of the Olympiad to watch the fastest, strongest, and most-skilled athletes compete to win a gold medal and perhaps shatter a world record along the way.

The modern version of the Olympic Games started in Athens in 1896, and although they have generated their share of controversy, the games were meant to foster cooperation, peace, and good sportsmanship. This is far different from the original Olympic Games, which started in 776 BC. These games began in Olympia, Greece, and were held in honor of Zeus. Rules were much different then, as many athletes competed in the nude, and in one event, pancratium, the goal was to box, kick, or wrestle one's opponent until he submitted, fell unconscious, or died.

The Olympic Games grew rapidly in popularity, and before long similar competitions

sprang up in ancient Greece: the games at Delphi in honor of Apollo (582 BC), the Isthmian Games near Corinth in honor of Poseidon (582 BC), and the games at Nemea to honor Zeus (573 BC). While these games were originally dedicated to pagan gods, Christians can use the Olympics as an opportunity to teach the truth.

As is true today, these contests were big business and a cultural phenomenon. So popular were these various competitions that the authors of the New Testament made several allusions to them as illustrations. For example, Paul may very well have had the Isthmian Games in mind when he wrote the following words to the Corinthians, who would have been quite familiar with the sporting references.

Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it. And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown. Therefore I run



thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air. But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified. (1 Corinthians 9:24–27)

Olympic athletes, such as sprinters and boxers, must discipline their bodies through rigorous training, and they must carefully manage their diet. In order to become the best in the world, a person must work extremely hard and maintain a very narrow focus on the goal at hand.

Paul told his readers that his dedication to serving the Lord was comparable to the devotion demonstrated by the best athletes of the day. Why shouldn't the same thing be true for us? If the Lord is our top priority, how can we possibly give Him anything less than our very best? Just as an athlete must devote his physical body to a strict training regimen, Christians are called to devote our bodies as living sacrifices to the service of God (Romans 12:1). When we realize that the material things of this world—the riches, fame, prestige, and gold medals—will all disappear someday, how can we not entirely commit ourselves to serving God? Remember, the prize God has set before us is greater than any temporal pleasure—ours is “an imperishable crown” (1 Corinthians 9:25). Consider the following words from Hebrews, which also contain allusions to the athletic events of the day.

Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. (Hebrews 12:1–2; cf., 2 Timothy 2:5)

As followers of Jesus Christ, we should set aside everything that hinders us from serving the Lord wholeheartedly. Our Savior served as the perfect example for us. With the “not as I will, but as You will” mindset (Matthew 26:39), He disregarded the shame of the Cross for our salvation. When we realize the infinite cost of our salvation paid for by

the infinite and precious Son of God, we cannot settle to give Him any less than our best.

One aspect of following Christ is sharing the good news with others. Many centuries ago, the Apostle Paul used allusions to cultural sporting events in his writings, and during the next couple weeks, several AiG staff members and friends of the ministry will similarly use the modern Olympic Games as an opportunity to spread the good news about the sacrificial death, burial, and Resurrection of Christ. Dr. David Crandall of Answers Worldwide is leading a volunteer team of evangelists to witness to people from all over the globe who are converging on London for the Olympic Games. Ken Ham will also be traveling to London to speak at some evening sessions to those participating in the outreach. In addition, he will give presentations at conferences throughout the United Kingdom. Please pray with us for their safety and boldness, but also be in prayer for those who will hear the gospel message—perhaps for the very first time. Pray that God will prepare their hearts to receive the only message that can save their souls.

While we may not all be able to travel to another part of the world to share the good news, we should all take part in the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18–20) in our current setting. Just as Paul took every opportunity, beating his body and making it his slave (1 Corinthians 9:27, NIV), we must live our lives in full devotion to the Lord. Near the end of his life, Paul wrote the following words to Timothy:

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing. (2 Timothy 4:7–8)

When we reach the end of our lives, may we all have the ability to reflect on our days and say, “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.” We pray that the outreach efforts in England this summer will lead thousands to repent of their sins so they can someday echo those same words before receiving an imperishable crown of righteousness.

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Thanks to everyone who made this year's VBS such a success.

# Facts and Figures; Dates and Times

## Greeters List

- 5 Aug Ruth Sims – East  
Becky Kappes – West
- 12 Aug Tim & Teri Pollock – East  
Harold & Irene Wattjes –West
- 19 Aug Donna & Gunnar Campbell – East  
Jim Dyer -West
- 26 Aug Ruth Sims – East  
Joan Vukelich -West
- 2 Sep Laverl Byers – East  
Ruth Sims – West
- 9 Sep Becky Kappes – East  
Tim & Teri Pollock – West
- 16 Sep Harold & Irene Wattjes – East  
Donna & Gunnar Campbell – West
- 23 Sep Jim Dyer - East  
Ruth Sims – West
- 30 Sep Joan Vukelich -East  
Laverl Byers - West

## Coffee Committee

- Aug Josh & Jaimee Whitson
- Sep Laverl Byers
- Oct Pastor & Lauren Braaten
- Nov Jerry & Joyce Alexander
- Dec Pastor & Lauren Braaten

## Altar Committee

- 5 Aug Ruth Sims
- 12 Aug Ruth Sims
- 19 Aug Ruth Sims
- 26 Aug Sherrie Hoel
- 2 Sep Sherrie Hoel
- 9 Sep Sherrie Hoel
- 16 Sep Sue Danielson
- 23 Sep Sue Danielson
- 30 Sep Sue Danielson

## Elder On Duty – Communion

- 5 Aug Geof Danielson
- 12 Aug Geof Danielson
- 19 Aug Geof Danielson
- 26 Aug Jack Appleby
- 2 Sep Jack Appleby
- 9 Sep Jack Appleby
- 16 Sep Josh Whitson
- 23 Sep Josh Whitson
- 30 Sep Josh Whitson

ATTENDANCE			OFFERINGS		
Date	Saturday	Sunday	General	Missions	Building
1 July	17	55	\$2,276.50	\$0.00	\$0.00
8 July	15	72	\$4,098.25	\$0.00	\$185.00
15 July	14	56	\$1,947.00	\$0.00	\$20.00
22 July	14	56	\$1,782.50	\$0.00	\$0.00
29 July	22	84	\$2,511.95	\$20.00	
Subtotal	82	323	\$12,616.20	\$20.00	\$205.00
Total	405		\$12,616.20	\$20.00	\$205.00

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>18</p> <p>11:00am - Bible Study @</p>	<p>19</p> <p>11:00am - Bible Study @</p>	<p>20</p> <p>11:00am - Bible Study @</p>	<p>21</p> <p>11:00am - Bible Study @</p>	<p>22</p> <p>11:00am - Bible Study @</p>	<p>23</p> <p>11:00am - Bible Study @</p>	<p>24</p> <p>11:00am - Bible Study @</p>
<p>25</p> <p>11:00am - Bible Study @</p>	<p>26</p> <p>11:00am - Bible Study @</p>	<p>27</p> <p>11:00am - Bible Study @</p>	<p>28</p> <p>11:00am - Bible Study @</p>	<p>29</p> <p>11:00am - Bible Study @</p>	<p>30</p> <p>11:00am - Bible Study @</p>	<p>31</p> <p>11:00am - Bible Study @</p>
<p>1</p> <p>11:00am - Bible Study @</p>	<p>2</p> <p>11:00am - Bible Study @</p>	<p>3</p> <p>11:00am - Bible Study @</p>	<p>4</p> <p>11:00am - Bible Study @</p>	<p>5</p> <p>11:00am - Bible Study @</p>	<p>6</p> <p>11:00am - Bible Study @</p>	<p>7</p> <p>11:00am - Bible Study @</p>
<p>8</p> <p>11:00am - Bible Study @</p>	<p>9</p> <p>11:00am - Bible Study @</p>	<p>10</p> <p>11:00am - Bible Study @</p>	<p>11</p> <p>11:00am - Bible Study @</p>	<p>12</p> <p>11:00am - Bible Study @</p>	<p>13</p> <p>11:00am - Bible Study @</p>	<p>14</p> <p>11:00am - Bible Study @</p>
<p>15</p> <p>11:00am - Bible Study @</p>	<p>16</p> <p>11:00am - Bible Study @</p>	<p>17</p> <p>11:00am - Bible Study @</p>	<p>18</p> <p>11:00am - Bible Study @</p>	<p>19</p> <p>11:00am - Bible Study @</p>	<p>20</p> <p>11:00am - Bible Study @</p>	<p>21</p> <p>11:00am - Bible Study @</p>
<p>22</p> <p>11:00am - Bible Study @</p>	<p>23</p> <p>11:00am - Bible Study @</p>	<p>24</p> <p>11:00am - Bible Study @</p>	<p>25</p> <p>11:00am - Bible Study @</p>	<p>26</p> <p>11:00am - Bible Study @</p>	<p>27</p> <p>11:00am - Bible Study @</p>	<p>28</p> <p>11:00am - Bible Study @</p>
<p>29</p> <p>11:00am - Bible Study @</p>	<p>30</p> <p>11:00am - Bible Study @</p>	<p>31</p> <p>11:00am - Bible Study @</p>	<p>1</p> <p>11:00am - Bible Study @</p>	<p>2</p> <p>11:00am - Bible Study @</p>	<p>3</p> <p>11:00am - Bible Study @</p>	<p>4</p> <p>11:00am - Bible Study @</p>

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>26</p> <p>Trinity 12</p> <p>9am - Divine Service w/ Holy</p> <p>10:30am - Bible Class @</p> <p>1pm - Church Picnic (Tentative)</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Tammy Kresin's birthday</p> <p>7:30am - Matins</p> <p>8am - Staff Meeting</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Jeremy Dallas's birthday</p> <p>Rev. Jason Braaten's birthday</p> <p>Tenneil Hirsch's birthday</p> <p>7:30am - Matins</p> <p>8am - Staff Meeting</p> <p>7pm - LWML @ Immanuel's</p>	<p>29</p> <p>The Martyrdom of St. John the</p> <p>7:30am - Matins</p>	<p>30</p> <p>7:30am - Matins</p> <p>8am - Staff Meeting</p> <p>1:30pm - Ladies Aid/Bible Study</p>	<p>31</p> <p>Pastor's Day Off</p>	<p>1</p> <p>5:30pm - Divine Service w/ Holy</p>
<p>2</p> <p>Betty Leonard's anniversary</p> <p>Kaitlyn Danielson's birthday</p> <p>Lauren Braaten's birthday</p> <p>Neil Olliger's birthday</p> <p>Payton Danielson's birthday</p> <p>Trinity 13</p> <p>9am - Divine Service w/ Holy</p> <p>10:30am - Bible Class @</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Donna Campbell's anniversary</p> <p>Greg Campbell's anniversary</p> <p>Haley Ely's birthday</p> <p>7:30am - Matins</p> <p>8am - Staff Meeting</p> <p>6pm - Board of Elders</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Kristin Stohler's anniversary</p> <p>7:30am - Matins</p> <p>8am - Staff Meeting</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Elien Hettinger's birthday</p> <p>7:30am - Matins</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Alexis Nau's birthday</p> <p>Richard Zartler's birthday</p> <p>Ryan Wyckoff's anniversary</p> <p>Sarah Wyckoff's anniversary</p> <p>7:30am - Matins</p> <p>8am - Staff Meeting</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Pastor's Day Off</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Corinne Oye's birthday</p> <p>James Dyer's birthday</p> <p>Kristin Dietrich's birthday</p> <p>Kristin Stohler's birthday</p> <p>5:30pm - Divine Service w/ Holy</p>
<p>9</p> <p>Trinity 14</p> <p>9am - Divine Service w/ Holy</p> <p>10:30am - Bible Class @</p> <p>2:30pm - Nursing Home Service</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Blake Stokes's birthday</p> <p>Heather Harshbarger's birthday</p> <p>Roger Long's birthday</p> <p>7:30am - Matins</p> <p>8am - Staff Meeting</p> <p>5pm - Board of Mission &amp;</p> <p>7:30pm - Men's Club</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Lucas Stevens's birthday</p> <p>7:30am - Matins</p> <p>8am - LWML Zone Rally @</p> <p>8am - Staff Meeting</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Ryan Wyckoff's birthday</p> <p>8am - Pastor at LCMS Meeting @</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Laura Van Cleave's anniversary</p> <p>7:30am - Matins</p> <p>8am - Staff Meeting</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Danielle Miller's birthday</p> <p>Holy Cross Day</p> <p>Pastor's Day Off</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Alberta Dallas's anniversary</p> <p>5:30pm - Divine Service w/ Holy</p>
<p>16</p> <p>Trinity 15</p> <p>9am - Divine Service w/ Holy</p> <p>10:30am - Bible Class @</p> <p>11:30am - Catechism Class</p>	<p>17</p> <p>7:30am - Matins</p> <p>8am - Staff Meeting</p> <p>6pm - Board of Education</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Elizabeth Anderson's birthday</p> <p>Leonard Rentz's birthday</p> <p>Margie Stevens's birthday</p> <p>7:30am - Matins</p> <p>8am - Staff Meeting</p>	<p>19</p> <p>7:30am - Matins</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Benjamin Sluder's anniversary</p> <p>7:30am - Matins</p> <p>8am - Staff Meeting</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Breileigh Eversole's birthday</p> <p>Katelyn Cier's birthday</p> <p>Pastor's Day Off</p> <p>St. Matthew the Apostle and</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Matthew Snyder's birthday</p> <p>5:30pm - Divine Service w/ Holy</p>
<p>23</p> <p>Maddux Wyckoff's birthday</p> <p>Trinity 16</p> <p>9am - Divine Service w/ Holy</p> <p>10:30am - Bible Class @</p> <p>11:30am - Catechism Class</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Rebecca Kappas's anniversary</p> <p>7:30am - Matins</p> <p>8am - Staff Meeting</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Stephanie Crammer's birthday</p> <p>7:30am - Matins</p> <p>8am - Staff Meeting</p>	<p>26</p> <p>7:30am - Matins</p> <p>11:30am - TAMA @ Pizza Hut</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Jason Wienke's anniversary</p> <p>Tim Hoel's birthday</p> <p>Travis Rahn's anniversary</p> <p>7:30am - Matins</p> <p>8am - Staff Meeting</p> <p>1:30pm - Ladies Aid/Bible Study</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Pastor's Day Off</p> <p>Wanda Long's birthday</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Heidi Apperson's birthday</p> <p>St. Michael and All the Angels</p> <p>5:30pm - Divine Service w/ Holy</p>
<p>30</p> <p>Maegan Rolhe's birthday</p> <p>Trinity 17</p> <p>9am - Divine Service w/ Holy</p> <p>10:30am - Bible Class @</p> <p>11:30am - Catechism Class</p> <p>7pm - Youth Group</p>	<p>1</p> <p>7:30am - Matins</p> <p>8am - Staff Meeting</p> <p>6pm - Board of Elders</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Spenser Eversole's birthday</p> <p>7:30am - Matins</p> <p>8am - Staff Meeting</p>	<p>3</p> <p>7:30am - Matins</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Brittany Arthur's birthday</p> <p>Ruth Slaughters's birthday</p> <p>7:30am - Matins</p> <p>8am - Staff Meeting</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Pastor's Day Off</p> <p>Shawna Pollock's birthday</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Henry Rahn's birthday</p> <p>Paula Bowles's birthday</p> <p>5:30pm - Divine Service w/ Holy</p>

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Immanuel's stained glass window in the Narthex.