

How did August arrive so quickly? Didn't the kids just finish school the other day? But, as it stands, they are getting ready to start school in a few short weeks, and with that many things are starting up here and a couple new things taking place. Allow me to give you a brief run down:

(1) Sunday, August 21, during worship, will be the **Blessing of the Backpacks**. Kids are invited to bring their backpacks to worship for a special blessing and a small gift to display on them.

(2) Sunday, September 11 will be **Rally Sunday**. We are excited to welcome the kiddos back to another year of growing deeper in our relationship with Jesus.

(3) **1G kicks off** on Monday, September 12 at the Congregational Church. It is the same nightly routine, 3:30 to 5:30, with a family supper at 5:30 PM. This year we are focusing on New Testament stories.

(4) **Confirmation** starts Wednesday, September 14. Lots of new and exciting changes happening. Pay special attention to a new feature in this newsletter, "Confirmation Corner", for an **adult education opportunity**.

(5) **New member classes** – If you are or know of someone interested in church membership, be on the lookout for membership classes to be scheduled this coming year.

(6) A NEW **devotional page** on our church website is under construction. It is scheduled to go live on Monday, September 12. My plan is to refresh the page a couple times a week with new devotions. This is still in the planning stage so stay tuned for more information.

(7) The **LCMC Annual Gathering is in Lakeville, MN** this year at Hosanna Church, October 2-5. A short 125 miles from here. Anyone is welcome to attend and let me tell you, it will be well worth your time. Let me know if you have any questions about this or you can visit the LCMC website for a schedule, information and registration at: lcmc.net/annual-gathering

So, are you excited yet? I definitely am. God is doing a thing here at Bethlehem Lutheran Church and in Buffalo Center. Remember to pray, pray and pray some more and hang on for the Holy Spirit ride. To God be ALL the glory, Amen.