

FAITHNOTES

September 2026

*The Newsletter for Communities of
Faith/Peace United Parish, United
Methodist*

**Clarissa - Clotho - Eagle Bend
Long Prairie - Wrightstown**

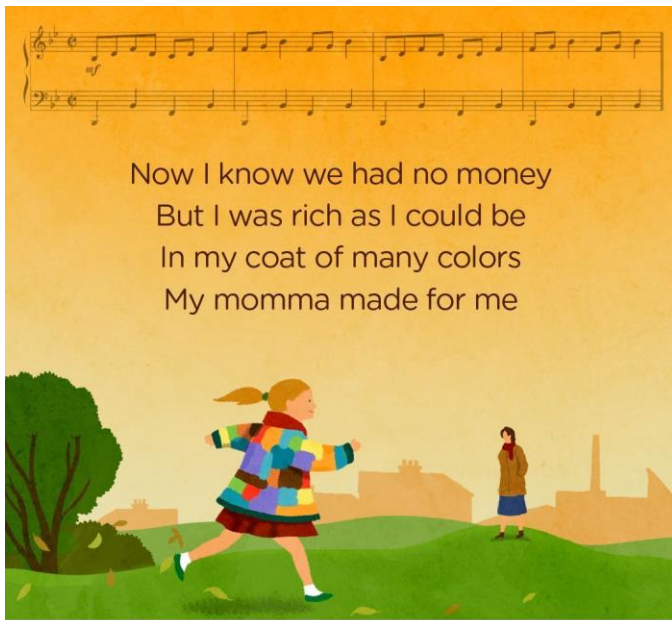
Thoughts from Kali . . .

Thoughts.....

As we wound up Porch Ponderings this week, I was again drawn to the book that kicked all of this off. Reading *The Turquoise Table* by Kristin Schell along with my desire to have a Thursday night service of some sort when I started in these churches, combined to offer a place to explore just what it would mean to invite community into our practice of living together. We have read several devotionals over the past few years, but this is the book we are grounded in. In this book, the author talks about her own vulnerability and how she felt outside of the church, outside of a circle of caring for years. She said she ironically became acquainted with love and acceptance not in a church circle at all, but in a foreign country where she was a stranger, someone different. She had grown up in a Christian school where she felt left out because she was Christian, but not of the same denomination, so many times when a practice was followed by most of the other students, she was not allowed in. Though she worshipped the same God, she was not part of the tradition or the "flock". Kristin said her entire life and her relationship with Jesus took a turn those formative years where she was seeking to be loved and cared for. Instead, that experience of belonging came when she was in a foreign country, not based in Christianity at all. It was there she felt welcomed. It was in a kitchen of warmth and conversation that she felt cared for and seen. We lost an icon this week who spoke of being seen in the roots of the common, the kitchen, the community.

Dolly Parton has left our communities mourning,

grieving, remembering, and she has spent a lifetime, gathering people in. She came from being left out as she describes in her song, *Coat of Many Colors*, but she found a way to use that feeling to welcome people in. Dolly had an uncanny way of remembering who she was, who she had become, how she got there, and exactly how she could bring others in. Story after story has surfaced of Dolly doing something that boosted a person's possibilities. Paying a semester at school, sending books, giving someone a job, taking time to explain why being part of her ventures meant paying close attention to the way people were treated and cared for. Dolly worked hard, day in and day out. She dedicated her life to not just entertaining, but to seeing that what she had been given was used to better someone else in the wake of her success. Others in the field of influence have nothing but accolades for her because she invested in others, in her business, in the welfare of people, and in the roots of her home. She was not about the happenings as much as she was about the heart of her mission. She was talented and tough. Her roots were a reminder to her of what she had been raised with and what she valued. Family, her faith, and her hope to leave the world better than she found it. She told interviewers that she wanted to be remembered for having a heart that valued others and assisted them wherever possible. She had fun with her work and dedicated herself to what was good, not ill willed. She wanted her legacy to be full whenever her final breath was taken. We set pace with September, looking at our final quarter of the year to come. I had a fun meeting with SPRC the other night and we talked about our yearly evaluation and then, about our five year plan. Where does each church want to be in five years. What is the goal? Are we heading in a sustainable direction? Is church attendance a plus or are we lagging? Are the budgets being met or are we struggling? Do we have faith in the work of the church and are we endorsing it as a means of grace and a light toward living? I spoke with Becky Jo Messenbrink, our Conference Superintendent, this week for my one on one conference. I said I hoped we would each look at our personal faith



Coat of Many Colors
Dolly Parton

 SHEETMUSICDIRECT

journey in these churches and decide if we are in a tight personal relationship with Jesus. Are we willing to look at our own everyday lives, see where we are headed, and embrace where we want to go. In that vein, there will be some opportunity to engage in your own spiritual development this fall and winter. There will be possibilities available for each of us and all of us to grow. Will we decide to do that? I don't know, but if you have been in these churches for a long time or a short time, the United Methodist Church and the United Church of Christ both hold a large welcoming stance for all people. It is good for us to acknowledge that, and to look at how we can be a part of the mission and ministry to ourselves, not just to the congregation or the world. Am I challenging myself to be the best possible addition to the Kingdom of God that I can be? It has been said that when we open ourselves up to the stranger, we open ourselves up to the holy. Where is the stranger in our lives.....a neighbor, a newcomer, or are we sometimes even out of touch in knowing who we even are? Are we personally aware of our standards, our thoughts, our motives, and are we in sync with them? Are we living the conviction we cite?

There is a world out there who needs us to be who we are called to be. A world out there who will benefit from us remembering our roots. Like Dolly, do we remember who we are and whose we are? We are rooted in discipleship, loving,

including, seeing, embracing. We are rooted in knowing who we are and in responding to the roots that formed these churches. Roots that call us into holy love? Are we able to respond to that call? It seems clear to me that we are able.....is that our desire?



HELP US FILL OUR COMMUNITY WITH WARMTH!
Community Coat Drive – Long Prairie

WE NEED:

- NEW COATS**
- USED COATS** IN GOOD CONDITION

COLLECTION LOCATIONS

LONG PRAIRIE

- Trinity Lutheran Church
- American Lutheran Church
- First Baptist Church
- St. Mary's of Mount Carmel Church
- 110 Coffee
- Peace United Methodist Church
- River of Life Church

UNITED METHODIST CHURCHES IN:

- Clotho
- Eagle Bend
- Clarissa

UNTIL 20TH SEPTEMBRE

PRIMARY NEED: COATS FOR CHILDREN

WE ALSO ACCEPT: Snow pants, boots, hats and mittens.

PORCH PONDERINGS wrapped up for the season. Thanks to so many people who brought information and inspiration to the Porch this summer. It was a grand season of opportunity to learn from one another and to see the support of community grow. If you have ideas for next summer, just let me know. Thanks, Kali



Rooted and Grounded: Honoring Wisdom and Staying Steady This Autumn

September brings a beautiful shift in seasons. As the leaves begin to turn, we celebrate Healthy Aging Month. In this season of our nation's 250th anniversary, we look with deep gratitude at the generations of elders who built our communities, passed down our faith, and continue to guide our church. In the United Methodist tradition, aging is viewed not as a decline, but as a season of deep spiritual wisdom and continued purpose.

John Wesley modeled this beautifully. He traveled tens of thousands of miles on horseback well into his eighties, preaching and caring for others. Wesley understood that physical vitality allows us to remain active participants in God's work. One of the greatest gifts we can give ourselves and our loved ones in our mature years is the gift of safety and mobility.

A key part of staying active and independent is preventing falls. Falling is not an inevitable part of aging, but rather something we can actively prevent through smart habits and small changes to our environments. By keeping ourselves steady on our feet, we ensure we can continue to show up for our families, our church, and our neighbors.

Simple Steps to Prevent Falls and Stay Steady:
Clear the Path: Take a look around your home. Remove loose throw rugs, clutter, and electrical cords from high-traffic walkways. Ensure your hallways and stairwells are well-lit, and consider adding plug-in nightlights in the bathroom and bedroom.
Build Your Balance: Strength and balance are muscles we must continuously exercise. Try simple daily habits, like holding onto the kitchen counter and practicing standing on one foot for 30 seconds, or doing gentle calf raises while waiting for your coffee to brew.
Review Your Medications: Some prescriptions or combinations of medications can cause dizziness or drowsiness, which increases fall risks. Bring a complete list of your medications to your doctor or pharmacist this month and ask if any could affect your balance.
Schedule an Eye Exam: Vision changes can happen gradually and impact how you judge steps or changes in flooring. A quick annual eye exam ensures your prescription is up to date and your depth perception is sharp.

As your Faith Community Nurse, I pray that this autumn brings you a renewed sense of strength and purpose. May we all remain rooted in our faith and steady on our feet, ready to serve wherever God calls us next.

In faith and blessings,
Cinnamon Lacaster RN, BSN PHN Nurse
Faith Community Nurse

A little of this and a little of that...

Food Shelf - Food Shelf in Long Prairie will now be open the first and third Tuesday evenings. If you would like to join the roster of volunteers, we can always use you. Some of our volunteers will be headed south soon and we can use a healthy supply of people who want to serve others. Food shelf hours on those two Tuesday evenings are 5:30-7:30 p.m.

VOLUNTEERS - Thanks for all so many do to make things click. We have had a busy summer and your work is appreciated. Want to boost your personal relationship with Jesus, get busy with all he calls us to do. Be in touch if you have some energy and a desire to serve.

PRAYER PEEPS - Praying at CentraCare Chapel on Monday, September 21st at noon. Prayer opportunities together are always good. Gather up a group of people for prayer and a walk or prayer and coffee.....praying together in family and community is a great way to gather together.

Ministerial Fund - The last two weeks have been filled with so many requests for every day, ordinary things. Such a time of need! We have been blessed with gifts this past month....A couple from our community blessed us with 550 dollars, Pro Ag gave us 100 dollars, and Shepherd of the Valley shared 292.62. Thanks so much to all who continue to pray for the ministerial work. The bills are getting bigger and the money is just not stretching as far when it comes to groceries, gas, school supplies, and general living. We have had some folks who are homeless. The grocery supply is still good at the office and many bags of groceries have gone out to keep things stable in the homes of many. Your care is appreciated.

Greater Good - received a gift of 150 dollars. There have been items donated for back to school treats and the items donated for the fair and national night out. We have one person attending the leadership institute that many of us usually attend. There are no extra funds to pay for the training, but Sue is attending anyway. I am glad for

her interest as I have a wedding the weekend of the training. The leadership institute is one of our best training opportunities.

Course of Study - Kali completed the class in August. Next class scheduled for October.

Confirmation students - will be receiving a text for gathering up this month.

SPRC gathered to complete our annual evaluation. Great session! So appreciated! Thanks to this stellar group of people!!!!

Ministerial Team September Schedule:

6..Marlys and Kali
13..Jen and Kali
20..Marlys and Kali
27..Erin and Kali
Team meeting at 5:15 p.m., on the 8th.

PLEASE REMEMBER OUR NURSING HOME AND ASSISTED LIVING FAMILY...

Central Todd County Care Center & Assisted Living – Clarissa

-Darlene Bodle - Gene Bodle – June Holt -
Joan Whiteford

Meadow Place – Long Prairie

- Darlene Baxter - Jan Miller - Bev Johnson

Long Prairie Memorial Nursing Home

- Orin Baxter – Jane Lunser

Vitality Living of Long

Prairie - Lucy Mazo

Nursing Homes services:

Nursing Home Services at Central Todd County Care Center, September 2nd, 9th, and 16th. 2:30 p.m. Long Prairie Nursing Home Services on September 9th and 16th, 9:45 a.m. and service at Vitality Living, Long Prairie at 10:30 a.m. on September 9th.

Worship at Heritage Apartments every Wednesday at 1:30 p.m.



Meanderings of the Preacher...

in addition to the other obligations in the newsletter, I will be at the Concert at the Katterhagen farms bringing voice to the concern for

agriculture and the mental health of those invested in our farmers, ranchers, and others dealing with the agriculture stresses. Concert is from 1 to 3 on the 5th. All are welcome to attend and assist. Burial of my sister-in-law's ashes, Friday, September 11th, Minneapolis. Rural Ministry matters will meet at Pengilly UMC on September 18th. I will stay overnight for the training offered at Wesley UMC, Hibbing. Erica Koser from the conference will lead us in a conversation about rural ministry; you are welcome to attend as well. Prayers that evening for the Class of 1961 class reunion. Meeting at CentraCare on Thursday, September 24th, 3 p.m.



JOIN US IN CHURCH...Would love to have you join us in church...we are missing you and look forward to connecting at worship services at any of our churches. While the opportunity for social media to keep us connected is beneficial, there is nothing like personal presence. We encourage you to think about how and when you could worship with us. Thanks to everyone who continues to financially, give as they can. Our churches are operating and have a desire to extend our presence in the communities. Your gifts support the mission and operation of our churches. Our winter has left many of our offering plates low on giving. While, nobody is in a panic and everybody knows budgets are tight, please do remember our churches. The programs and needs here are still major and we are called to be stewards of whatever gifts we have been given. Thanks for your generosity and your prayers and care for the churches.

Clarissa, Clotho, Eagle Bend people, feel free to send any monetary gifts to PO Box 158, Clarissa, MN. 56440. Peace United Folks, send your offering to 524 Central Avenue, Long Prairie, MN 56347. Contributions for Wrightstown UMC send to Joan Zirbes, 62172 County Hwy. 40, Parkers Prairie, MN 56361. Hope to see you soon. Feel free to be in touch. You can reach me at 320-808-6301.



BIRTHDAYS

- 2..Emily Hershberger
- 2..Bryan Berg
- 3..Amanda Berry
- 4..Gary Johnson
- 6..Betty Kunerth
- 10..Harper Beach
- 10..Aaron Kunerth
- 10..Danielle Doroff
- 11..Jeramie Heifort
- 12..Duane Harlow
- 14..Marie Mollner
- 17..Michelle Deaver
- 18..Kathy Halbur
- 19..Maverick Woeste
- 20..Debbie Sales
- 22..Faye Cossentine
- 22..Lawrence Nelson
- 22..Mike Marquardt'
- 24..Kevin Blake
- 25..Angie Peterson

A Prayer for the First Day of School

Dear Lord,



Open my eyes to see new friends.



Open my ears to hear my teacher.



Open my mind to learn new things.



Open my hands to help others.



Open my mouth to speak kind words.



Open my heart to love like You.

I know You are always with me when I'm at school!

In Jesus' name, Amen!

happy home fairy



Heidi Masters & Jason Hudalla, cancer free
 Family of Cassandra Zellmann
 Tom Miller and Nancy's children in death of Nancy Ritter
 Andrew's parents, all four in declining health
 Joy of Great grand babe for Crystal Ahrens
 Kim Ritter, double lung transplant, complications
 Amy Neidhardt Reiner, recovering from stroke, at home now.
 Jack struggle with substance abuse
 Family of Lisa Teigland
 Joy of birth of great boy grandbabes for Vic and Peggy Carlson.
 Thanks so much to Marcia Woeste, Reta Dahlen, Diane Hanson for filling in for music needs
 Tanya Fischer, healing
 Jameson, hospitalization
 Brad Lorentz, healing
 Family of Teresa Byland
 Family of Chuck Senger
 Family of Dave Hinzmann
 Carolyn VanDenheuvel as she prepares to move to WI
 Carter and Maggie
 Family of Deanna Lackmann
 Family of Jim Lunemann
 Aamy and John
 Prayers for Rain
 Dalton and Jacklin
 Mary Miller
 Mildred Kortuem
 June Holt
 Lonnie Hetland
 Jodi Miksche
 Don Moore





Communities of Faith United Parish

Five Church Meeting....

Five Church meeting will take place at Peace United church, Wednesday, September 23rd, 7 p.m. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend.

Clarissa Chatter. . .

THE ELEVATOR IS WORKING!!!!!! Amen and AMEN!!!!!!

Could we host a community breakfast being we have no place to gather and eat after church one of these Sundays? May be a great service to our communities and a wonderful way to bring people together. Others may be willing to join in the opportunity as well.

Baptism of River Prather and Archie Ashbaugh, Saturday, September 12th, 1 p.m.

Administrative Council will meet on September 28th, 5 p.m.

Clotho Corner

Thanks to everyone who assisted with all the moving parts of the ice cream social. It was so good to see so many people out and about. All the food was gone and the clean up done by a good time. Your work and participation is so appreciated!

Coffee in Clotho, Friday, September 4th, 6:30-9 am
Labor Day Music Jam, Monday, Sept. 7th 1 pm

Sunday School teachers needed for the fall. This will come with a lot of support and ideas. Hope to see one or two or several step forward.....remember, the configuration can look different than it has.....we are always a work in progress...

Eagle Bend Box. . .

Free and Fun Supper, Tuesday, September 15th 4:30-6:30 p.m. Join us!!!!

Baptism of Banks Louise Boie, Sunday, September 27th!!!!

Peace United Update...

The Roof is being shingled!!!! SO EXCITING!!!!!!

Administrative Council will meet on September 13th after church.

Hot dish Lunch, Sunday, September 20th, 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Freewill offering. Hot dishes and desserts needed. If you struggle with getting a hot dish made, but would like to pay for one to be made, perhaps we can find a cook to stir one up, shopping with your money for the ingredients. Just make your request known to Marcia, Wanda, or Bev.

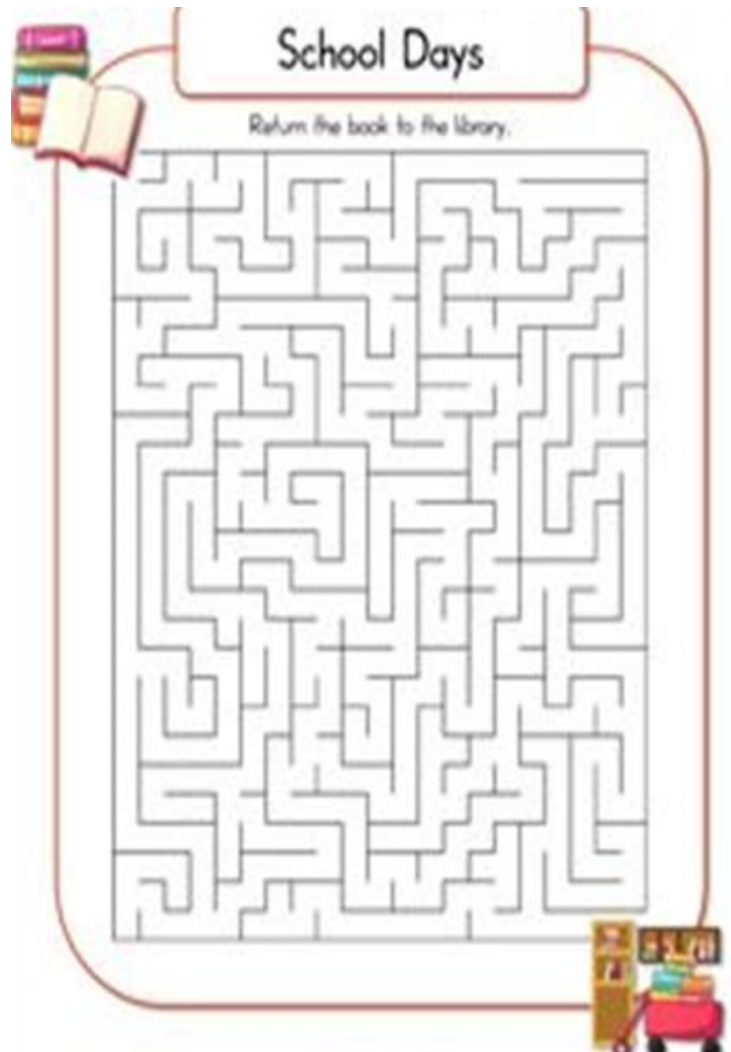
Wedding on Thursday, September 3rd at PUC

Wrightstown Wrap-up...

Potluck Brunch after church on September 6th. Bring a dish to share and stay for the fellowship.

Lydia Circle will meet Thursday, September 3rd, 11 a.m.

Free Community Picnic.....Sunday, September 13th, noon to 2 p.m. Please join us for the fun and fellowship. It is always good to eat together!!!! Grateful for this fun community event!!!! Everyone is invited!



Peace United Church Fall Hot Dish Lunch



Sunday, September 20th
10:30 am to 1:00 pm
Free Will Donation.

6, 8- yellow 1 - blue
9 - red 4 - gray
2 - black 7 - beige
5 - brown 3 - green

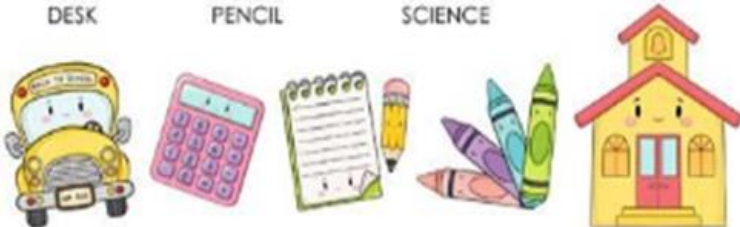
BACK TO SCHOOL WORD SEARCH



Find the words hidden in the puzzle.

I	H	S	B	P	T	P	Z	O	I	Q	L	W	V	P	U	V	K
H	I	C	O	S	E	A	N	P	O	E	T	E	W	N	J	P	Q
L	D	H	O	C	A	P	O	L	W	S	C	S	A	B	X	N	I
E	I	O	K	I	C	E	T	K	P	D	B	R	T	R	Q	Q	J
R	L	O	S	E	H	R	E	Q	J	P	C	E	A	U	N	W	C
R	E	L	Y	N	E	R	B	I	J	C	E	Q	L	Y	D	K	F
H	F	C	C	C	R	N	O	R	B	T	R	N	W	L	O	Y	H
Q	W	U	E	E	D	N	O	H	J	C	S	U	C	R	I	N	W
S	P	Y	N	S	E	B	K	C	C	Q	P	V	L	I	I	Z	S
K	D	A	H	U	S	Y	I	A	S	H	O	L	K	E	L	T	X
A	N	L	U	O	K	R	E	A	D	I	N	G	T	A	R	O	E
D	E	C	L	A	S	S	Q	R	S	T	U	D	E	N	T	Z	A

BELL	FUN	READING	STUDENT
BOOKS	LEARN	RECESS	STUDY
CLASS	NOTEBOOK	RULER	TEACHER
CRAYONS	PAPER	SCHOOL	WRITE
DESK	PENCIL	SCIENCE	



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FIND & SEEK! HIDDEN OBJECTS



Cat



Banana



Kite



Spoon



Star



Rubber Duck



Flashlight



Cupcake



Book



Hat



Key



Pizza Slice



Heart



Whistle



Paintbrush



Balloon



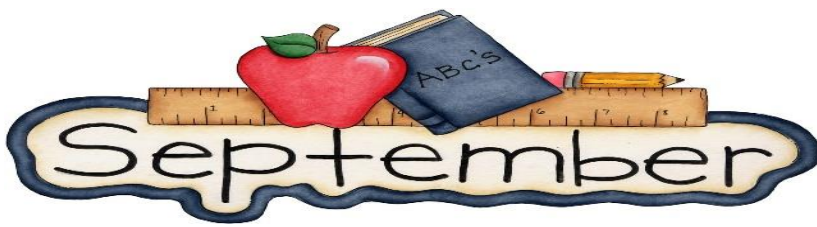
Turtle



Glasses



Butterfly



2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 5:15 Food Shelf-Long Prairie	2 Conversations on Facebook at 7 am Kali Christensen Page 1:30 pm Heritage Apartments 2:30 pm Worship at CTCC	3 11 a.m. Lydia Circle Wedding at PUC	4 6:30 am to 9 am Coffee at Clotho	5
6 Church Services Facebook – 7 am Clotho – 8 am Eagle Bend – 9:15 am Peace United – 9:30 am Clarissa - 10:30 am Wrightstown - 10:30 am with brunch to follow	7 1 PM Music Jam at Clotho UMC 	8 Ministerial Team 5:15 p.m., Buford's.	9 Facebook at 7 am Kali Christensen Page 9:45 am Worship at Long Prairie N. H. 10:30 am Worship at Vitality Living in L.P. 1:30 pm Heritage Apartments 2:30 pm Worship at CTCCC	10 	12 Baptism of River Prather and Archie Ashbaugh, at Clarissa UMC	
13 Church Services Facebook – 7 am Clotho – 8 am Eagle Bend – 9:15 am Peace United – 9:15 am PUC council Clarissa - 10:30 am Wrightstown - 10:30 am Wrightstown End of Summer Picnic Everyone is invited 12-2 p.m.	14 Noon - Kali praying at Centra Care L.P. Hospital Community Circle at Hilltop Kitchen 5-6:30 p.m	15 Soup and Sandwich Supper in Eagle Bend 4:30 to 6:30 PM 5:15 Food Shelf-Long Prairie	16 Conversations on Facebook at 7 am Kali Christensen Page 9:45 am Worship at Long Prairie N. H. 1:30 pm Heritage Apartments 2:30 pm Worship at CTCCC	17	18	19
20 Church Services Facebook – 7 am Clotho – 8 am Eagle Bend – 9:15 am Peace United – 9:15 am Clarissa - 10:30 am Wrightstown - 10:30 am PUC Hot dish Fall Lunch 12-2	21	22	23 Conversations on Facebook at 7 am Kali Christensen Page. 1:30 pm Heritage Apartments Five Church meeting 7 P.M. at Peace United Church.	24	25	26
27 Church Services Facebook – 7 am Clotho – 8 am Eagle Bend – 9:15 am Baptism at E.B. of Banks Louise Boie, Peace United – 9:15 am Clarissa - 10:30 am Wrightstown - 10:30 am	28 5:00 pm Clarissa admin	29	30			

Communities of Faith/ Peace United Parish
P.O. Box 158
Clarissa, MN 56440

TO:

September 2026
Pastor Kali Christensen
Cell: 320-808-6301
Email: kali.christensen55@gmail.com
Facebook: Communities of Faith – Clarissa,
Clotho, & Eagle Bend

A Prayer For Our Students

Lord, thank you for the **unique gifts** of every child as they transition into a new school year. Fill each student with **fresh enthusiasm** and a heart that is excited to learn and grow. Cover them with your **enduring love**, give them **confidence and grace**, and equip them with the ability to **persevere** through trials. Bless their teachers with **wisdom, understanding, and a heart to serve**, as they embark on the journey together! **Amen!**

