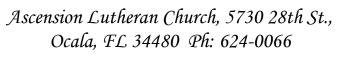
The Messenger





AUGUST 2017



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If a neighbor asked you, "Why should I go to your church?", what would you say? How you answer that question is the "crux" of the matter. The word "crux" is derived from "cross" and points to the

From the Pastor



simple fact that proclaiming "Christ crucified and raised" is the focus of the church's reason for being. As we move into the next steps in the process of dis-

cerning God's specific call and plans for Ascension, centering our "purpose" in proclaiming the "good news" is essential.

So – to review where we are: I want to thank all who participated in the discernment workshops in June. As the council meets this month, we will fine tune our purpose statement and guiding principles. Both will help shape our understanding of what God has in mind for us here in our own context.

In terms of "purpose", the key ideas included proclaiming God's word of grace in Jesus, gathering in a community to worship and praise the God of grace and glory, and caring for all of God's children and discipleship. Think about condensing these core ideas into a statement of 12 words or less! You're invited to pass your ideas along to your leadership.

Guiding principles are the core values that shape how we live together and in the world. We came up with some good ones- compassion, deepening faith, welcoming all people, leading others to know God. We need five or six that will form the basis of decision-making for all the congregation's committees. Again, you're invited to pass along your ideas.

The next step is to forward our completed "check list" to the synod staff. The items on this list are designed to ensure, first, that members have a clear understanding of our purpose; having the vision for the future helps us move into the future.

Once the paperwork is completed and forwarded to the synod office. the hard work begins. We are at the "crux" point. It's God's plans that we seek to follow, but we have a part in making those plans real and alive. That requires commitment. It's time for each of you to do some soulsearching, to decide whether you're truly committed to living out God's plans for Ascension. It won't be easy. There will be many changes required, an ongoing openness to consider new things, and most importantly, the understanding that we live for the good of others.

As always, you are in my prayers and heart.
Blessings in Christ,
Fastor Ellen

The Ascension Messenger is published 11 times a year to keep our congregation informed and to stay connected with those who don't worship with us year-round.

2017 CHURCH COUNCIL

President

Jane Kurtz

Vice President

Anne Hauser

Secretary

Karen Ahner

Treasurer

Gene Duffey

Finance Committee

Gail Velten

Worship & Music

Toni Hennis

Stewardship

Kathy Keif

Evangelism

Eileen Fleming

Social Concerns

Jan Specht

Christian Education

Servant Needed

Building

George Specht

Grounds Committee

Jack Richardson

DEADLINE FOR THE MESSENGER IS THE <u>15TH</u> OF THE MONTH.

PLEASE E-MAIL YOUR

ARTICLES TO:

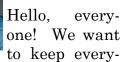
OFFICE@ALC.CFCOXMAIL.COM
MARK "Newsletter" IN THE
SUBJECT LINE.

ARLENE RENZI

OFFICE MANAGER



Hello" from WELCA"



one up to date with what is happening around our church.



We will have our next board meeting on Wednesday September 13th at 11:00 A.M.

As you know, the women are busy all year long with projects which help make money for the charities we support each year.

Attention all who sew!!! We are starting to make Christmas stockings for the soldiers overseas to bring a little holiday cheer to them. We need all you women who can sew to help us sew the stockings.

August is here and it is time once again to collect school supplies to fill the school bags. There will be a list in the bulletin, so be ready to gather your supplies to help us.

We will have one more noisy offering this year. This offering helps defray the postage costs for mailing all the packages overseas for our soldiers.

Our servicemen and women deserve our gratitude all year long and especially at the holidays, since they are far away from their loved ones. We need men and women to write letters to our soldiers, to let them know we appreciate everything they are doing to keep us free and safe, and

also to bring them a little bit of cheer while they are so far away from home and in harm's way.

WELCA will be donating the cake for ELCA day, ("God's Work, Our Hands"), September 10th, 2017.

Remember, we need everyone to help in order for us to accomplish our goals for the year.

Thank you, to everyone who has helped throughout the year to

make our work just a little lighter;



Thank You!!!

we great-

ly appreciate all you do.

God bless and keep you safe, Gail Velten Chair Karen Ahner Co-Chair



SCHOOL BAGS

WELCA and our Quilting group are sponsoring school bags once again this year. Walmart and other stores have their school supplies on sale now, so this would be a good time to buy them. Supplies needed are:

- 70 sheet notebooks (4 for each bag)
- 30-centimeter ruler
- pencil sharpener
- blunt scissors
- Unsharpened #2 pencils with eras ers (five/bag)
- 5 black or blue ball point pens (no gel ink)
- 16 or 24 crayons (Crayola)
- 2-1/2" eraser

Choose today to let the peace of Christ rule in your heart and have



an attitude of gratitude toward the Lord. Even if you have things that are upset-

ting you, take a step of faith and begin to thank God for his goodness in your life. Thank Him for working behind the scenes on your behalf. As you do, you walk forward into the blessing He has in store for you!

SOCIAL CONCERNS

Our committee is working hard to prepare for ELCA Day, September 10. We have one more month to collect items needed to fill 100 or more bags. Ascension Lutheran Church will be



participating in God's Work, Our Hands after worship that Sunday. Everyone is encouraged to participate in some way. We will have a FREE Catered Lunch-

eon by Lee's Famous Recipe, following the church service. The luncheon will consist of Fried Chicken.

Mashed Potatoes, Cole Slaw, Biscuits and Cake. Please mark your calendar. This is our way to thank our Congregation of Ascension Lutheran Church for your kindness and donations for this very worthy cause.

On ELCA Day, we will be using our hands to do God's work to restore our community in Jesus' name. We are asking everyone to wear their turquoise T-Shirts that they purchased. If you do not have one, more shirts are available for purchase at \$10.00. Just see me, (Jan).

Hygiene products that we still need are *Toothpaste and Deodorant*.

<u>Note:</u> Spaghetti Night in October has been postponed to a later date.

Quote of the day....

Your beliefs and your attitudes are what make you feel rich. It is the actions you take with those beliefs and attitudes that make you *actually* become the rich.



Blessings, Jan Specht Social Concerns Chairperson



WHAT'S THE BEST WAY TO TREAT A MINOR BURN?

MINOR BURNS THAT ARE TREATABLE AT HOME INCLUDE:

First-degree burns - A first -degree burn involves only the top layer of skin (epidermis), and signs and symptoms in-

clude red skin that may be mildly swollen and painful to touch.

Second-degree burns no larger than 2



inches in diameter - A second-degree burn involves the first two layers of skin (epidermis and dermis). Signs and symptoms include pain, swelling, intensely reddened skin, blistering and a splotchy appearance.

For these types of burns, promptly follow these steps:

With a burn caused by a chemical, make sure the chemical or any clothing or jewelry in contact with the chemical is removed. If possible, use gloves so that you don't get burned elsewhere or so that someone helping you doesn't get burned.

Put the burn under cool running water long enough to reduce pain, which may take about 10 to 15 minutes. If running water isn't available, you can immerse the burn in cool water or apply a cool, wet compress. Don't put ice directly on the burn.

Dry the area with a clean cloth and apply a sterile, lightly wrapped bandage. Don't apply ointments or butter to a burn, as these can hold heat in the skin - causing further damage - in addition to increasing the risk of infection.

If needed, take nonprescription pain medications for pain relief. Don't break blisters if they form. If a blister breaks inadvert-

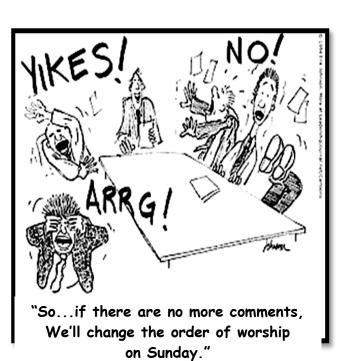
ently, wash with soap and water and apply a bandage.

Monitor the burn daily after each gentle washing and dressing change. Evaluate the burn for spreading of heat, redness or swelling, which may indicate a skin infection. If the wound isn't healing, see your doctor.

Any burn requires immediate medical attention if it covers a large area of the body, or if it involves much of the hands, face, feet, genitals, buttocks, eyes, mouth or a major joint. Second-degree burns larger than 2 inches, an electrical burn or more-severe, third-degree burns—where skin is burned - require emergency medical attention.

God's blessings, Kathy Keif ACT Chairperson







COUNCIL NEWS

I hope everyone is enjoying beautiful summer weather. (Ha. Ha!)

I want to keep our congregation up to date on what is

happening around the church. The men are presently working on the fascia of the church, and then the roof will be redone. We will be happy to know there are no more leaks.

We are working on making sure all the necessary steps are taken in order to start the process of restructuring, so that we may start to grow as a congregation and begin the call process for a pastor.

The council members are seeking suggestions, geared toward ways to attract new members. Any ideas will be helpful and welcome since we need the congregation's backing in order to achieve our goals.

Council appreciates all those who participate on the committees and help wherever they are needed. Without their help we would be defeat-

The congregation are ambassadors for making visitors feel welcome and hopefully become members. Here are some suggestions:

- 1) When you spot a visitor, take a moment to make them feel welcome.
- 2) A handshake is a great way to acknowledge them.
- 3) A smile goes a long way to say I am glad you are here.
- 4) Sharing the peace with them is another means of welcome.

Council Secretary Karen Ahner

BUILDING COMMITTEE

Repairs to the church roof, by Scott Smith Roofing and Custom Exteriors of Central Florida, will begin in the beginning of August. The Fascia will be replaced first, then the roof. Hopefully the weather will cooperate.

In addition to the above repairs, one of the

church's air conditioners broke down. A broken electric wire was repaired, but a coil also needs to be replaced. That has to be ordered and Freon has to be replenished because it was empty. Building The security system was malfunctioning also, and has been



Committee

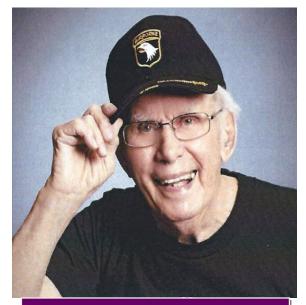
repaired. This all happened within a period of one week.

Not a great week for Ascension!

Building Chairperson George Specht



In Loving Memory



Warren Musaus July 11, 1920—May 23, 2017



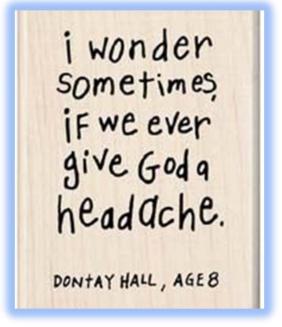




Gert Roots
December 20, 1929—April 22,

ത്രികാത്രാ





GO FORTH BRAVELY

The first job-hunting assistance class I took was a profound step in helping me deal with the loss of not just my most recent job, but numerous paid and unpaid jobs throughout my life. The course dealt with identity and loss. We all discussed how our jobs had become not just the work that we did, but who we were. We became "boss" or "nurse" or "officer" and so on. When I lost my position, I became disoriented. I had to not only find meaningful work but also reclaim and recover my way and my identity. God had created me with a particular purpose.

No job or title, no money, no friends, living in a new city with no car and no place to call my own—a scary place to be, but it was just that, a place along the journey of life. My identity was, and is, about whose I was—God's child. When I considered that I had not lost my core identity, I was strengthened to go forth bravely and act boldly.

This message is adapted from "Living from the Heart of God:









CHECKING YOUR CREDIT SCORE

Question: I am 86 years old, and have never checked my credit score so I decided to do so one quiet day. I got through most of the information requested but then, up popped that horrible box with squiggly letters and numbers that I was asked to copy. Of course I failed twice and gave up. I have NEVER read one of those right. Therefore I still don't have my score.

I don't need it for anything but was curious what it might be as I always pay my bills on time, have a Visa card and three store cards, which I always pay off too. Is there any way around those damnable boxes? And what are they for, other than to drive people like me crazy.

S.F., Wadsworth

Answer: Those pesky boxes are captcha boxes meant to keep sites from being hacked or misused by robots or computers, as opposed to humans. A computer or robot could possibly try to hack into a site or vote repeatedly or buy lots of concert tickets. Younger people sometimes hate these boxes too. I don't like the ones that say something like, "Click on all of the photos with a street sign in it." They're hard to see.

Anyway, be thankful for security measures like these. As for your credit score, you should be able to get it one of two

CREDIT REPORT

ways without the boxes that annoy you. If you've obtained a free copy of your credit re-

port directly through one of the three credit bureaus using

www.annualcreditreport.com, you can follow up in writing to receive your credit score for a small fee, around \$8.00 per bureau. Just follow the instructions on your credit report.

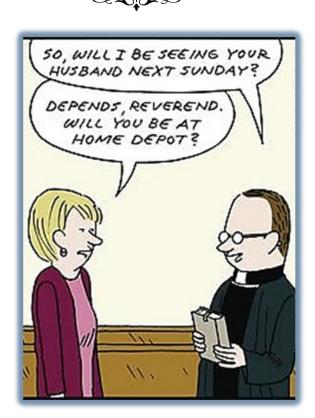
Even better, faster and cheaper: Find out

whether the bank that provides your Visa offers free credit scores. Most major banks in the nation offer customers their credit score monthly at no charge. This list includes Citi, Chase,



Bank of America, Discover and more. If you get your score through your credit card, this also allows you to monitor it every month.

By Theresa Dixon Murray "The Plain Dealer"



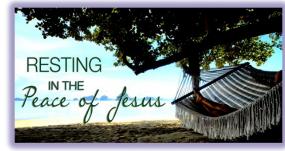
PASS IT ON

In the Gospel of John, Jesus says to his disciples, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me" (14:1).

In my little circle, we're all kind of stressed out right now. We're all anxious about a friend's health. We're all worried about projects getting done on time. We're all uneasy about the state of the world. We're all annoyed about—well, you name it, we're annoyed about it.

What's worse, we're passing stress around to each other like a bad cold.

And Jesus says not to let our hearts be troubled? Doesn't he know what's going on here? Is he trying to tell us not to stress, not to worry, not to freak out?



Well, yes. Yes, he is. And he says it again, even stronger, just a few verses later: "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid" (14:27). Jesus talks about peace all the time. Whenever he shows up, he says, "Peace be with you." But he's not saying "Peace and love, dudes and dudettes" like our favorite old hippie brother-in-law.

No, when Jesus says peace, he means shalom, the peace beyond all understanding. This kind of peace doesn't mean that all the worrisome things outside of us are changed—it doesn't mean that suddenly our friends are all healthy and our computers are all cooperating and our world leaders are all a whole lot wiser. No, it means that we are changed. Our hearts are changed. We know, deep in our hearts, that in the end, everything will be all right. And with this kind of peace in our hearts, we can trust and love and serve and give with joy and hope and generosity.

This is the peace Jesus talks about all the time. *This* is the peace Jesus gives us. *This* is the peace of Christ. May the peace of Christ be always with you. And also with you, and with you, and with you too. Pass it on!



Audrey Novak Riley Women of the ELCA Director for Stewardship and Development.





I hope this email finds you getting some respite from the summer heat and storms. On behalf of the Synod Council, I write to update you on the election for a new Bishop of the Florida-Bahamas Synod.

ration have regia

First, please be sure the voting members from your congregation have registered for the October Synod Assembly. Our planning is strengthened by early registration. We expect this to be a well attended Assembly, and hotel rooms are filling quickly.

Second, to aid us in discernment for the Bishop election, a synod profile has been distributed, and feedback is being collected to add to that profile. Together this information will not only give a demographic snapshot of the synod, but also a sense of what we might be looking for in our next bishop. We are being assisted in this effort by the ELCA Office of Demographic Research, and hope to have the completed profile posted in the first week of August. This information will be posted on the synod web site at www.fbsynod.com/bishopelection, along with all other information related to the bishop's election.

Third, after much prayer, study and thoughtful deliberation, your Synod Council has voted to set up a "Pre-identification Process" to help lift up persons who may have the gifts and skills for the role of Bishop, and who are willing to make themselves available for call at this time. This does not replace our ecclesiastical ballot at the Assembly, so individuals who are pre-identified will still need to be nominated at the Assembly to be considered for election.

Our hope is that a pre-identification process will create a more open environment in which a pastor can discern his/her call and have the conversations s/he feels are needed as part of that discernment process. We also hope that this will provide the non-rostered voting members time to prayerfully consider the role of Bishop, to lift up individuals they believe possess the necessary gifts, and to learn a bit about those lifted up prior to coming to Assembly. But remember: names must still be nominated in the first ballot in order to be considered for election.

This Pre-Identification process will work as follows (and all this is also explained at www.fbsynod.com/bishopelection):

- 1. **From August 21-September 1**, persons may be pre-identified as having the gifts and skills to be bishop. Anyone can identify any pastor of the ELCA in this process. Self-identification will be allowed. Please contact the individual you wish to pre-identify before submitting their name. To pre-identify someone, you will provide their name and current congregation or other identifying information, as well as any contact information to the Synod Office. A form will be available on the synod website for this purpose. As names are identified, those individuals will be contacted to confirm their willingness to be named in this process.
- 2. From September 1-11, biographical information on those pre-identified will be completed. All biographical forms (including photographs) and authorizations for a background

check must be submitted to the Synod Office by the close of business on September 11. Failure to submit the forms means the name will not be included in this pre-identification process.

- 3. On or about September 18, all names of persons open to this call who submitted biographical forms will be released and posted on the synod website at www.fbsynod.com/bishopelection.
- 4. On October 9, the names and bios will be removed from the website. This is 3 days before the start of the Assembly and will allow time for reflection on and prayer for the upcoming election.
- 5. The Synod Assembly will be October 12-14. As in the past, the first ballot on the first day will be the nominating ballot. Each voting member will be given a blank piece of paper on which s/he may nominate an ELCA pastor to be Bishop. Just because someone was identified in the pre-identification process does NOT mean their name goes onto the ballot at Assembly. Conversely, even if someone was not identified prior to the Assembly, s/he may still be nominated on the first ballot.
- 6. **The ecclesiastical ballot process** is set forth in our constitution. It will continue much as it did in the 2013 election. The full election process is explained on the web site at www.fbsynod.com/bishopelection.

The Council decided to try this process for this election only. Many synods have some sort of pre-Assembly process prior to a bishop's election. We decided that if there was ever a time to "test" a process in this Synod, this would be a good election to do it, since we do not have an incumbent standing for re-election. The Synod Council will take time after the election to review the pros and cons of the process. That review will be available to consider prior to the next election for a bishop. We did not, as a body, commit to this process for any future election.

We realize that this is a significant change in the way we have elected our synod bishop thus far. We know that some of you will be excited to embark on this new process, and that others will do so with some misgiving. What the Council knows is this: God's got this. We are confident that the Spirit is at work, lifting up the right leader for our Synod in this time. Please continue to pray with us that we all remain open to the guidance of the Spirit. Peace and grace be with you,

Cheryl Stuart Vice President On behalf of the Synod Council



Celebrations for August

Daily Scripture Readings for August



8/01 Gabriel Tighe

8/05 Gene Duffey

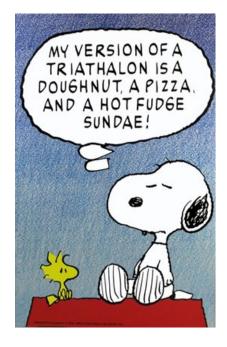
8/21 Jane Kurtz

Anniversaries

8/26 Bill and Tess Winkler







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1	Isaiah 51:17-23; Romans 9:6-13; Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21
2	Isaiah 44:1-5; Matthew 7:7-11; Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21
3	Isaiah 55:1-5; Romans 9:1-5; Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21 (16)
4	Deuteronomy 8:1-10; Romans 1:8-15; Psalm 78:1-8, 17-29
5	Deuteronomy 26:1-5: Acts 2:37-47; Psalm 78:1-8, 17-29
6	Exodus 16:2-15, 31-35; Matthew 15:32-39, Psalm 78:1-8, 17-29
7	1 Kings 18:1-16; Acts 17:10-15; Psalm 85:8-13
8	1 Kings 18:17-19, 30-40; Acts 18:24-28; Psalm 85:8-13
9	1 Kings 18:41-46; Matthew 16:1-4; Psalm 85:8-13
10	1 Kings 19:9-18; Psalm 85:8-13 (8); Romans 10:5-15
11	Genesis 7:11—8:5; 2 Peter 2:4-10; Psalm 18:1-19
12	Genesis 19:1-29; Romans 9:14-29; Psalm 18:1-19
13	Job 36:24-33; 37:14-24; Matthew 8:23-27; Psalm 18:1-19
14	Isaiah 45:20-25; Revelation 15:1-4; Psalm 67
15	Isaiah 63:15-19; Acts 14:19-28; Psalm 67
16	Isaiah 56:1-5; Matthew 14:34-36; Psalm 67
17	Isaiah 56:1, 6-8; Psalm 67; Matthew 15:10-28
18	2 Kings 5:1-14; Acts 15:1-21; Psalm 87
19	Isaiah 43:8-13; romans 11:13-29; Psalm 87
20	Isaiah 66:18-23; Matthew 8:1-13; Psalm 87
21	Ezekiel 28:11-19; 1 Corinthians 6:1-11; Psalm 138
22	Ezekiel 31:15-18; 2 Corinthians 10:12-18; Psalm 138
23	Ezekiel 36:33-38; Matthew 16:5-12; Psalm 138
24	Isaiah 51:1-6; Psalm 138; Romans 12:1-8, Matthew 16:13-20
25	1 Samuel 7:3-13; romans 2:1-11; Psalm 18:1-3, 20-32
26	Deuteronomy 32:18-39, Romans 11:33-36; Psalm 18:1-3, 20-32
27	Isaiah 28:14-22; Matthew 26:6-13; Psalm 18:1-3, 20-32
28	Jeremiah 14:13-18; Ephesians 5:1-6; Psalm 26:1-8
29	Jeremiah 15:1-9; 2 Thessalonians 2:7-12; Psalm 26:1-8
30	Jeremiah 15:10-14; Matthew 8:14-17; Psalm 26:1-8
31	Jeremiah 15:15-21; Ps 26:1-8; Romans 12:9-21; Matthew 16:21-28

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

August 2017

DATE	GREETERS	LECTOR	USHERS	COMMMUNION	
August 6, 2017	Donna Chesmore Wayne Trepanier	George Specht	Greg Phillips Dave Blosser Irene Clarke	Eileen Fleming Karen Ahner	
August 13, 2017	Gene and May Duffey	Eileen Fleming	Greg Phillips Irene Clarke Jane Kurtz	Toni Hennis Eleanor Newton	
August 20, 2017	George & Jan Specht	Toni Hennis Greg Phillips Dave Blosser Irene Clarke		Karen Ahner Jane Kurtz	
August 27, 2017	Harry & Kathy Keif	Bonny Pacetti	Greg Phillips Irene Clarke Karen Ahner	Eleanor Newton Toni Hennis	
DATE	ACOLYTES	WORSHIP ASSISTANTS		SOUND TECH ENGINEERS	
August 6, 2017	Brian Blosser	Edna Keffer		Anne Hauser	
August 13, 2017	Gabriel Tighe	Edna Keffer		Les Muncaster	
August 20, 2017	Brian Blosser	Edna Keffer		Les Muncaster	
August 27, 2017	Gabriel Tighe	Edna Keffer		Anne Hauser	



Head Usher: Archie Fiessler, phone: 362-2846
If you have any questions, or CANNOT SERVE AS INDICATED ABOVE, please call Toni Hennis; phone: 352-245-0894.

Thank you for your service!



August 2017

Sun	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat
Augu	est	1	9:00 am—Quilting	3	7:00 pm— AA	5
6 Ninth Sunday After Pentecost 10:00am—Worship with Holy Communion	9:00 am— Council 5:30pm—AA	8	9:00 am—Quilting	10	7:00 pm— AA	12
Tenth Sunday after Pentecost 10:00am—Worship with Holy Communion	14 5:30pm—AA	15	16 9:00 am—Quilting	17	7:00 pm— AA	19
20 Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost 10:00am—Worship with Holy Communion Pastor on Vacation	21 5:30pm—AA	22	23 9:00 am—Quilting Noon—Ladies' luncheon	24	25 7:00 pm— AA	26
27 Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost 10:00am—Worship with Holy Communion	28 9:30 am— Social Concerns 5:30pm—AA	29	30 9:00 am—Quilting Noon—Ladies' Bible Study and lunch	31	Aug	ust