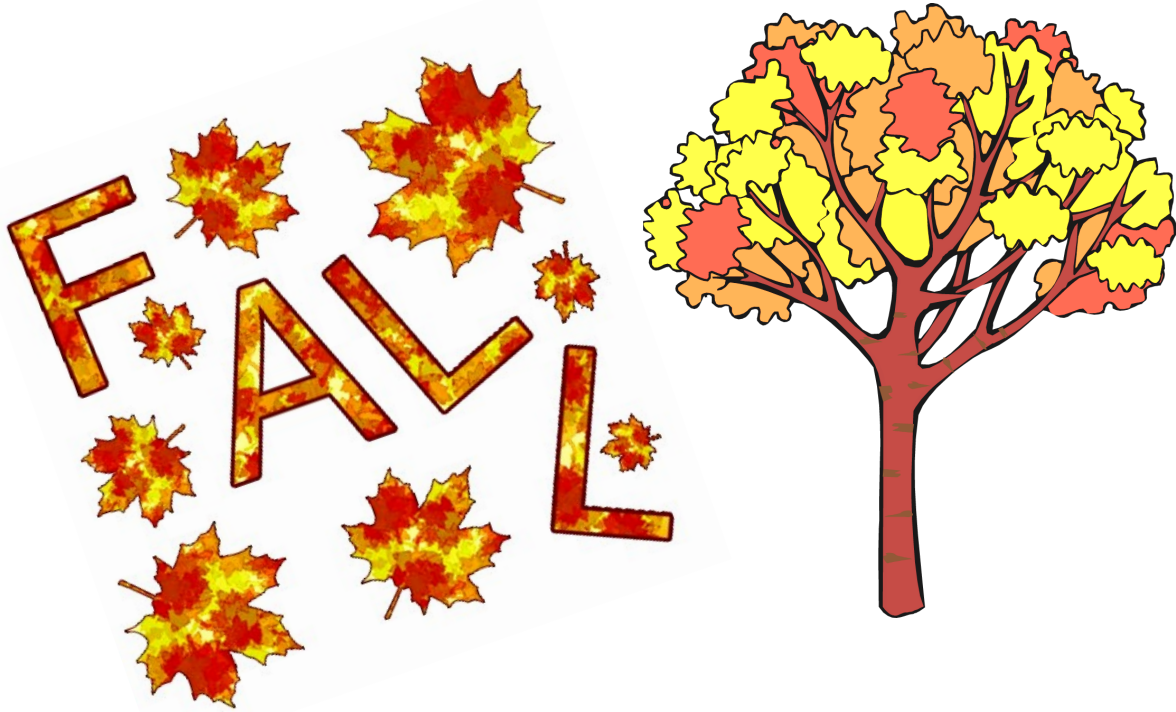


Emmaus Lutheran Church
1224 Laurel Street
Indianapolis, IN 46203



September/October

2023

The Emmaus Companion
Bi-Monthly Newsletter

A Voice of One Crying in the Wilderness...

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ at Emmaus -

Greetings in the name of Jesus the Christ!

In October we Lutherans drift to memories and stories about Rev. Dr. Martin Luther due to the celebration of Reformation at the end of the month. One reason the Reformation was so successful was a direct result of new technology and innovation in the dissemination of information. Johannes Gutenberg invented the printing press in the 1450s just a handful of decades ahead of Luther's famous nailing of the Ninety-five Theses on the Wittenberg Church door in 1517. The printing press allowed Luther, Melancthon and the other reformers to quickly dispense of their tracts and booklets. This was a great aid to course-correcting the Church.

Today we have things like the internet, YouTube, Facebook and many other modern technologies that have once again aided in the declaration of the Gospel to all corners of the world. Praise GOD for the furthering of the Gospel in such wonderful and far reaching ways.

However, technology can go too far. Some of you may have heard of Chat/GPT lately and a lot of talk about AI [artificial intelligence]. Although there are applications that I am sure are beneficial to society, there is a darker side as well. This is not unlike the internet, which has its good *and bad points*.

Chat/GPT is defined as - an AI chatbot that uses natural language processing to create humanlike conversational dialogue. The language model can respond to questions and compose various written content, including articles, social media posts, essays, code and emails [<https://www.techtargget.com/whatis/definition/ChatGPT>].

In an article entitled *The Soulless Homily found elsewhere in this edition of the Emmaus newsletter, author Joanne M. Pierce brings to our attention that pastors and priests are beginning to use this technology to write homilies. It has been a topic in some discussion groups I'm involved in with other LCMS pastors, and I was shocked to learn some are doing this very thing!*

I can understand the allure of such a touted time saver. All a pastor has to do is type in some keywords or phrases, a Biblical text and voila, a homily is born. Now he can get on to writing out notes for a Bible study. Wait a minute! Can't the pastor type in keywords, phrases and texts for that too? Well, now he has time to write up lesson plans for the several catechism and confirmation classes ...wait a minute...you can see where this is going. Did you call a Pastor or a chatbot?!

And isn't this what Satan would want, a pastor that shirks his duty, probably his MAIN [reading, writing and preaching GOD'S word the human experience, as a sinner], and instead entrusts such Biblical things to a 'humanlike' chatbot? So that he can do what - play on his computer, surf the net, checkout Facebook, tweet on Twitter, etc. Pretty soon you're left with a pastor that's on a homiletic assembly line, merely plugging in a couple of necessary parts and letting the machine do all of the work. How long will it be before a church sets up some animatronic device to preach on Sundays too? Mark my word, it's coming.

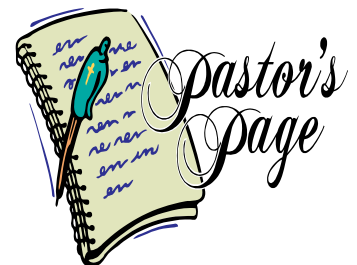
We were charged at my alma mater, Concordia Theological Seminary to - PREACH THE WORD! It's in the seal of the seminary - 2 Timothy 4.1-2...

1I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: 2preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching.

A chatbot cannot do this, because a chatbot is not human. It doesn't have the experience that a human has. It isn't a sinner like a human is. It isn't saved like a human must be. It doesn't believe like a human must do. A chatbot cannot confess Christ, because it has no soul. Who wants the soulless writing homilies? GOD forbid!

May we always be found relying on pastors trained in the Greek and Hebrew, men who have been put through the theological wringer and come out the other side prepared and ordained in the Office of the Holy Ministry as GOD prescribed in His Holy and inerrant Word - to preach the Word!

In His service and yours -
Pastor Raymond A. Smith



Parish Planning Meeting-August 8, 2023

Attending - Jeff Frownfelter, Pastor Smith, Carol Chandler, Derek Roesener, Jerry Campbell, Robert Carey, Julie Calvert Watts, Dave Duncan
Not in attendance - Mike Lee, JoAnn Riemer, Norm Riemer

Opened with Prayer Pastor Smith
Read and approved the meetings

Treasurer Report

Working on QuickBooks statements.

All the ERTC paperwork has been filed. We applied for just under \$160K. There are no restrictions on spending this money.

Board of Fellowship

We will have a meal in September. We will be trying to raise funds for new Christmas decorations. We are in the process of making plans for the year.

Properties Report

Electrical outlet for warmer in the kitchen is ready
Comfort Systems cleaned coil and replaced filters on gym AC unit
Carter's will repair drain pipe under kitchen on Wednesday, 8/9
Painting in 2nd floor hallway of 1982 building.

Outreach Report

The Outreach Board had a meeting on July 18., 2023 with members Robert Carey, Kenny Colton, Roger & Betty Foster, Sandy Duncan, JoAnn Riemer, and Katie Arritt present. Tresa Strakis was unable to attend. Board members were informed of the **Money** we have on hand. This includes treat money \$81.17 and free-will offerings/from Advent (30) & Lent (70.25) for a total dinner money of \$100.25.

We discussed the **School Registration Event** which took place on Thursday, July 27 from 3-6 p.m. A report follows.

The board was informed that **Treats** will be served to the school children for the first time this school year when ice cream sandwiches are passed out on Wednesday, August 16.

We spent some time discussing ways we might change or improve the **Sunday Fellowship Time**. It has been difficult getting people other than board members to volunteer to take this activity. One thing we talked about doing is a permanent cart that will be specifically for the Fellowship Time. On this cart would be a special coffee pot just for "us" with directions that specify how to make coffee so that everyone knows how to make "the brew." We hope to keep it stocked with the necessary paper goods too.

We also discussed some **Church Outreach** plans. We discussed the importance of families sharing within their own families. Tresa has already helped by having some small Emmaus refrigerator magnets available that we can pass out to share with other people.

Another thing we have made available is a half-sheet church flyer with what we believe & the service times, etc. We decided to look into the possible cost of placing a church advertisement in the Southside Times. This will be discussed at our next meeting.

The next event sponsored by our board will be **Octoberfest** on Friday, September 22 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. This is usually a Thrivent event. When we meet the next time, it will be the first thing on our agenda.

The Outreach Board Members served a light supper to interested families on the evening of school registration, July 27, 2023. Families were welcomed at their leisure during the registration time of 3-6 p.m. We served hot dogs with buns and a choice of catsup or mustard, assorted individual bags of chips, cherry kool aid + water, and an assortment of cookies. The highlight of the evening was getting to mingle with the staff and students, including the latest addition to our faculty Dr. Julie Watts, Ph.D., who is now teaching grades 5&6 and serving as Head of School. We had purchased about 50 items. Plates, cups, and napkins were purchased to help replenish the supply in the outreach cabinet. We heated up 48 hot dogs and 35 were served. Of the 7 packages of buns purchased, there were 2 unopened packages of 8 that were donated to the Pantry. The wide assortment of cookies available were served individually cafeteria style. Not all the students and parents ate. Almost all our board members ate a meal. Our workers included JoAnn, Kenny, Norm, Roger, Betty, Katie, Sandy, and Robert. Tresa was on vacation and unable to assist with this event. Some of the leftover cookies will be served the following Sunday at the Fellowship Hour. This event was financed by individual board member's donations (kind of like a pitch-in dinner.)

Principal Report

Working on being more competitive with schools. We need to get ready by cleaning out classrooms. We are going to work on sprucing up the entryway. Painting the entryway and other things. Working on personal development with our teachers. Having meetings with them for personal growth. Working on building test scores. Working on writing grants to get some more things in here. Back to School Night on August 10th at 6pm
Singing Sunday on August 27

Pantry Report

1203 individuals 324 households served.
Lots of homeless and new people.

Pastor's Report

We have a couple children in our new Advanced Theological Studies (going through the Augsburg Confessions). Confirmation/Catechism classes are going well. With the hiring of the new Head of School, I am able to get back to my duties as a Pastor. We are going to be visiting our shut-ins. Elders met last week and we are working on the rolls. Church attendance is going well. Need to work on getting our SGO funds built back up. Looking into Deaf Ministry and the possibility of coming to Emmaus.

Elders- No Report
Closed with prayer,

Respectfully Submitted,
Carol Chandler

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

No... Carol has not lost her mind, but we will be decorating the sanctuary in about a few weeks from now! As some of you might know, we have had the same decorations for several years and it is time to freshen them up a little. The Board of Fellowship will be hosting a dinner on Sunday, September 17th. We will be serving chicken noodles, mashed potatoes, green beans, rolls, and a dessert. We will be taking a free will donation to purchase some new decorations. Hope to see you there!



Family Game Night

We will be hosting a Family Game Night on Friday, September 15th starting at 7:00pm in the cafeteria. There will be a variety of games to play for all ages. You are also welcome to bring your favorite games. The gym will not be available for basketball during this event. Bring a snack (bag of chips or some cookies) to share. If you have questions, please contact Barbara Campbell at 317-445-3294 or call the church office.



The Together Project

We are making big strides in our Together campaign! Several projects are completed or underway including baseball fencing, new sidewalks, curb repairs, new tables and chairs, stage flooring, debt reduction, and merit scholarship funding. Will you accept the invitation to be part of together? Email kanderson@lhsi.org for more information.

Saints on Stage to present 12 Angry Jurors

A 19-year-old-man has just stood trial for the murder of his father. "We have nothing to gain or lose by our verdict. We should not make it a personal thing," says one juror at the beginning of the deliberation. But personal it is, with each juror revealing his or her own character as the various testimonies are re-examined, the murder is re-enacted and a new murder threat is born before their eyes! Tempers get short, arguments grow heated, and the jurors become 12 angry jurors. The jurors' final verdict and how they reach it—in tense scenes that will electrify the audience and keep them on the edge of their seats—add up to a fine, mature piece of dramatic literature, a theatrical experience you'll not soon forget.

Join the Saints on Stage as they present "12 Angry Jurors" September 29 and 30 at 7pm and October 1 at 3pm. Tickets are available through lhsi.org or at the door. 12 Angry Jurors is presented through special arrangement with The Dramatic Publishing Company, Woodstock, IL. The 2023-2024 Saints on Stage Season is generously presented by Meyer Financial Strategies, Dennis and Kathy Meyer. This production is recommended for middle school ages and up.

LHS Grandparents Day - September 14

Grandparents of current LHS students are invited to join us on September 14. More information about this annual event will be provided in the upcoming weeks.

LHS Homecoming 2023 - September 15

Mark your calendar for LHS Homecoming 2023. The Saints take the field on Friday night against conference opponent Cascade. LHS Alumni will enjoy free admission, an Alumni family tent, snacks and prizes. We can't wait to celebrate with you!



**LUTHERAN
HIGH SCHOOL**

Teaching Truth. Changing Lives.



Mark your calendars NOW so you don't forget! OCTOBERFEST is coming on Friday, September 22 from 5:30-7:30. Invite a friend to join you! We will have brats and hot dogs on the grill, German potato salad, and all the usual goodies. This will be paid for by Thrivent money. THIS IS A FREE EVENT!

SEE YOU THERE!



Tuesday, October 31st from 5-7pm

Trunk or Treat will be on Halloween night, Tuesday, October 31st. This is a huge event and we usually get around 300 kids and their families coming through our parking lot. An excellent opportunity to share our message with the community! The event will begin at 5:30pm so we will need to set up and be ready to go by then. Look for more details in the announcements as we get closer to the event. There will be a sign up sheet for volunteers in the hallway starting October 1st. If you have questions, please contact Barbara Campbell at 317-445-3294 or call the church office.



WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25
FREE TREATS FOR
ALL EMMAUS STUDENTS AT THEIR LUNCH HOUR.
PROVIDED BY EMMAUS LUTHERAN CHURCH!

(These treats are passed out on a fairly regular
Basis to the full student body.
Contact JoAnn Riemer
if you are want to find out how you can help out.)

Sweet
Treats

October is
Pastor Appreciation
Month



The month of October has been designated as Pastor Appreciation month!
Pastor Smith has been our pastor for 9 years! What a blessing he is to us daily. Be
sure to let him know how much you appreciate him not only this month, but all year
long. **OCTOBER FELLOWSHIP DINNER**

We will host a dinner on Sunday, October 22nd immediately following church. We
will be serving a Chili Dinner with all the fixings.

Fundraising for 125 YEAR Anniversary

We are just 4+ years shy of celebrating 125 years of Emmaus Lutheran Church and School. We are
working towards improving our Capital improvement funds in order to make some major improve-
ments or updates to our facility celebrating the 125 years and building toward the future. At 100
years the beautiful stained glass windows were renewed and we are looking forward to some other
big improvements at 125 years. We will be setting up some goals and ways to donate.

We really want to reach out to as many current and past members of our church and school to cel-
ebrate with everyone who has helped make Emmaus Church and School what it is today!

What you can do now to help:

Help us grow our email list: We can keep everyone updated on our growth and plans for our 125
anniversary.

Contact friends, family, past classmates and past members of Emmaus and encourage them to get
in touch and send in their email addresses. We can be found here: [https://
www.emmauslutherschool.org/](https://www.emmauslutherschool.org/) or <https://www.emmauslutherschool.org/>

Consider volunteering for a 125 year committee.

Consider ways to donate now or on a regular basis to work toward our financial goals for the 125th
anniversary.

More to come from our PPC and Endowment fund (<https://endowemmausindy.org/>)

SHUT-INS

Here is a list of our current shut-ins. Please take a moment to pray for them, visit them, or to send them a card.

Mary Jane Mack

Karen Syrus

Carol Moore

Please contact the church office at 317-632-1486 for addresses.



CONTACT INFORMATION

Phone: 317-632-1486

Fax: 317-632-2620

Email: emmausindy@gmail.com (school)
emmauschurchindy@gmail.com (church)

Website: emmauslutheranschool.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/emmausfountainsqaure



MEETING REMINDER

PARISH PLANNING MEETINGS are held the 2nd Tuesday of every month **Sept. 12/Oct 10) at 6pm.** The business of the church is conducted at these meetings and any church member is welcome to attend, to ask questions, express concerns, make comments, ect. Please let the Church office know the day before that you will be attending.

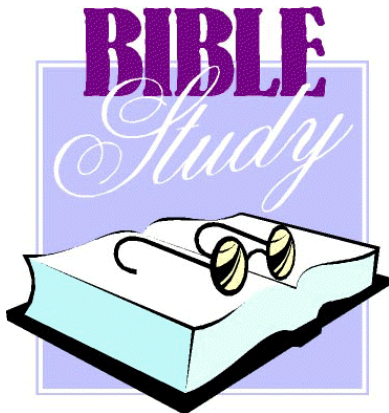


For those who prefer shopping, we are always in need of mac and cheese, spaghetti sauce, soups and prepared meals like Manwich, Spaghettios (any brand), peanut butter or Ramen noodles and individual jello, pudding, or applesauce. If you see a good sale, Julie likes including cereal and cookies for the kids. If you would rather let us shop, put a check made out to the pantry in the weekly plate.

Please keep our volunteers and clients in your prayers. Thank you

Bible Study

Thursday evenings from 7-8 p.m.
in the Pastor's Classroom.



New Members Class

Sunday mornings and will meet
room off the kitchen.
8:45-9:45 a.m.



EMMAUS BIBLE STUDY CLASSES FOR ALL AGES

Sunday Mornings

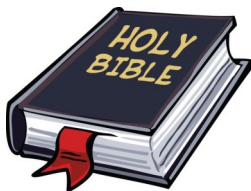
Sunday School 8:45am

Book of the Bible 8:45am

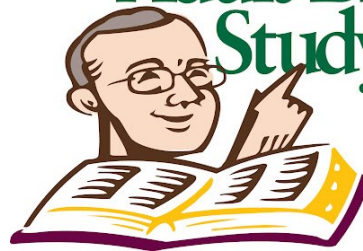
Led by Robert Carey

Women's Bible Study

We will resume our study of Psalms on Monday, September 11th at 7:00pm. Our group meets on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month in the conference room. If you have any questions, please contact Barbara Campbell at 317-445-3294 or call the church office.



Senior Adult Bible Study



Attention SENIORS!

The Senior Bible study is held on Wednesday's starting at 9:30am. We meet in the room off the kitchen. Our leader is Norm Riemer and we have some really interesting discussions. New members are always welcome to join.

The Soulless Homily

When several hundred Lutherans in Bavaria, Germany, attended a service on June 9, 2023, designed by ChatGPT, the program not only selected hymns and prayers, but also composed and delivered a sermon, delivered by an avatar on a big screen.

Indeed, programs like ChatGPT, that can produce a sermon in seconds, might seem attractive to busy clergy. But several religious leaders, including rabbis serving Jewish congregations as well as Christian Protestant pastors, have conflicting feelings about utilizing chatbots in preparing sermons. There may be several reasons for being cautious. From my perspective, as a specialist in Catholic liturgy and ritual, the most important critique has to do with true intent of preaching – to offer insight and inspiration on the human experience of faith.

Historical practice

In the early centuries of Christianity, preaching was largely reserved for bishops, considered to be the successors to Jesus' apostles. During the Middle Ages, priests were also allowed to preach, although their chief responsibility was to say the Mass – ritually consecrating the offerings of bread and wine – especially on Sundays.

In some religious orders, priests became famous traveling preachers, although much of the time they were preaching in other settings, not during Mass. The Franciscan and Dominican orders, for example, would send priests to preach on the streets and in city centers, traveling from town to town in fulfillment of this ministry.

During the next few centuries, preaching brief sermons or homilies became increasingly important during the celebration of Sunday Mass. The Second Vatican Council, convened in 1962, took a fresh look at all the church's rituals and stressed the role of preaching at worship, especially at Mass. These principles have been reaffirmed in more recent documents that guide Catholic preachers when writing a sermon. In essence, preaching was always believed to be a human activity grounded in faith.

Insight and inspiration

Preaching as a human activity has a special meaning for Catholics – and most Christians – because they believe that Jesus Christ is the incarnate Son of God, who came into human life to save all of humanity from their sins and gave his apostles the commandment to preach the gospel about this "good news" to people of all nations.

In the decades since Vatican II ended in 1965, preaching in the Catholic tradition has been emphasized as a "primary duty" of all priests.

The sermon is meant to inspire people in their ordinary lives of faith. The preacher must spend time in preparing the sermon, but this does not just mean compiling theological quotes or doing research on the history of the Bible.

A good sermon is not just a classroom lecture. In fact, several contemporary popes have stressed that the language of sermons should avoid technical or obscure terminology. In 1975, Pope Paul VI wrote that the language of preaching should be "simple, clear, direct, well-adapted" for the congregation in the pews. And in 2013, Pope Francis echoed these same words in his observation that "simplicity has to do with the language we use."

But preaching is not just about offering pious mottoes or generic religious formulas. The preacher's experience, insights and emotions all come into play when composing the homiletic text.

The preacher is not simply offering good advice, but speaking out of personal reflection in a way that will inspire the members of the congregation, not just please them. It must also be shaped by an awareness of the needs and lived experience of the worshipping community in the pews.

Use with caution

In practice, chatbots might help clergy save time by finding sources and compiling relevant facts, but the results would need to be checked for errors. Chatbots have been known to make some factual blunders or invent sources completely.

Above all, I believe chatbots, as of now, are not capable of preparing a text suitable for being offered as a sermon. From what we know about chatbots, they cannot know what it means to be human, to experience love or be inspired by a sacred text.

Perhaps Baptist pastor Hershael York, Dean of the School of Theology at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, has put it best. He has noted that the ultimate failure of a chatbot's sermon lies in the fact that it "lacks a soul." Without that empathetic consciousness, a chatbot-composed sermon cannot include genuine insights based on personal spiritual experience. And without that essential element of embodied human awareness, true preaching is simply not possible.

Joanne M. Pierce, College of the Holy Cross

Taken from The Conversation, an independent and nonprofit source of news, analysis and commentary from academic experts. The Conversation is wholly responsible for the content.

September Birthdays

Madeline Koch	9/1	Rosetta Cantwell	9/15
Helen O'Connor	9/1	Sandie Schultz	9/16
Dave Duncan	9/10	Trista Helton	9/21
Barbara Campbell	9/12	Gary Strakis	9/21
Hunter Herndon	9/14	Carol Moore	9/22
		Monica McNabney	9/26

happy
birthday

September 2023 SCHEDULE

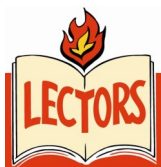
9/3 Bob Groth
9/10 Jeff Frownfelter
9/17 Jerry Roesener
9/24 No Communion



9/3 Norm Riemer
9/10 Garald Evans
9/17 Jerry Campbell
9/24 Dave Duncan



9/3 Andrea Campbell
9/10 Norm Riemer
9/17 Robert Carey
9/24 Karla Frownfelter



9/3 Carol Chandler
9/10 Jeff Frownfelter
9/17 Bob Groth
9/24 Horst Hildebrandt



Frownfelter



9/3 Norm & JoAnn Riemer
9/10 B Whitsit/D Herndon
9/17 Rosetta Cantwell
9/24 Mike & Lisa Lee



October Birthdays

Sherry Jett	10/3	Karen Alter	10/25
Jodie Bandy	10/7	Jaylea Riley	10/26
Horst Hildebrandt	10/8	Timothy Birtchman	10/27
Dottie Kemp	10/12	Agathe Hildebrandt	10/31
Laura Smallwood	10/18		



October 2023 SCHEDULE

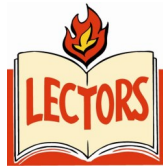
10/1 Tim Birtchman
 10/8 Jeff Frownfelter
 10/15 Bob Groth
 10/22 Jerry Roesener
 10/29 No Communion



10/1 Norm Riemer
 10/8 Garald Evans
 10/15 Jerry Campbell
 10/22 Dave Duncan
 10/29 Norm Riemer



10/1 Angel Loy
 10/8 Pat O'Connor
 10/15 Bob Groth
 10/22 Tim Birtchman
 10/29 Lisa Lee



10/1 Jerry Roesener
 10/8 Carol Chandler
 10/15 Bob Groth
 10/22 Jeff Frownfelter
 10/29 Horst Hildebrandt



Patty Hestand/
 Angel Loy



10/1 Jeff & Karla Frownfelter
 10/8 Norm & JoAnn Riemer
 10/15 B Whitsit/D Herndon
 10/22 Rosetta Cantwell
 10/29 Mike & Lisa Lee

