

HAVEN MESSENGER

HAVEN MISSION STATEMENT

(adopted 2/26/06 by Haven Church)

"To honor God, to reach out with love to our members and the community and to share the gospel of Jesus Christ."



September 2021

WORSHIP SERVICE IN-PERSON & FACEBOOK LIVE

Sunday mornings at 9:30 am

Worship Service with Communion in person in the church sanctuary

Worship Service LIVE on the Haven Facebook page

(<https://www.facebook.com/Haven-Lutheran-Church-134647913268366>

or access by clicking the 'F' icon in the upper right corner of the Haven website

www.havenic.org)



As I am writing this in mid-August, there are many things yet to be decided.

- Will teams begin meeting monthly or schedule differently? Will they meet in person or on ZOOM? How will they move forward as we reset our mission and activities in the current COVID circumstances?
- What will Parish Christian Education look like? Will we resume a weekly Sunday morning Sunday School for preschool to adults? Are the families of our children committed to Sunday mornings or prefer another time or format? To what day and time can the families of our confirmation teens commit this year? Do we have adult leadership for our teens to gather for fun, fellowship and faith-building?
- Who will care for our new Blessing Box (food for anyone who needs it) and help us know what to bring to keep it stocked?
- Where and how can we mingle with our neighbors to work with them to make our neighborhood a good place to live?

No, do NOT let your head explode or your heart accelerate with anxiety as you read all these questions. They are a sign of life in our congregation as we

gingerly step out of a pandemic into tentative but hopeful circumstances.

If we are mindful of lessons we've learned in the past year and a half... if we take the opportunity to "reset" and not just repeat... if we invited and trust the Holy Spirit to be part of our considerations... and if we believe with all our heart, mind and soul that God IS with us, then we do not need to rush, panic or be anxious. We can make our way prayerfully, consciously, confidently and with great anticipation. What will God help us create and do with our known and not yet revealed gifts and resources during this "new start up" that all churches encounter after COVID?

The Lord has done amazing things at Haven, even in this last restrictive year. Who replaces a roof, steeple and AC during a pandemic? We did. Who still collected needed food and school supplies for the community? We did. Who is resuming in-person worship and providing on-line worship, too? We are. Who has had a good number of guests at both in-person and on-line worship during a pandemic? We have.

Don't sell us short and don't get complacent. God must have reasons for pouring all this life into our church. Do not fear. Do not be anxious. Keep your eyes open. Get excited about God-given possibilities. Look for where God has placed you in this unfolding mission. And pray. God IS with us. Thanks be to God. So be it.

Your pastor and partner in ministry,
Linda M Alessandri

PS: On A Personal Note

I will be meeting up with family at the Outer Banks September 19-24 for some vacation. The next day, September 25th, I will head out to St. Louis to preach at Atonement Lutheran Church, the congregation I served before coming to Haven. It is their 70th anniversary and I am honored to be asked to be the preacher at this celebration. I'll return to the office and attend the August Council meeting on Monday, September 27th.

The only thing I regret is that I will miss worshiping with Pastor Chris Litton at Haven on September 26th. With many family ties to Haven and Hagerstown, Pastor Litton is looking forward to leading worship and preaching at Haven. I know you will be blessed by his presence and gospel message.



SCAM ALERT – For the past few years, churches, pastors and staff have also become the target of scammers who try to take advantage of the openness and generosity of religious organizations. Scammers send fraudulent communications (email, text or through other social media), that appear to be from a church's pastor or other staff member, asking for assistance with money or gift cards to help a person or family in need. Scammers will often include the Pastor or staff members photo and/or email signature, which they get online or through

fake correspondence with this staff member. The email accounts haven't been hacked and unfortunately, we cannot do anything to stop them. The scammers may send a text, social message or email from something that is very similar to the email/phone number/social media name however they are not the same as they created fake accounts just to scam with. Please do not be taken advantage of by these scams. We will never ask for monetary or gift card donations in this manner. Please contact the church office whenever you are not sure of a communication you get. The Administrative Assistant, Mary will be happy to help you anytime so you are not a victim of scammers.

COUNCIL

JULY'S \$4,000 DECLINE IN OFFERING is hopefully just a passing "blip" in what has been a very good financial year at Haven. We marveled at how conscientious folks were about sending in their offering during the pandemic. We also marveled during the Spring at how much was donated toward our "Faith Building Together" debt retirement campaign without any decline in our regular giving. That is why the Council wanted to bring last month's sudden and large decline to your attention.

We have shown how determined we can be about God's mission here at Haven. We know this pandemic and the heat of the summer is wearing on most of us. Let's consider this one month set-back a Holy Spirit prod to keep going forward with confidence in our Lord's continued care and generosity.

FAITH BUILDING TOGETHER



As of August 22, we have received **\$56,828.20** toward retiring our \$100,000 property project. Thank you for your trust in our Lord's generosity and reflecting that generosity in your giving.

Reminder. When sending in or dropping off your donations towards this project please use a separate envelope marked Roof/Steeple Project OR a

separate check to help the money counters easily keep track of all Roof/Steeple contributions. **IF** you really prefer to use one check, PLEASE write on the memo line the amount that is offering and the amount that is for the roof project. You can also make an electronic donation towards the project directly from your checking account by contacting our Administrative Assistant, Mary to arrange it. Thank you for your prayer filled donations!

EDUCATIONAL MINISTRY

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY WILL RESUME

SEPTEMBER 29th, 10 a.m.

We will begin our adventure into God's Word this year in the Acts of the Apostles, often called Luke, Part II. Acts begins with the Ascension of Jesus and continues to follow those first disciples and Jesus communities to see what happened to them. Acts is not a history book

but a window into the work of the Holy Spirit among those who were following "the Way," Jesus. What can it show us about how the Holy Spirit can work among us when we seek, believe and receive the wisdom and power of the Holy Spirit?

You are invited to come every or any Wednesday, 10:00 am, to enjoy this time of discovery and discussion. No previous Bible study experience is necessary. Reading aloud or offering your thoughts is voluntary not required. You will be amazed at what you will discover and what deep fellowship you will build with others when gathered around God's Word. Have I convinced you to come? As the old TV ad once said, "Try it! You'll like it."

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS BACK IN SESSION – Beginning

September 12, Haven's Adult Sunday School Class will meet together for the first time in a year and a half (last class meeting was March 15, 2020).

Interested class participants met a few months ago to plan a "curriculum" for the fall. Since much has happened in the intervening time, we'll use the first few sessions (Sep 12 – 26) to catch up with each other, sharing laughter and tears about how the pandemic affected us, our families and loved ones, but especially faith stories about how we encountered Jesus' presence in the midst of this dark time and how His presence upheld and sustained us.

Starting October 10th (October 10-24) Pastor Alessandri will lead us in **Lutheranism 101**, a study of basic Lutheran teachings. These four sessions will be a helpful review of what it means to call ourselves Lutheran Christians. They will also serve as needed instruction for those who have no Lutheran (or Christian) background and are considering membership at Haven. On October 31, Reformation Sunday, we'll look specifically at some of **Luther's 95 theses**. Class members will then choose our next topics from among several that have been suggested or offered: contemplative Christian poetry, women of the Bible, iconography (study of icons), Hinduism (Val Wills' study scheduled for the week we shut down), a study of racism (offered by Pam O'Connor), civility (how we interact as Christians discussing controversial topics about which we may disagree) and parables (perhaps most appropriate for next Lent as we hear Luke's Gospel in our worship readings).

Class sessions are open-ended as we share together. Leaders present ideas for discussion, but refrain from long lectures! Returning participants will be glad to see one another again, but will enthusiastically welcome new participants. Come to listen or to share – all adults are invited!

We also will resume our monthly class socials – **First Sunday lunches at Café Italia or Tony's Pizza**. For September, however, lunch will be on the **second Sunday** (September 12) since September 5 is Labor Day weekend.

At this point we anticipate encouraging COVID guidelines – masking and maintaining 6' social distancing.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY – Women will meet for fellowship and study of scripture on **Thursday, September 23, at 10:00 am** in the Gathering Room. We will begin a new study series, so it will be a good time to join us if you have not previously done so. If you subscribe to the ELCA's "Gather" magazine, you will find the study in the September issue. Copies of the study are also available from Elaine Michael. Please join us!





ATTENTION GOD SQUAD EXPLORERS AND PARENTS!

Are you ready to explore more exciting Bible adventures?

A kickoff celebration is planned for
Sunday, October 3rd at 10:45 am
in the Gathering Room.

We have plans that include joining your fellow explorers each month for activities, refreshments and fun as we learn about our amazing, loves-us-always God.

Come join this holy GSE adventure!

PARISH LIFE

HAVEN'S BOOK CLUB – on **Thursday, September 16, 2 pm** we meet to discuss *THE BOOK OF LONGINGS* by Sue Monk kidd.

This extraordinary story is set in the first century about a woman who finds her voice & her destiny - & is married to Jesus. Plan now to read this book & join us for an interesting discussion. - Joan Schupp
October's selection is *LUTHER & KATHERINA* by Jody Hedlund



PROPERTY



The Property Team has organized several Clean Up Events to maintain OUR property this year,
September 11 starting at **9:00 am** - Clean the Sanctuary, Parlor and Vestibule, clean windows, glass doors, wax the wood and metal in the Sanctuary and knock down all of the cob webs.

Saturday, November 13 starting at **9:00 am** will be interior cleaning, primarily what we didn't get done on Sept. 11th plus some outside work.

Saturday, November 20 starting at **9:00 am** will be an outside cleanup day. WE NEED YOUR HELP both inside and out. To save money we have not been paying our custodian to do detail cleaning in these areas. That's why we have these cleaning parties to do things that need to be done a few times a year. So,

pick one or more dates and sign up on the sign-up sheet in the Vestibule.

THANK YOU FOR HELPING CLEAN UP OUR HAVEN.

WORSHIP

WORSHIP READINGS

September 5	Isaiah 35:4-7a, Psalm 146, James 2:1-10 [11-13] 14-17, Mark 7:24-37
September 12	Isaiah 50:4-9a, Psalm 116:1-9, James 3:1-12, Mark 8:27-38
September 19	Jeremiah 11:18-20, Psalm 54, James 3:13--4:3, 7-8a, Mark 9:30-37
September 26	Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29, Psalm 19:7-14, James 5:13-20, Mark 9:38-50

SONG LEADER SCHEDULE

September 5 Nancy Newkirk, Grant Wills

We thank all those who have been Song Leaders and brought beautiful songs to us during difficult times.

Starting September 12th, we will welcome back our Haven Choir to fill our sanctuary with their joyous music.

WORSHIP LEADERS & HELPERS SCHEDULE

<u>Assisting Minister</u>	<u>Acolyte</u>	<u>Ushers</u>
Sept. 5 Marge Cunningham	Austin Suchy	Bob Snyder, Elaine Michael, Susan Strobl
Sept. 12 Aura Wiles	Maddie Haupt	Doug & Kathy Wright, Kim Pile
Sept. 19 Danny Kiblinger	Anna Bergscheinder	Amy Mason, Marge Cunningham, Kathleen Kline
Sept. 26 Terry Trovinger	Danny Kiblinger	Bob Snyder, Elaine Michael, Susan Strobl

Securing the Building in September: Scott Rhodes, June Hess

FOOD BANK VOLUNTEERS

September 7	Susan Strobl, Valerie Wills, Sandy Powell, Millie Strange
September 10	Joan Schupp, Kathy Wright, Linda Clark, Kris Fignar

THANK YOU NOTES

SCHOOL SUPPLY THANK-YOU – Many thanks to everyone who donated school supply items or made monetary contributions to our school supply ministry. Also, a big "thank-you" to all those who helped with the sorting, packing and delivering of the items to the schools. Your generosity helped ensure that many students at Fountaindale Elementary, Northern Middle and Western Heights Middle Schools will begin the school year with the items that they need in their classrooms.



THANK YOU, DEAR HAVEN What a great “Welcome Home” and “Happy Birthday” surprise last Sunday! I thank you for all the wonderful birthday cards, notes, greetings and reception. As usual, the coffee fellowship was delicious and plentiful. The congregation of Haven is such a blessing.

Your love and care are felt and appreciated.

Pastor Linda Alessandri

P.S. Thanks for only asking me to blow out 3 candles and not 66!

Dear Friends of Holly Place,

On behalf of the residents, staff, and the Board of Directors of Senior Living Alternatives, Inc., I would like thank you all for the very generous \$135.00 donation to Holly Place. We truly appreciate your continued support! Because of you, we can continue to serve at risk seniors, and provide them a loving, safe, affordable place to call home...

Sincerely,

Melanie J. Davis, Executive Director

(All notes in their entirety are posted on the bulletin board in the hall by the restrooms.)



HAVEN'S BLESSING BOX IS OPEN FOR SERVICE – A ‘Blessing Box’ is a miniature food and necessity pantry aimed to provide needed resources for neighbors who may be in need. The usual way it works is that folks are encouraged to “Take what they need. Leave what they can.” The Haven “Blessing Box” was made, installed and initially stocked by Ryan Wade as his Eagle Scout project.

We now have put a sign in front of the Blessing box and signs on Haven Road to let folks know if is here as they need it.



Administrative Assistant, Mary Grabill, and I removed quite a few items we feared would not safely withstand the heat we have been experiencing. I plan on putting a thermometer in the Box so we can gauge just how hot it gets so we can then figure out what items we can safely offer in the hot summer months.

Which leads to an OPPORTUNITY FOR MINISTRY. **We need a person, a couple, a family or several friends to take the lead on keeping our Blessing Box stocked with donations from the congregation.** When the weather gets milder, a list of needed items could easily be put in our bulletin and newsletter for us to bring to church. We have some space to store items until they are needed. Our “Blessing Box” coordinator(s) would give that list to the church office, collect donations from the narthex to put in storage and restock the Blessing Box as needed (once or twice a month?).

Here is a “bit-sized” ministry that would not require much time or worry but have a great impact for our hungry neighbors. If this sounds like a ministry you would like to try for six months or a year, please let the Hunger Team co-chairs, Scott Rhodes or Linda Clark or the church office know.

We give thanks for this opportunity to take another step out of COVID isolation back into serving our community.

COMMUNITY NEWS



COLLECT BOOKS FOR CHILDREN'S LITERACY **COMMUNITY BOOK DRIVE ENDS SEPTEMBER 13!**

New and used books for children ages birth to eleven can be placed in the crate in the narthex marked Book Drive.

SAVE THE DATE! HARC MEETING – The opioid/addictions epidemic: current challenges and the role of the faith community - **September 14**



Tuesday, September 14, 12:30 - 2:00 pm

Post-meeting discussion 2:00 - 3:00 pm

Christ's Reformed Church

130 W. Franklin St., Hagerstown

This program will focus on how the faith community can support people who are in recovery or struggling with addiction. We will also hear current Washington County data and learn helpful tips for how to handle the challenges of those in or around our churches who are in the throes of addiction. We welcome speakers Clarence Horst of Celebrate Recovery, and Laura Sheffield-Bishop and Kelly Marquart of the Washington County Health Department. Lay leaders are encouraged to attend as well as clergy. Community members are also welcome. Following the main meeting, a smaller group discussion will be held to do a deeper dive into challenges our houses of worship are facing and work together to find solutions. Registration is required and masking is required. Learn more Register here

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf3idnLE1cG_7rItJgB_WZTTYSbHYF1eb4KLC86KqOtyIcJjA/viewform

POP UP PANTRY

Fresh Produce

Sponsored by Hagerstown Lions Club

Monday, September 13, 2021

2:00 PM - until? (While Supply Lasts)

Haven Lutheran Church Drive-Thru access for easy pickup.

All are welcome!





Mar-Lu-Ridge
Camp & Retreat Center

We hope your fall schedule will seem a bit more normal and you are able to safely gather soon. We continue to be open for retreats, so please be in touch if you have a group you'd like to bring for a day or an overnight. Our staff is here to help you gather in community, while safely following all CDC guidelines. Our COVID statement can be viewed [here](#).

Please post the following in your newsletters and bulletins as you are able. We appreciate your help in sharing these events.

Cookie Run and Walkathon: Join us as we walk, run, hike and bike to raise funds for the year-round ministry of Mar-Lu-Ridge.

Cookie Run: Sept. Register <https://form.jotform.com/202193921881053>

Walkathon: September 26 at MLR. 1-4 p.m. All are welcome!

Labyrinth Day with Rev. Julie Brigham. This Mountain Topics session will focus on the history of the labyrinth and its use within the church.

Anchorhold: Spiritual Practice, led by Rev. Julie Brigham. These weekly sessions held each Tuesday will build on each other, attend one or all.

Labyrinth Registration <https://form.jotform.com/202255719670053>

Anchorhold Registration <https://form.jotform.com/212205910238042>

You and your congregations are in our prayers. We appreciate the interest and continued support shown to the Mar-Lu-Ridge community this past year. Please know that we are here to serve you in whatever way you need.

Peace, Sarah Lefler, Executive Director

International Day of Peace Celebration September 26, 3 - 5 pm

St Mark's Episcopal Church Parking Lot,

18313 Lappans Road, Boonsboro (Free Event – bring lawn chairs)



The Interfaith Coalition invites all to join a tailgate party and friendly competition, letting your creativity shine! Set up your tailgate/trunk with a theme of peace/faith tradition! Then stroll around and see what others have done - prizes awarded. Don't want to create a tailgate display? Come and be a judge or simply enjoy the afternoon gathering with friends! The Underground Swamis will bring their style songs and mantras and beautiful flower mandala, as we recommit to being the peace we want to see in the world.

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Look who's celebrating special days this month!!!



BIRTHDAYS

Harold Rice	09/05
Dustin Black	09/09
Jadyra Fortson	09/12
Michael Freeman	09/18
Abigail Byers	09/24
Amy Mason	09/28
Jean Carbaugh	09/29
Bob Hart	09/29

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Dick & June Hess	09/12
Kenneth & Joann Shankle	09/29
Ray & Elaine Michael	09/30

BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARIES

Trinity Mason	09/05
Kyleigh McNabb	09/05
Chase Myers	09/05
Aaron Richards	09/10
Charles Huguenin	09/13
Melissa Butsch	09/15
Aura Wiles	09/16
Kelly Bracken	09/19



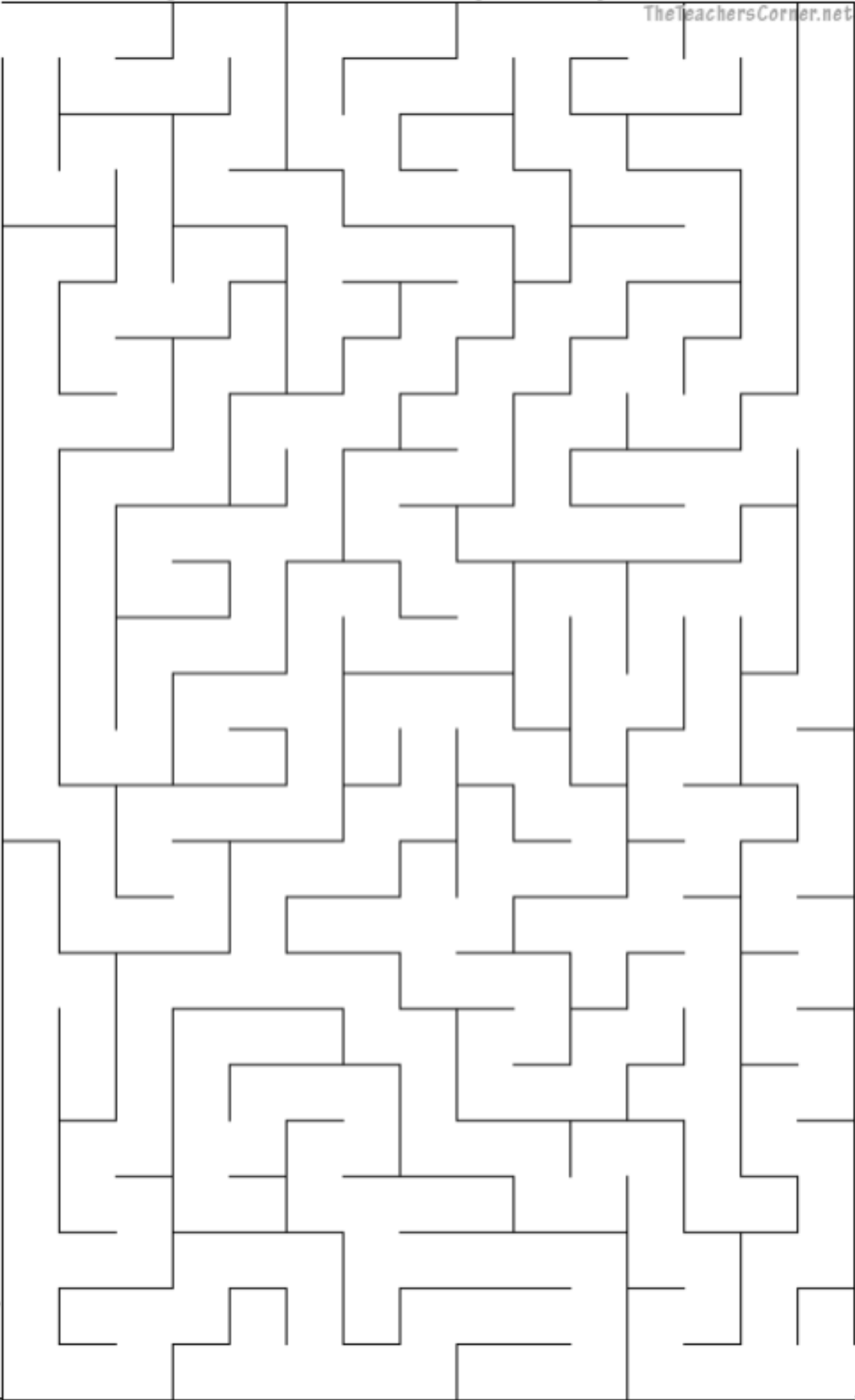
September 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 6:30 Cub Scout #103	2 5:00 BBBS Big/Little Activity Night 6:30 CoDa	3 5:30 AFG	4 12:00 AFG
5 <i>(Noisy/Hunger offering)</i> 9:30 Worship In-person and Live on Facebook	6 Labor Day Office Closed 6:30 Boy Scout #103	7 1:00 AFG 6:30 Friends in Service	8 6:30 Cub Scout #103 7:00 Choir 4:30 Finance Team Meeting	9 5:00 BBBS Board Committee Meeting 6:30 CoDa	10 5:30 AFG	11 9am Church Clean Up Day (indoors) 12:00 AFG
12 <i>(Holly Place offering)</i> 9:30 Worship In-person and Live on Facebook	13 2:00-5:00 Pop Up Pantry 6:30 Boy Scout #103 7:00 Barbershop	14 1:00 AFG	15 6:30 Cub Scout #103 7:00 Choir	16 2:00 Book Club 5:00 BBBS Big/Little Activity Night 6:30 CoDa	17 5:30 AFG	18 12:00 AFG

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
19 9:30 Worship In-person and Live on Facebook	20 6:30 Boy Scout #103 7:00 Barbershop	21 1:00 AFG	22 6:30 Cub Scout #103 6:30 BBBS Board Meeting 7:00 Choir	23 10:00 Women's Bible Study 6:30 CoDa	24 5:30 AFG	25 12:00 AFG Pastor Alessandri preaching in St. Louis Sept. 25-26
Pastor Alessandri is on vacation September 19-24						
26 9:30 Worship In-person and Live on Facebook Pastor Chris Litton will preach and preside at worship	27 6:30 Boy Scout #103 7:00 p.m. Council Meeting (Haven West) 7:00 Barbershop	28 1:00 AFG	29 10:00 Bible Study Resumes <u>Acts of the Apostles</u> 6:30 Cub Scout #103 7:00 Choir	30 6:30 CoDa		
Pastor Alessandri is in St. Louis preaching					Heads Up! God Squad Explorers premiere event October 3th 10:45am	

Help the children find their way to Sunday School.

TheTeachersCorner.net



provided by: www.TheTeachersCorner.net





Haven Messenger

**HAVEN EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH**
1035 HAVEN ROAD
HAGERSTOWN, MD 21742

