



HOLY CROSS

GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

859 First Street | Macon, Georgia 31201 | 478.621.0744 (office)
www.holycrossga.org | Facebook: HolyCrossMaconGA

Sunday, June 29, 2025

Sts. Peter and Paul, the Preeminent Apostles
Eothinon/Orthros Gospel: Third (Mark 16:9-20)

Mode of the Week: Second / Δεύτερος

QR Codes (scan with smart phone for service texts)

Orthros, part 1



Orthros, part 2



Divine Liturgy



Upcoming Schedule

Today, June 29

9:15am Orthros
10:30am Divine Liturgy on the Feast Day of Saints Peter and Paul
Coffee Fellowship in the Parish House after the Liturgy
12:30pm Cross Dive Meeting
1:00pm Youth Greek Dance

Wednesday, July 2

5:30pm Vespers
6:30pm Introduction to the Orthodox Church Class in the Library/Zoom

Friday, July 4

Independence Day—Office Closed

Sunday, July 6

9:15am Orthros
10:30am Divine Liturgy on the 4th Sunday of Matthew
Doxology for Independence Day at the end of the Liturgy
Coffee Fellowship in the Parish House after the Liturgy
12:45pm Bible Study

Wednesday, July 9

9:30am Prosfora Baking Class in the Parish House
5:30pm Vespers
6:30pm Introduction to the Orthodox Church Class in the Library/Zoom

Thursday, July 10

11:00am Orthodox Book Study at Taste and See in Macon

Saturday, July 12

11:00am Holy Baptism of John William Brock

Sunday, July 13

9:15am Orthros
10:30am Divine Liturgy on the Sunday of the Holy Fathers of the Fourth Ecumenical Council
Coffee Fellowship in the Parish House after the Liturgy
1:00pm Youth Greek Dance
Parish Family Fellowship/BYOPicnic at Lake Tobo

Tuesday, July 15

5:15pm Parish Council Meeting

Wednesday, July 16

5:30pm Great Vespers
6:30pm Divine Liturgy honoring St. Marina the Great Martyr
7:30pm Planning Committee Meeting

Thursday, July 17

11:00am Orthodox Book Study at Taste and See in Macon

Friday, July 18

8:00am Pastitsio Prep for the Festival (potentially continued on Saturday)

Sunday, July 20

9:15am Orthros
10:30am Divine Liturgy on the Feast Day of the Holy Prophet Elias (Elijah)
Coffee Fellowship in the Parish House after the Liturgy
12:45pm Bible Study

Upcoming Epistle Readers: (7/6) George Saratsiotis, Beth Zoumberis; (7/13) Helen Troupos, Beth Zoumberis
Upcoming PC Member On-Duty: (7/6) John Apostolou; (7/13) Maria Spicer; (7/20) Sarah Drakopoulos; (7/27) Chad
Upcoming Ushers: (7/2); Natalia S.; (7/6+7/12) Erick+Cheryl S.; (7/9+7/16) Cristina L.; (7/13) Cristina+Jim L.
Upcoming Video Operators: (7/6) Joanna P.; (7/13) David Z.; (7/20) Natalia S.; (7/25) Norm A.; (7/27) Gray, David N
Fellowship Hosts: (7/6) Marcella Chiorescu; (7/13) Cheryl Schwartzkopf; (7/20) Antigone Michalakakis; (7/27) Beth Z.

Our Parish Hymn of the Holy Cross of Christ:

Save, O Lord, save your people and bless Your inheritance. Give victory to those who battle evil and protect us all by Your Holy Cross.

Σώσον Κύριε τὸν λαόν σου καὶ εὐλόγησον τὴν κληρονομίαν σου, νίκας τοῖς Βασιλεῦσι κατὰ βαρβάρων δωρούμενος καὶ τὸ σὸν φυλάττων διὰ τοῦ Σταυροῦ σου πολίτευμα.

To our Visitors and Guests: We extend a **warm welcome** to all worshipping with us today! While Holy Communion, following ancient practice, is offered only to Orthodox Christians, non-Orthodox may receive the blessed bread (antidoron) offered at the conclusion of the service.
Please join us in the Parish House after the Divine Liturgy for Coffee Fellowship!

Epistle Reading

*Εἰς πᾶσαν τὴν γῆν ἐξῆλθεν ὁ φθόγγος αὐτῶν.
Στίχ. Οἱ οὐρανοὶ δηγοῦνται δόξαν Θεοῦ.*

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Πρὸς Κορινθίους Β΄ Ἐπιστολῆς Παύλου τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα.

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Ἀδελφοί, ἐν ᾧ δ' ἂν τις τολμᾷ, ἐν ἀφροσύνῃ λέγω, τολμῶ κάγω. Ἑβραῖοί εἰσι; κάγω· Ἰσραηλίται εἰσι; κάγω· σπέρμα Ἀβραάμ εἰσι; κάγω· διάκονοι Χριστοῦ εἰσι; παραφρονῶν λαλῶ, ὑπὲρ ἐγώ· ἐν κόποις περισσοτέρως, ἐν πληγαῖς ὑπερβαλλόντως, ἐν φυλακαῖς περισσοτέρως, ἐν θανάτοις πολλάκις· ὑπὸ Ἰουδαίων πεντάκις τεσσαράκοντα παρὰ μίαν ἔλαβον, τρις ἔρραβδίσθην, ἀπαξ ἐλιθάσθην, τρις ἐνανάγησα, νυκθημερόν ἐν τῷ βυθῷ πεποίηκα· ὁδοιπορίας πολλάκις, κινδύνοις ποταμῶν, κινδύνους ληστῶν, κινδύνους ἐκ γένους, κινδύνους ἐξ ἐθνῶν, κινδύνους ἐν πόλει, κινδύνους ἐν ἐρημίᾳ, κινδύνους ἐν θαλάσῃ, κινδύνους ἐν ψευδαδέλφοις· ἐν κόπῳ καὶ μόχθῳ, ἐν ἀγρυπνίαις πολλάκις, ἐν λιμῷ καὶ δίψει, ἐν νηστείαις πολλάκις, ἐν νύχτει καὶ γυμνότητι· χωρὶς τῶν παρεκτὸς ἡ ἐπισύστασίς μου ἡ καθ' ἡμέραν, ἡ μέριμνα πασῶν τῶν ἐκκλησιῶν. τίς ἀσθενεῖ, καὶ οὐκ ἀσθενῶ; τίς σκανδαλίζεται, καὶ οὐκ ἐγώ πυροῦμαι; εἰ καυχᾶσθαι δεῖ, τὰ τῆς ἀσθενείας μου καυχῆσθαι. ὁ Θεὸς καὶ πατὴρ τοῦ Κυρίου ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ οἶδεν, ὁ ὢν εὐλογητὸς εἰς τοὺς αἰῶνας, ὅτι οὐ ψεύδομαι. ἐν Δαμασκῷ ὁ ἐθνάρχης Ἀρέτα τοῦ βασιλέως ἐφροῦρει τὴν Δαμασκηνῶν πόλιν πιάσαι με θέλων, καὶ διὰ θυρίδος ἐν σαργάνῃ ἐχαλάσθην διὰ τοῦ τείχους καὶ ἐξέφυγον τὰς χεῖρας αὐτοῦ. Καυχᾶσθαι δὴ οὐ συμφέρει μοι· ἐλεύσομαι γάρ εἰς ὀπτασίας καὶ ἀποκαλύψεις Κυρίου. οἶδα ἄνθρωπον ἐν Χριστῷ πρὸ ἐτῶν δεκατεσσάρων· εἴτε ἐν σώματι οὐκ οἶδα, εἴτε ἐκτὸς τοῦ σώματος οὐκ οἶδα, ὁ Θεὸς οἶδεν· ἀρπαγέντα τὸν τοιοῦτον ἕως τρίτου οὐρανοῦ. καὶ οἶδα τὸν τοιοῦτον ἄνθρωπον· εἴτε ἐν σώματι εἴτε ἐκτὸς τοῦ σώματος οὐκ οἶδα, ὁ Θεὸς οἶδεν· ὅτι ἡρπάγη εἰς τὸν παράδεισον καὶ ἤκουσεν ἄρρητα ῥήματα, ἃ οὐκ ἐξὸν ἀνθρώπῳ λαλῆσαι. ὑπὲρ τοῦ τοιούτου καυχῆσομαι, ὑπὲρ δὲ ἐμαντοῦ οὐ καυχῆσομαι εἰ μὴ ἐν ταῖς ἀσθενείαις μου. ἐὰν γὰρ θελήσω καυχῆσασθαι, οὐκ ἔσομαι ἄφρων· ἀλήθειαν γὰρ ἐρῶ· φειδομαι δὲ μή τις εἰς ἐμέ λογισθῇ ὑπὲρ ὃ βλέπει με ἢ ἀκούει τι ἐξ ἐμοῦ. Καὶ τῇ ὑπερβολῇ τῶν ἀποκαλύψεων ἵνα μὴ ὑπεραίρωμαι, ἐδόθη μοι σκόλοψ τῇ σαρκί, ἄγγελος σατᾶν, ἵνα με κολαφίσῃ ἵνα μὴ ὑπεραίρωμαι. ὑπὲρ τούτου τρις τὸν Κύριον παρεκάλεσα ἵνα ἀποστῇ ἀπ' ἐμοῦ· καὶ εἰρηκέ μοι· ἀρκεῖ σοι ἡ χάρις μου· ἡ γὰρ δύναμίς μου ἐν ἀσθενείᾳ τελειοῦται. ἥδιστα οὖν μᾶλλον καυχῆσομαι ἐν ταῖς ἀσθενείαις μου, ἵνα ἐπισκηνώσῃ ἐπ' ἐμέ ἡ δύναμις τοῦ Χριστοῦ.

Their proclamation went forth into all the earth.
Verse: The heavens declare the glory of God.

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The reading is from Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians. (11:21-33, 12:1-9)

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Brethren, whatever anyone dares to boast of — I am speaking as a fool — I also dare to boast of that. Are they Hebrews? So am I. Are they Israelites? So am I. Are they descendants of Abraham? So am I. Are they servants of Christ? I am a better one — I am talking like a madman — with far greater labors, far more imprisonments, with countless beatings, and often near death. Five times I have received at the hands of the Jews the forty lashes less one. Three times I have been beaten with rods; once I was stoned. Three times I have been shipwrecked; a night and a day I have been adrift at sea; on frequent journeys, in danger from rivers, danger from robbers, danger from my own people, danger from Gentiles, danger in the city, danger in the wilderness, danger at sea, danger from false brethren; in toil and hardship, through many a sleepless night, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure. And, apart from other things, there is the daily pressure upon me of my anxiety for all the churches. Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who is made to fall, and I am not indignant? If I must boast, I will boast of the things that show my weakness. The God and Father of the Lord Jesus, he who is blessed for ever, knows that I do not lie. At Damascus, the governor under King Aretas guarded the city of Damascus and wanted to seize me, but I was let down in a basket through a window in the wall, and escaped his hands. I must boast; there is nothing to be gained by it, but I will go on to visions and revelations of the Lord. I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven — whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows. And I know that this man was caught up into Paradise — whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows — and he heard things that cannot be told, which man may not utter. On behalf of this man I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses. Though if I wish to boast, I shall not be a fool, for I shall be speaking the truth. But I refrain from it, so that no one may think more of me than he sees in me or hears from me. And to keep me from being too elated by the abundance of revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan, to harass me, to keep me from being too elated. Three times I besought the Lord about this, that it should leave me; but he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” I will all the more gladly boast of my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

The Holy Gospel Reading according to St. Matthew (16:13-19)

Commemoration of Saints Peter and Paul

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ, ἐλθὼν ὁ Ἰησοῦς εἰς τὰ μέρη Καισαρείας τῆς Φιλίππου ἠρώτα τοὺς μαθητὰς αὐτοῦ λέγων· τίνα με λέγουσιν οἱ ἄνθρωποι εἶναι τὸν υἱὸν τοῦ ἀνθρώπου; οἱ δὲ εἶπον· οἱ μὲν Ἰωάννην τὸν βαπτιστὴν, ἄλλοι δὲ Ἡλίαν, ἕτεροι δὲ Ἰερεμίαν ἢ ἓνα τῶν προφητῶν. λέγει αὐτοῖς· ὑμεῖς δὲ τίνα με λέγετε εἶναι; ἀποκριθεὶς δὲ Σίμων Πέτρος εἶπε· σὺ εἶ ὁ Χριστὸς ὁ υἱὸς τοῦ Θεοῦ τοῦ ζῶντος. καὶ ἀποκριθεὶς ὁ Ἰησοῦς εἶπεν αὐτῷ· μακάριος εἶ, Σίμων Βαριωνᾶ, ὅτι σὰρξ καὶ αἷμα οὐκ ἀπεκάλυψέ σοι, ἀλλ' ὁ πατήρ μου ὁ ἐν τοῖς οὐρανοῖς. καγὼ δέ σοι λέγω ὅτι σὺ εἶ Πέτρος, καὶ ἐπὶ ταύτῃ τῇ πέτρᾳ οἰκοδομήσω μου τὴν ἐκκλησίαν, καὶ πύλαι ᾗδου οὐ κατισχύσουσιν αὐτῆς. καὶ δώσω σοι τὰς κλεῖς τῆς βασιλείας τῶν οὐρανῶν, καὶ ὃ ἐὰν δήσης ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς, ἔσται δεδεμένον ἐν τοῖς οὐρανοῖς, καὶ ὃ ἐὰν λύσης ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς, ἔσται λελυμένον ἐν τοῖς οὐρανοῖς.

At that time, when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do men say that the Son of man is?” And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Simon Peter replied, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.”

HOLY CROSS

GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

Rev. Fr. Theodore Ehmer

Προϊστάμενος/Presiding Priest

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Office Days: Tuesday through Friday; call or email Fr. for appointment

Holy Confession: call or email Fr. to schedule

Bulletin for the week of June 29, 2025

Ushers on Duty: Erick and Cheryl Schwartzkopf

Video: Natalia S.

Altar Servers: All Adult/Youth Servers

Epistle Readers: Chad Ridley (Greek); Cheryl Schwartzkopf (English)

Fellowship Host (Thank You!): Rodica Cazacu

PC Member On-Duty: Natalia Saratsiotis



Today our Holy Orthodox Church commemorates:

- + The Holy, Glorious, and All-Praised Apostles and Chiefs, Peter and Paul

The divinely-blessed Peter was from Bethsaida of Galilee. He was the son of Jonas and the brother of Andrew the First-called. He was a fisherman by trade, unlearned and poor, and was called Simon; later he was renamed Peter by the Lord Jesus Christ Himself, Who looked at him and said, "Thou art Simon the son of Jonas; thou shalt be called Cephas (which is by interpretation, Peter)" (John 1:42). On being raised by the Lord to the dignity of an Apostle and becoming inseparable from Him as His zealous disciple, he followed Him from the beginning of His preaching of salvation up until the very Passion, when, in the court of Caiaphas the high priest, he denied Him thrice because of his fear of the Jews and of the danger at hand. But again, after many bitter tears, he received complete forgiveness of his transgression. After the Resurrection of Christ and the descent of the Holy Spirit, he preached in Judea, Antioch, and certain parts of Asia, and finally came to Rome, where he was crucified upside down by Nero, and thus he ascended to the eternal habitations about the year 66 or 68, leaving two Catholic (General) Epistles to the Church of Christ.

Paul, the chosen vessel of Christ, the glory of the Church, the Apostle of the Nations and teacher of the whole world, was a Jew by race, of the tribe of Benjamin, having Tarsus as his homeland. As for his zeal in preaching the Gospel after these things had come to pass, as for his unabating labors and afflictions of diverse kinds, the wounds, the prisons, the bonds, the beatings, the stonings, the shipwrecks, the journeys, the perils on land, on sea, in cities, in wildernesses, the continual vigils, the daily fasting, the hunger, the thirst, the nakedness, and all those other things that he endured for the Name of Christ, and which he underwent before nations and kings and the Israelites, and above all, his care for all the churches, his fiery longing for the salvation of all, whereby he became all things to all men, that he might save them all if possible, and because of which, with his heart aflame, he continuously traveled throughout all parts, visiting them all, and like a bird of heaven flying from Asia and Europe, the West and East, neither staying nor abiding in any one place - all these things are related incident by incident in the Book of the Acts, and as he himself tells them in his Epistles. Having completed the work of his ministry, he likewise ended his life in martyrdom when he was beheaded in Rome during the reign of Nero, at the same time, some say, when Peter was crucified.

Through the intercessions of Your Saints, O God, have mercy on us and save us. Amen.

Variable Hymns of the Day in the Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom (page 8 in the Pew Book):

- *Weekly Resurrectional Hymn (Ότε κατήλθες, 2nd Mode):*

When You descended unto Death, O Lord, You who are immortal Life put Hades to death, by the lightning of Your divinity. And when You raised the dead from the netherworld, all the hosts of heaven sang aloud to You, "O Christ God, Giver of life, glory to You!" (*Sung before and after the Small Entrance, Greek text in hymnal on pg. 102*)

- *Hymn of the Holy Cross (Σώσον Κύριε, 1st Mode):*

Save, O Lord, save your people and bless Your inheritance. Give victory to those who battle evil and protect us all by Your Holy Cross. (*sung in Greek and English*)

- *The Normal Kontakion of the Theotokos (Προστασία των Χριστιανών, 2nd Mode):*

O Protection of Christians that never falls, intercession with the Creator that never fails, we sinners beg you, do not ignore the voices of our prayers. O good Lady, we implore you, quickly come unto our aid, when we cry out to you with faith. Hurry to intercession, and hasten to supplication, O Theotokos who protect now and ever those who honor you. (*Greek text in hymnal on pg. 224*)

- *Communion Hymn (Psalm 18):*

Εἰς πᾶσαν τὴν γῆν ἐξῆλθεν ὁ φθόγγος αὐτῶν καὶ εἰς τὰ πέρατα τῆς οἰκουμένης τὰ ῥήματα αὐτῶν. Ἀλληλοῦῖα / Their proclamation went forth into all the earth, and their words to the ends of the world. Alleluia.

Guidance, Prayer Requests, and Announcements

This Week's Daily

Scripture Readings and Fasting Guidance:

Sunday, June 29: Sts. Peter and Paul—No Fasting:

Mark 16:9-20; II Corinthians 11:21-33, 12:1-9;

Matthew 16:13-19

Monday, June 30: Synaxis of the 12 Apostles—

No Fasting:

II Corinthians 4:9-16; Matthew 9:36, 10:1-8

Tuesday, July 1—No Fasting:

I Corinthians 12:27-31, 13:1-8; Matthew 10:1, 5-8

Wednesday, July 2—Wine+Oil:

Hebrews 9:1-7; Luke 1:39-49, 56

Thursday, July 3—No Fasting:

Romans 11:13-24; Matthew 11:27-30

Friday, July 4—Strict Fast:

Romans 11:25-36; Matthew 12:1-8

Saturday, July 5—No Fasting:

Galatians 5:22-26, 6:1-2; Matthew 11:27-30

Prayer Requests for Health of Soul and Body:

Metropolitan Alexios, Fr. Symeon (mission priest supported by our parish), Fr. Mike, Panteleimon, Kassiani, Dimitri, Georgia, Pavlos, Maria, Irene, Valerie, Dianna, Jeannie, Dawn, Kenneth, Mary, Kay, Helen, Nikki, Austin, Kiley, Garrett, Carolina, Maria, Laurie, Lindsey, Randy, Marina, Effie, Christina, Ashley, Brian, Bessie, Katerina, Karl, Colin, Mitch, Rinne, Michael, Christian, Paul, Lucas, Leo, Nicholas, Kevin, Andy, Karen, Vera, Adam, Debbie, Alberto, Sadith, Richelle, Marion, Paul, George, Christina, Eric, Kristen, Diane, Lydia, Virgil

Prayers for those recently reposed:

Franklin (+May 21), Virginia (+May 24), Tina (+June 12),

Tim (+June 14)

Prayers for expecting mothers:

Betty, Heather, Julieta, Kalie

Prayers for Military Personnel and Their Families:

Aubriana Butchko, Benjamin George Davis, Kyle Glotzbach, Robert Ice, Aleksander Zajac

Prayers for our Catechumens and Inquirers into the Orthodox Church:

Alexander, Bobbie, Dakota, Hannah, Jessica, Mary Emma, Nate, Sophia, Susan, Tammy and pray for those who are seeking Christ and His Church!

Weekly Wisdom of the Fathers:

St. Silouan the Athonite, speaking of the way that we become "wounded by love" for God, which is also a great gift of the Holy Spirit: "When the soul by the Holy Spirit comes to know the Mother of God; when in the Holy Spirit the soul becomes kin to the Apostles, the Prophets, and all the Saints and Righteous Ones, then she is irresistibly drawn to that world, and cannot remain, but is bothered, and thirsts, and cannot cease from prayer, and although the body becomes exhausted and wants to lie down on a bed, even while lying in bed the soul longs for the Lord and the Kingdom of the Saints."

Upcoming Celebrations This Week

Name Days—Chronia Polla, Many Years!

June 29: Lee Hornbaker

Birthdays—Happy Birthday!

June 30: Jessica Webb

July 2: Arty Passias

July 3: Emily Dermatas

July 4: Tammy McDowell

Anniversaries—Congratulations!

None in the Records

(If you have a celebration that did not make it into the bulletin, please e-mail Fr. Theodore!)

Announcements:

* **Congratulations** to Gray and Lindsey Yates who were joined as one in the Holy Mystery of Marriage yesterday at our Holy Cross Church. May God always bless their marriage!

* The next **Introduction to the Orthodox Church** class will take place this Wednesday, July 2 at 6:30pm (after the Vespers) in the Church Library/on Zoom. The topic will be "The Orthodox Church Calendar Year." If you would like a recording of the previous session or be included on the email list for the class, please contact Fr. Theodore.

* The **Orthodox Book Study** will begin anew on Thursday, July 10 at the Taste and See coffee shop in Downtown Macon. We will be reading the book *For the Life of the World* by Fr. Alexander Schmemmann. Please plan on joining on Thursday mornings!

* There will be a meeting for this year's **Cross Dive** that will take place after the Divine Liturgy/Coffee Fellowship today, June 29. If you have previously served on this committee or would like to serve on this committee, we would love for you to attend! Also, mark your calendars for the 4th Annual Pan-Orthodox Cross Dive which is on September 13, 2025.

* There will be a class for learning how to bake **prosfora** (the bread used for Holy Communion) on Wednesday, July 9 at 9:30am. Please contact Natalia if you would like to attend!

* On **Sunday, July 13**, after the Divine Liturgy and the post-Church activities, plan on joining for a low-key afternoon of fellowship at Lake Tobo. BYOPicnic and beverages and let's enjoy a Sunday afternoon in fellowship by the lake!

* **FESTIVAL NEWS:** This past week, you should have received an email for different **Sponsorship Opportunities** including an ad in the program book. We would love for everyone to find a new business to go in the program book. Please consider taking a form located in the Narthex and/or Parish House to a business here in Central Georgia. All sponsorships (including artwork for the program book) is due August 15th. Contact Natalia if you have any questions. Also, be sure to make your calendars for October 24-26!

* For those traveling this summer, we pray you have a safe and relaxing vacation. As a friendly reminder, we offer **LiveStreaming** to those who are unable to attend services on our Facebook page.