

# Summer 2025 *TIPS*

A Newsletter From  
Saint Timothy Evangelical Lutheran Church

*Come and Worship!*



Sunday School 9:15 – 10:15 am  
Sunday Worship 8:30 am & 10:30 am

St. Timothy ELCA is a community of faith creating  
connection through the love of Jesus Christ

395 Valley Road, Wayne, New Jersey 07470

[sttimothynj.org](http://sttimothynj.org)

395 Valley Road, Wayne, NJ 07470

Pastor  
Director of Music  
Office Manager  
Church Office Email

Phone: (973) 694-8316  
The Rev. Kimberly Cooper  
Caroline Parody  
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## Church Council

|                    |                       |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| Colleen Duffy      | <b>President</b>      |
| Josh Abrahamson    | <b>Vice President</b> |
| Karen Sajban       | <b>Treasurer</b>      |
| Marie Johnsson     | <b>Secretary</b>      |
| Gloria Cooper      |                       |
| Laura Dec          |                       |
| Art DeRose         |                       |
| Garey Goskowski    |                       |
| Cliff Konnerth     |                       |
| Valerie McGrath    |                       |
| Jeff Riotto        |                       |
| Barbara Westerberg |                       |



# August 2025



| Sunday  | Monday   | Tuesday   | Wednesday  | Thursday  | Friday  | Saturday   |
|---|--|---|--|---|---|--|
| <p><b>31</b></p> <p><u>9:30am</u> Worship</p> <p><u>1pm</u> AA</p>  |  | <p>This month's Heart n' Hands item is</p> <p><b>Dental Floss or Flossers</b></p>    | <p>Next month's item is</p> <p><b>Travel-sized Lotion</b></p>  |   | <p><b>1</b></p> <p><u>6 pm</u> AA</p>                   | <p><b>2</b></p>  |
| <p><b>3</b></p> <p><u>9:30am</u> Worship with bible study following</p>  <p><u>1pm</u> AA</p>    | <p><b>4</b></p> <p><u>9-11:30 am</u> Heart 'n Hands</p>  | <p><b>Pastor's Vacation 5</b></p> <p><u>9-11:30 am</u> <b>Garage Sale In-take</b></p> <p><u>1 pm</u> Meditation w/Movement</p> <p><u>2 pm</u> Bible Study</p>  | <p><b>Pastor's Vacation 6</b></p>  | <p><b>Pastor's Vacation 7</b></p>  <p><u>7-9 pm</u> Garage Sale In-take</p>                          | <p><b>Pastor's Vacation 8</b></p> <p><u>6 pm</u> AA</p> | <p><b>Pastor's Vacation 9</b></p> <p><u>10:30 am</u></p>  |
| <p><b>Pastor's Vacation 10</b></p> <p><u>9:30am</u> Worship</p> <p><u>1pm</u> AA</p>  | <p><b>Pastor's Vacation 11</b></p> <p><u>9-11:30 am</u> Heart 'n Hands</p>  | <p><b>12</b></p> <p><u>9-11:30 am</u> <b>Garage Sale In-take</b></p> <p><u>1 pm</u> Meditation w/Movement</p> <p><u>2 pm</u> Bible Study w/ Holy Communion</p>  | <p><b>13</b></p>   | <p><b>14</b></p>  <p><u>7-9 pm</u> Garage Sale In-take</p>   | <p><b>15</b></p> <p><u>6 pm</u> AA</p>                  | <p><b>16</b></p>   |
| <p><b>17</b></p> <p><u>9:30am</u> Worship with bible study following</p>  <p><u>1pm</u> AA</p> | <p><b>18</b></p> <p><u>9-11:30 am</u> Heart 'n Hands</p>   | <p><b>19</b></p> <p><u>9-11:30 am</u> <b>Garage Sale In-take</b></p> <p><u>1 pm</u> Meditation w/Movement</p> <p><u>2 pm</u> Bible Study w/ Holy Communion</p>  |  <p><u>10am</u> Hymn Sing</p> | <p><b>21</b></p> <p><u>10:30 am</u> Adult Book Group</p>  <p><u>7-9 pm</u> Garage Sale In-take</p> | <p><b>22</b></p> <p><u>6 pm</u> AA</p>                  | <p><b>23</b></p>   |
| <p><b>24</b></p> <p><u>9:30am</u> Worship with bible study following</p>  <p><u>1pm</u> AA</p> | <p><b>25</b></p> <p><u>9-11:30 am</u> Heart 'n Hands</p>   | <p><b>26</b></p> <p><u>9-11:30 am</u> <b>Garage Sale In-take</b></p> <p><u>1 pm</u> Meditation w/Movement</p> <p><u>2 pm</u> Bible Study w/ Holy Communion</p>  | <p><b>27</b></p>   | <p><b>28</b></p>  <p><u>7-9 pm</u> Garage Sale In-take</p>   | <p><b>29</b></p> <p><u>6 pm</u> AA</p>                  | <p><b>30</b></p> <p>(See above left corner for August 31<sup>st</sup>)</p>   |

## Word from Our Pastor



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*Jesus said: “The Ruler will say to those on the right, ‘Come, you blessed of my Abba God! Inherit the realm prepared for you from the creation of the world! For I was hungry and you fed me; I was thirsty and you gave me drink. I was a foreigner and you welcomed me naked and you clothed me. I was ill and you comforted me; in prison and you came to visit me.’”* *Matthew 25: 34-36*

The above quote comes from a teaching of Jesus found in Matthew 25: 31-46. Many English translations title this passage, “The Judgement of the Nations,” because in it, Jesus clearly states that people who care for the poor, the foreigner, and the prisoner are deserving of heaven. He doesn’t stop there, though. In verse 41, he turns to those that have *not* taken care of the poor, the foreigner, or the prisoner and he says, “Out of my sight, you accursed ones! Into that everlasting fire prepared for the Devil and the fallen angels.”

I would encourage you to read the full passage in your own bible, but you will be surprised to see that where I have written “foreigner” above, most English translations of the bible say “stranger.” The Greek word is *xenos* (*xenos*). In a Greek/English dictionary *xenos* is translated, *stranger, foreigner, alien, noncitizen*. It is the root for our English word *xenophobia* – meaning afraid of foreigners. Translating it as “stranger” is perfectly fine, but given what is happening in the USA of today, I think it is imperative that we be clear about whom exactly Jesus expects us to be welcoming. Jesus is not saying that people who say hi to a *stranger* in the food store deserve heaven. He is saying that people who welcome *foreigners* into their communities deserve heaven.

It is tempting to discriminate between those that came here the “right” way, but our immigration system is not that black and white (see graphic following this article). And, certainly, the One Who Created us all loves all humanity to the cross and beyond. In Ephesians 2:19, Paul writes that all of us were once *foreigners* and are now “members of the household of God.”

We love, because God first loved us (1 John 4:19). God will love us and save us whether we deserve it or not, but I think most of us would like to do our best to follow in the way of Jesus – not to earn heaven, but out of gratitude for the love and grace of God.

When Jesus said these words, he was himself a xenos in the Roman empire. He was not entitled to any of the privileges provided to Roman citizens. This is what allowed him to be brutally crucified. In the realm of God, there are no sides. God doesn't support any group over another. But, in this world, we can choose to be on the side of Christ.

**Immigration in the USA is not black and white:**

**There are citizens**

**AND 18 different types of permanent residents**

**AND almost 50 types of temporary visa holders**

**AND others applying for and awaiting permits to live here**

**Finally, there are undocumented immigrants. Many of whom may be eligible for a visa or green card, but cannot afford the application.**

**There are NO "illegal" immigrants, because a person cannot be inherently illegal.**

**So God created humankind in God's image, in the image of God, God created them (Genesis 1: 27)**



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## Garage Sale In-take ~ All Month

Throughout the remainder of July, the whole of August and into September, donations of gently used household goods will be accepted in Fellowship Hall.



Helpers will be onsite to assist on Tuesday mornings 9:00-11:00am and Thursday evenings 7:00-9:00pm to unload cars and carry in items.



If you have any packing materials, newspapers, boxes or bags **that can be used on the day of sale, we'd happily welcome those** as well! There will be a bin or box to collect these materials just inside Fellowship Hall near the rear office entrance doorway.

If you bring donations on a Sunday, you may leave items in Fellowship Hall near the stage. Please do not block access to the Electrical Panels closet.



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## Summer Bible Study with Pastor Kimberly



This summer we explore the ELCA's Social Statements about major issues of today using scriptures and Lutheran Confessions. While you may not agree with everything you read, they are each a tool to open up faith-filled discussions on challenging topics and having individuals participate with differing views will make the conversations more compelling.

We will meet in the Parlor after Worship on July 20, 27 and August 3, 17 & 24. Each session will be stand alone, so you can attend the sessions that you find most interesting. Topics will be announced as much in advance as possible. **Seek out Pastor Kimberly if you'd specifically like to explore a particular Statement.**

The July 27th meeting will focus on *Health Care*. [Click HERE](#) for reading material. The August 3rd meeting will focus on *Education*. [Click HERE](#) for reading material.

## Weekly Tuesday Events ~ August 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>



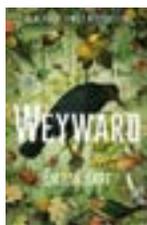
Meditation with Movement at 1pm. **Can't make it every week, no problem:** cost is \$40 cash per month, pay as you go. No mat needed, but a bottle of water suggested. Fellowship Hall.

Bible Study with Holy Communion at 2pm ~ Join Pastor Kimberly as she leads the group through an exploration of timely readings followed by the sharing of Communion. Parlor.



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## Bookworms Book Club ~ August 9<sup>th</sup>



2019: Under cover of darkness, Kate flees London for ramshackle Weyward Cottage, inherited from a great aunt she barely remembers. With its tumbling ivy and overgrown garden, the cottage is worlds away from the abusive partner who tormented Kate. But she begins to suspect that her great aunt had a secret.

One that lurks in the bones of the cottage, hidden ever since the witch-hunts of the 17th century.

1619: Altha is awaiting trial for the murder of a local farmer who was **stampeded to death by his herd. As a girl, Altha's mother taught her their magic**, a kind not rooted in spell casting but in a deep knowledge of the natural world. But unusual women have always been deemed dangerous, and as the evidence for witchcraft is set out against Altha, she knows it will take all of her powers to maintain her freedom.

1942: As World War II rages, Violet is trapped in her family's grand, crumbling estate. Straitjacketed by societal convention, she longs for the robust education her brother receives—and for her mother, long deceased, who was rumored to have gone mad before her death. The only traces Violet has of her are a locket bearing the initial W and the word weyward scratched into the baseboard of her bedroom.

Weaving together the stories of three extraordinary women across five centuries, Emilia Hart's *Weyward* is an enthralling novel of female resilience and the transformative power of the natural world. *-From goodreads*

For Bookworms information, contact Barbara Westerberg at 973.696.1471 on how to join in the friendly discussion.



Happy reading!

## Hymn Sing @ Alps of Wayne/The Atrium ~ August 20<sup>th</sup>



Carolyn Russo is back on the piano this month and welcomes your accompaniment!

Spend an hour engaging the shut-in population of this care facility with familiar song. Lyric sheets provided, just bring your voice and sunny disposition!

Meet in the Lobby at 10am.

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## New Bishop Installation ~ August 23<sup>rd</sup>



*THE NEW JERSEY SYNOD  
of the  
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA*

*requests your prayers and presence as*

***The Rev. Dr. Christa M. Compton***

*is installed as the fourth Bishop of the Synod  
at a Festive Service of Holy Communion  
Saturday, August 23, 2025  
2:00 PM  
at*

*First Baptist Church of Lincoln Gardens  
711 Somerset Street, Somerset, NJ 08873*



The Rev. Elizabeth Eaton, Presiding Bishop, Preacher

*Rostered Leaders are invited to vest and process.  
The color of the day is red.  
A light reception will immediately follow.*



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## **ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING RECAP**

Thanks to Art DeRose, Valerie McGrath, Laura Dec and Gloria Cooper for accepting a role as Church Council member for the coming year and beyond.

Congratulations to Josh Abrahamson for your appointment as Council Vice President. Colleen Duffy (President), Marie Johnson (Secretary) and Karen Sajban (Treasurer) remain and round out the Executive Board of Church Council.

May the Spirit of our Lord guide you in this valued work.

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## **TIPS SEPTEMBER EDITION**

Monday, August 11<sup>th</sup> is the deadline for the usually chock-full September edition of TIPS. Contributors, as a wise band director used to tell his middle-schoolers: being early is on time, being on time is late, and being late is inexcusable! But seriously, any extra time Deb has for compilation is much appreciated this month!



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## **SUBSTACK**



Have you ever wished you had access to Pastor Kimberly's sermons and articles? Now it's as easy as clicking on this link:

<https://pastorkimberly.substack.com/>

You can read and share anything you'd like via email, text, or social media. You do have to provide your email and "subscribe" to read, but there is no charge (just choose "No pledge" and Continue, then Skip). Each piece will be sent directly to your email. It's an easy way to share the gospel with friends and family.

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**A Note from the Treasurer:**

While church attendance may fall a bit in the summer due to vacations and summer activities, the church bills keep coming in!

Please remember to continue in your giving: you can mail in your envelopes, give online, or catch up upon your return.

Consider the Auto Debit options as well.

It is greatly appreciated!

**Auto Debit**

No need to play catch-up

You can schedule debits that are convenient for you – weekly, bi-weekly, monthly, etc.

No weekly envelopes to worry about!

See Valerie McGrath, Financial Secretary for more info.

Forms available in the Narthex

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**AN UPDATE FROM ANNE LOFFREDO**

Since May 10, a gift has been given to the Memorial Fund in memory of Leona Eckert. There have been gifts to the Eternal Light Candle Fund, and paybacks to the Flanders/Schleer Scholarship Loan Funds.

There have been no Memorial purchases during the month.



Memorial Garden pavers are always on sale; the price is \$300.00. Paver application sheets are available in the narthex. See Pat Winters for further information. The Memorial Garden is self-supporting and gifts are welcome at all times.

We also welcome contributions to the fund for restoration and enhancement of our Church organ. This work is on-going. Checks may be made to St. Timothy Memorial Fund, with the words “Organ Repair” on the memo line.



Please consider a gift to any branch of St. Timothy Memorial Fund – General Memorial Fund, Music Fund, Laubscher Property Fund, Flanders/Schleer Scholarship Loan Funds – or to Pastor’s Discretionary Fund.

Memorial giving is good giving!

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## WHO CAN PREACH SERMONS IN LUTHERAN CHURCHES?



“Concerning church order they teach that no one should teach publicly in the church or administer sacraments unless properly called.”

*-Augsburg confession article XIV*

Most people know that only ordained clergy can preside over baptisms and communion. But, did you know that technically, only people ordained in the ELCA or a shared communion denomination are allowed to preach in our churches either? That said, there are very few supply pastors in any denomination in New Jersey. This is why, when one of our own lay people is willing to share their interpretation of a text, we don't call it a sermon or even a teaching. Instead, we call it a reflection or a testimony. People of faith willing to share their own understandings of God's work in their lives is a gift of community.

The synod is aware and encouraging of this practice. As such they provide training to lay people interested in growing into a call of preaching. The information is below. If you are interested, please speak with Pastor Kimberly.

### **Training Lay Preachers in the NJ Synod**

The Leadership Mission Team once again is coordinating a program to prepare lay members to preach in their congregation when no ordained pastor or deacon is available. Participants will be recommended by their pastor and may include those already providing such preaching. The program will consist of four courses online (each course taught over two zoom sessions) and one all day Saturday retreat (November 15, 2025) as well as preparation of a sermon to be shared with the cohort of participants.

This program is designed to help fill the need for a supply preacher when the pastor is on vacation. Participants who complete the program will receive a certificate of completion but will not be authorized to preside at the sacraments.

The four courses include:

- Lutheran Theology Basics (focusing especially on the law/gospel distinction)
- Worship Basics
- Bible Basics
- Practical Preaching Leadership (structure of a sermon, delivery, preaching resources, etc).

The classes will begin on Tuesday, September 9, 2025 and continue for eight Tuesday evenings (7:30-8:45 pm). Registration and recommendation forms will be available in July.

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## YES, WE MADE THE ANNUAL REPORT!

### CHRISTMAS-AT-SEA: A HOLIDAY INITIATIVE

**W**e broke another record delivering 3,507 Christmas-at-Sea satchels filled with warm clothing and holiday greetings to seafarers. On their behalf, thank you to all participants, donors, Amazon Wish List contributors, and knitters:

Marlene S. Alicea  
Judith Ammerman  
Pamela J. and Willem A. Angenent  
anonymous  
Estelle Balistreri  
Lauren Ballet  
Carol and Rick Beier  
Susan Smyth Bell



*It takes a village: Volunteers from the Propeller Club of the Port of New York & New Jersey and the Port Authority of New York & New Jersey gathered at SIH offices in November to assemble satchels. Most satchels were mailed to us, or we picked them up.*

...  
Christ Lutheran Church, Whiting, NJ      Heights, NJ      Our Saviour Luth. Church, Manhattan, NY      St. Timothy Lutheran Church, Wayne, NJ



Please note that Pastor Kimberly will be on vacation from August 5<sup>th</sup> through August 11<sup>th</sup>.

Please contact the office or an Executive Council member if you are in need of assistance for emergency pastoral coverage information.

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# AUGUST

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|                      |                        |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| 8/2 Carly Beyer      | 8/18 Valerie McGrath   |
| 8/3 Pamela Griffin   | 8/18 Chuck Riotto      |
| 8/5 Sandy DeRose     | 8/19 Karen Sajban      |
| 8/5 Barbara Koegel   | 8/21 Jayden Fagan      |
| 8/6 Magdalene Cooper | 8/21 Jan Neilson       |
| 8/7 Tom Sajban       | 8/26 Laura Fetherston  |
| 8/8 Kaila Gabel      | 8/26 Patrick Loftus    |
| 8/10 Colin Bedi      | 8/27 Stu Anderson      |
| 8/10 Fred Dittmer    | 8/28 Matt Englesbe     |
| 8/12 Thom Winters    | 8/28 Riita Englesbe    |
| 8/13 Claire Brassel  | 8/29 Monica Schneider  |
| 8/16 Lois Clapp      | 8/30 Andrew Inciardi   |
| 8/17 Nancy Konnerth  | 8/30 Jaclyn Sajban     |
| 8/18 Karen McAleer   | 8/31 Andrew Venturelli |



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|                                   |
|-----------------------------------|
| 8/1 Douglas & Carol Gabel         |
| 8/4 Michael & Donna McHugh        |
| 8/26 George & Jacqueline Serventi |

*Know someone who should be on this list but isn't??*

*Please email Deb at [st.tims395@yahoo.com](mailto:st.tims395@yahoo.com)*

*or call the office at 973-694-8316!*



## Coming in September

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### **Bi-Annual Church Garage Sale ~ September 6<sup>th</sup>**

St. Timothy will be holding our every-other-year Garage Sale on September 6<sup>th</sup> benefitting WELCA activities.

Members, friends and the general public are invited to attend the sale from 9am until 4pm in Fellowship Hall.

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### **Sunday School**

Kickoff & Outdoor Worship ~ September 14<sup>th</sup>

First Class ~ September 21<sup>st</sup>

Registration: Details will be coming later in the Summer.

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### **Tweak to Worship Times**

Both the Worship and Christian Education Committees have discussed the following proposal: *new Sunday Worship times of 9:00am and 10:30am*. This results in slightly shorter Sunday School class time, but does away with unnecessary time gaps between the early service and the start of Sunday School and between the end of Sunday School and the beginning of the later service. Sunday School would begin at 9:40am.

If you have any concerns, comments or questions, please speak with Pastor Kimberly, Valerie McGrath (chairperson of Worship) or Laura Dec (chairperson of Christian Ed).

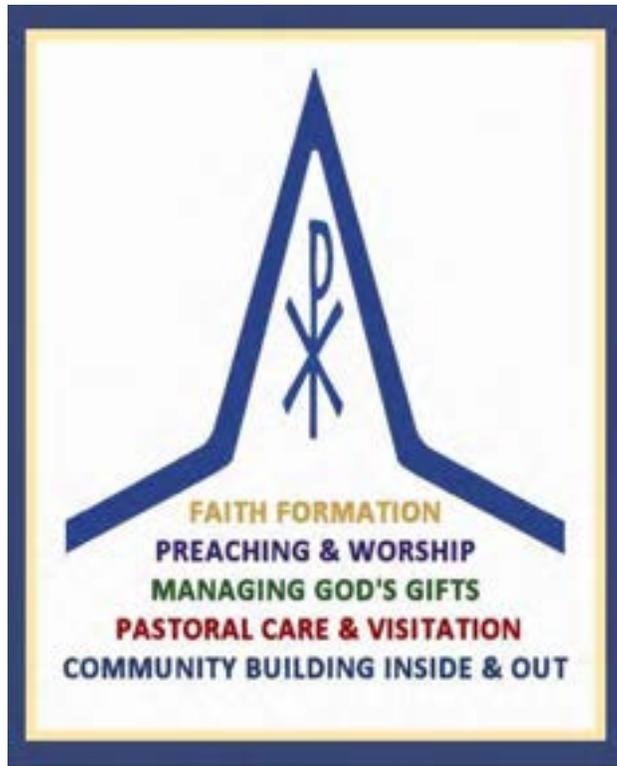
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### **Wayne Day ~ September 28<sup>th</sup>**

After last year's success and fun at this Township of Wayne celebration, St. Timothy plans to participate again. If you are interested in helping with advance planning or greeting residents during the event, please speak with Laura Dec or contact the office.

[Click HERE](#) for more information about Wayne Day!

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**St. Timothy ELCA is a community of faith creating connection through the love of Jesus Christ.**

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**Worship Participants:**

Please note that there are a few vacancies on the August schedule. If your plans allow, please let Deb know as soon as possible if you can fill a slot.

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| <b>DATE</b> | <b>Altar Guild</b>              | <b>Ushers</b>                    | <b>Cantor</b>    | <b>Assisting Minister</b> | <b>Reader</b>   | <b>A/V</b>      |
|-------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Aug 3       | Lori VanDerStad                 | Doug Zangrilli<br>Gloria Cooper  | Carolyn Russo    | Art DeRose                | Josh Abrahamson | Lori VanDerStad |
| Aug 10      | Valerie McGrath                 | Sue & Chris<br>Phelan            | Fallon Goskowski | Robin Koegel              | Karen Sajban    | Samantha DeRose |
| Aug 17      | Debbie Andersen<br>Karen Sajban | Laura Dec<br>Tom Sajban          | Marie Beyer      | Lori VanDerStad           | Colleen Duffy   | Karen Sajban    |
| Aug 24      | Diana DeAngelis                 | Karen McAleer<br><i>vacancy</i>  | Marie Beyer      | Carolyn Russo             | Laura Dec       | Craig Beyer     |
| Aug 31      | Nancy Farina                    | Doug Zangrilli<br><i>vacancy</i> | <i>vacancy</i>   | Karen McAleer             | Colleen Duffy   | Compton Cooper  |