**Pastor’s Column Pastor Sherry 9/10/18**

Mission Festival is coming up at Linn High School this Sunday, September 16th. Brent Smith from Mission Central will be our guest preacher. He will lead a Bible Study at 9:00 a.m. and the worship service will be at 10:00 a.m. in the old gym. This is an opportunity to hear about the missionary efforts of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod from a man who is on the front lines of equipping, financing and sending men and women to the corners of the Earth to spread the good news of the Word of God.

 Hebrews 10:25 states, “And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.” Mission Festival is a chance for all of us to come together to worship and learn together. The area LCMS churches will be canceling their own individual services in order for all of us to be together. The temptation is to see this weekend as an excuse to stay home or not meet together because it’s a different or foreign worship setting or because it’s a different kind of service with a different kind of preacher. These are sinful and man made excuses. We all should see this as the wonderful opportunity for fellowship as brothers and sisters in Christ.

 Let us not neglect our meeting together, no matter how tempting it may be to stay home. Come to Bible Study, hear God’s Word preached by the special guest preacher. Come and receive not because you have to, but you get to hear this wonderful message and above everything else, hear God’s Word and have your faith strengthened. I’ll see you there!