

American Lutheran Church

July 2026



1512 Avenue G Gothzenburg, NC 69138 308-537-3433 office@aleg.org

WORD OF LIFE

Sunday Lessons in July for your devotions



July 5

6th Sunday after Pentecost

Zechariah 9:9-12

Psalms 145:8-14

Romans 7:15-25a

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

July 12

7th Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 55:10-13

Psalms 65:1-13

Romans 8:1-11

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

July 19

8th Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 44:6-8

Psalms 86:11-17

Romans 8:12-25

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

July 26

9th Sunday after Pentecost

1 Kings 3:5-12

Psalms 119:129-136

Romans 8:26-39

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52





Congregation Council
Meeting
June 9, 2026 7:00 pm

Present: **Pastor:** Doug
Hjelmstad, **President:**
Amanda Rossell, **Vice-**

President/Memorial: Kevin Boyd, **Secretary:**
Tammy McMichael; **Treasurer:** Maddie
Rosse, **Hospitality & Outreach:** Angie
Mannel, **Music & Worship:** Ernie Blecha,
Property: Glenn Finke, **Stewardship:** Kara
Kreis.

Amanda opened the meeting with devotions
referring to Jeremiah 44. The emphasis being
that our focus should be on pleasing God.
Are we open and willing to obey Him and
seek His pleasure? We should follow God's
call regardless of the circumstances or
reasons involved.

Minutes:

The May 12, 2026 minutes were reviewed. A
motion to approve the minutes was made by
Kara Kreis and seconded by Angie Mannel.
The motion carried.

Meeting minutes will be sent to council
members prior to council meetings for
review.

Treasurer's Report:

The May monthly report was reviewed.
All expenses remain consistent and all
routine bills have been paid.
Special Offering funds will go to L2 For Kids.
The quarterly report will be reviewed next
month.

Pastor's Report:

There will be a service to welcome new

members into American Lutheran Church on
Sunday, June 21, 2026.

The seasonal bulletins are working well, and
paper expenses have decreased.

Pastor assisted with funerals and baptisms
this month.

Pastor will attend a retreat at the St.
Benedict Center in Schuyler at the end of
July.

Hospitality & Outreach:

A church service will be held at the Park
Pavillion on Sunday, August 30, 2026,
followed by a potluck dinner. Hamburgers
and hotdogs will be furnished. Everyone is
welcome to attend and bring a side dish to
share.

Conversations continue with the Progressive
Supper on October 17, 2026.

A cookie social will be held during Linger
Longer after church service on Sunday,
December 20, 2026.

Youth & Family:

No report.

Music & Worship:

A community concert will be held at ALC on
July 3, 2026, celebrating the 250th birthday of
the United States. All community members
who are interested in participating are
welcome.

New paraments have arrived and have been
placed on the altar.

Property:

A survey for parking stall placement along
the east side of the south parsonage has
been completed.

The council discussed the two flagpoles located outside the church, including the cost of the flags and the frequency with which they need to be replaced. The discussion will continue at the next meeting.

Representatives from the local police department and sheriff's department have been contacted regarding safety measures at ALC. They suggested conducting a walkthrough of the church to assess security needs. Potential improvements could include updated fire-exit signage and maps, a monitor displaying hallway activity, and more secure methods for collecting and safeguarding offering envelopes during worship services.

Stewardship:

Participants in the Synod Assembly held May 29–31, 2026, reported that it was both informative and enjoyable. They recommend that representatives from Midland Lutheran College attend an ALC worship service during Mission Festival to share information about the college with the congregation.

No feedback has been received regarding the food pantry grant to date.

Parish Education:

No Report.

Memorial:

The Cover Fund CD and the Memorial Money CD have been renewed as discussed at the last meeting.

Continuing Business:

Yanda's Music is scheduled to visit on Thursday, June 11, 2026, to review and make recommendations regarding the streaming and sound system.

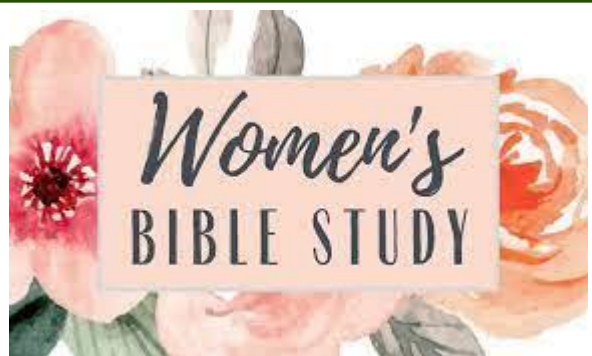
Discussion continues regarding the sale of the

south parsonage. This includes a walkthrough of the property once the renters have moved out to assess needed repairs, including the condition of the cement steps leading into the house, obtaining legal assistance to secure the property title, and the possible formation of a subgroup to assist with the sale of the property. These discussions will continue. Discussion continues regarding strategies to assist Pastor Doug in reducing his workload, including support for Wednesday evening activities such as confirmation classes, as well as the Lutheran Youth program and the Youth and Family Committee.

The meeting closed at 8:10 pm with The Lord's Prayer.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, July 21, 2026 at 7:00 pm.

Tammy McMichael, Secretary



*Due to the holiday weekend,
Women's Bible Study will
be held Monday, July 13th
at 7 p.m.*



Don't miss this inspirational celebration! Patriotic selections sung by 65+ members of the Gothenburg area community choir, music including high school groups, piano/organ duets, two 2 piano/8-hands selections, and trumpet and flute accompaniment will be included! God bless America and long live the music that binds us together.

Prayer Requests

Remember in Prayer: Members: Gail Block, Elsie Cyriacks, Pam Gage, Jim Gonzales, Judy Hicken, Dennis McCain, Lavonne Werkmeister;

Family & Friends of Members: Lori Edwards, Chad Fuller, Kristy Henn, Rich Hillan, Mairik Holbein, Darcy Lenz, Arlan Ronnekamp, Shirley Stombaugh, Sabrina T., Chuck Taylor, Reese Tucker;

Service Members: Johanna Keiser, Brandon Reinke, Maggie Trenkle.

If you or a family member are ill or in the hospital, let us know so Pastor Doug can visit you and include you in our prayers or if a family member is on the prayer list and you feel that they no longer need to be included in them, please call the office at 537-3433.

Seeds Planted Long Ago Still Grow

“Let us not grow weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.” — Galatians 6:9

July always invites us to pause and reflect. The fields around us are green, the days are long, and the seeds planted months ago are beginning to reveal the promise of a harvest yet to come. Farming teaches us something important about faith: we rarely see the results of our work immediately. We plant. We nurture. We wait. We trust.

This July, our nation celebrates 250 years since the signing of the Declaration of Independence. For two and a half centuries, churches across America have stood alongside communities through seasons of abundance and seasons of hardship. Churches have celebrated births and marriages, comforted families through loss, fed neighbors in need, educated children, and reminded generations that our greatest responsibility is not only to ourselves — but to one another.

Our country has never been perfect. Throughout our history, Americans have faced disagreement, division, uncertainty, and change. We find ourselves in another one of those challenging seasons today. Many people are weary from the noise of the world around us and wonder how we move forward together.

Perhaps the answer is found in the same wisdom farmers have always known: you cannot harvest what you do not plant.

If we want kindness, we must plant kindness.

If we want understanding, we must plant patience.

If we want a stronger community, we must plant service.

Jesus did not call us to agree on everything. He called us to love one another.

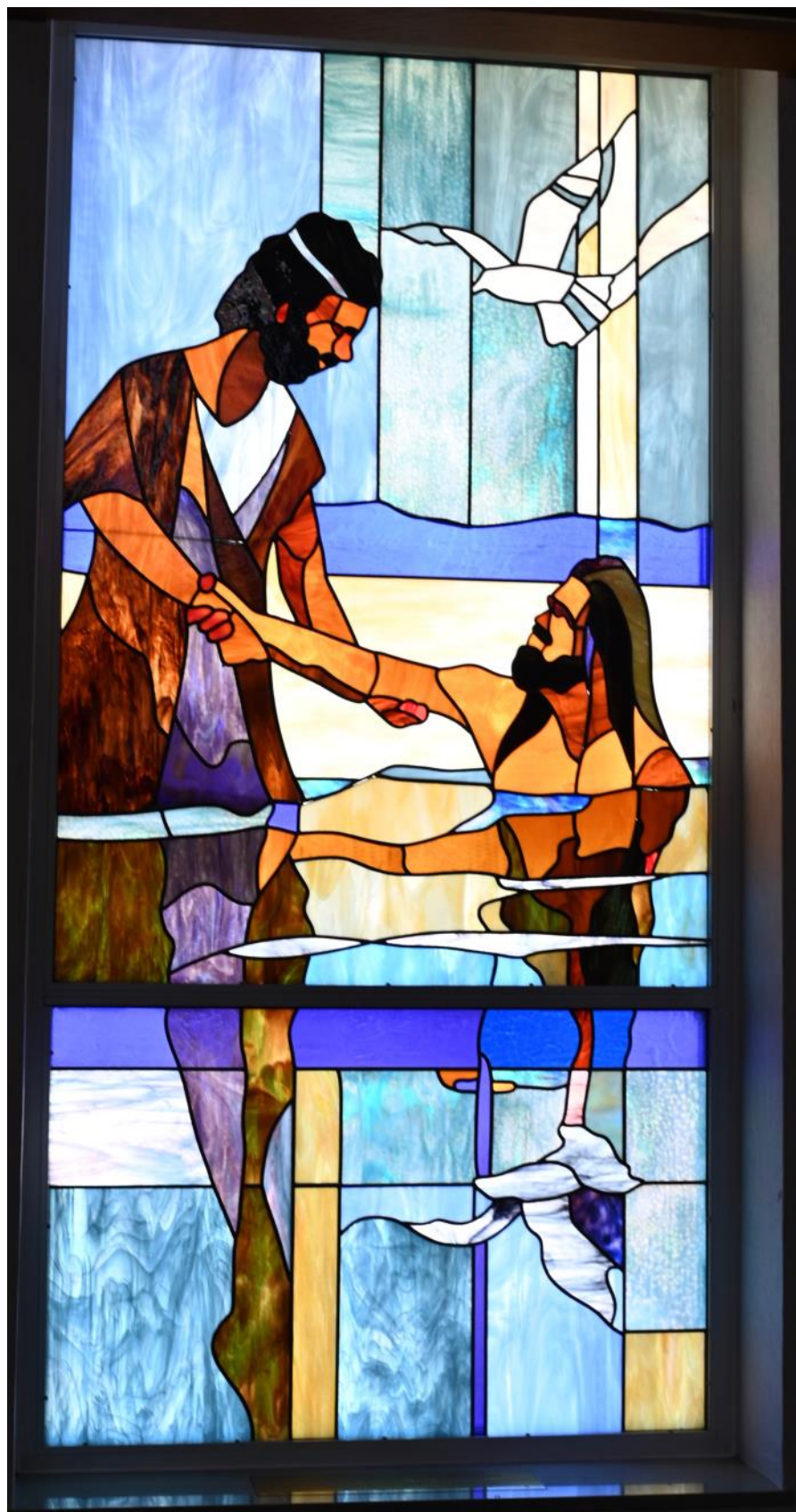
As we celebrate our nation’s anniversary, let us give thanks for those who came before us — the farmers, teachers, builders, parents, pastors, and neighbors who planted seeds they would never personally harvest. They built churches and communities because they believed future generations mattered.

Now it is our turn.

May we continue planting seeds of faith, hope, and love — trusting that God will bring the harvest in His time.

~ Tom Gosinski

Did You Know?



Of the six main windows along the east aisle of American Lutheran Church, the third one is for the season of Epiphany. In the German immigrant church tradition (and in most European churches) it was a common practice to tie Epiphany to the story of the magi ("wise men") and the star of Bethlehem. That remains as the primary reading for January 6, the Day of Epiphany, each year.

Beginning in the 20th century, however, the liturgical calendar was updated and the First Sunday *after* January 6 is now always commemorated as "The Baptism of our Lord." This is the event which is pictured in our Epiphany season window.

Continued on next page

How did January 6 come to be Epiphany, a church holiday? The answer is a little complicated, but it is helpful to know some of the various influences that shape our yearly worship calendar. Some Christian holidays reference Jewish traditions. For example, Pentecost is 50 days after Passover, as we see in the story in Acts 1-2. Other holidays, however, are related to diverse cultural traditions. In the case of Epiphany, we know that January 6 was celebrated as the winter solstice in Egypt (even though that is more than two weeks later than the actual astronomical date for the solstice). January 6 was observed as the appearance of the “sun-god” in the Nile River delta.

Eventually, over the decades and centuries, Christians found this January 6 date to be an opportune time to celebrate the epiphany of Jesus as the appearance of the Christ on earth. In fact, in the New Testament the Greek word epiphaneia is used specifically for the appearance or manifestation of the Son of God.

As John the Baptizer attests in John 1:31, “I came baptizing with water for this reason, that [Jesus] might be manifest to Israel.” The Greek word here translated as “manifest” is phanerothe (a verbal from of the root word for epiphany).

Notice three or four primary images in our art glass window. There is John the Baptist, who was sent by God to baptize and to proclaim God’s reign. He lifts up Jesus, who takes up the task of proclaiming God’s kingdom and fully identifies with us by entering the waters of repentance in his baptism. There is the dove, representing God’s gift and presence in the Holy Spirit (descending on the Christ and upon us as God’s children). And there is the water, the physical and symbolic medium of cleansing and new life. Epiphany: as a familiar hymn declares, the season of “God in flesh made manifest.”

Steve Berke

Special Offering for July is Lutheran Campus Ministry (LuMin)

During the month of July we will be collecting funds for Lutheran Campus Ministry. Their mission is to inspire, connect, equip campus ministry practitioners to transform the world through God’s abundant grace. LuMin celebrates the ELCA’s partnerships with other traditions and welcomes people from a variety of faith backgrounds. They celebrate God’s love and grace on or near the campuses of over 230 colleges and universities across the United States. In Nebraska those campuses are: Chadron State College, Creighton University, Southeast Community College in Beatrice, UNK, UNL, Wayne State College, and campuses in the greater Omaha area.



July Birthdays & Anniversaries

Happy Birthday

- 1 Jim Aden
Elsie Cyriacks
Chad Schmielt
- 3 Wendy Walker
Lisa (Shane) Geiken
- 4 Ross Ristine
- 5 Sophia Aden
- 8 Trevor Franzen
- 9 Bryn Schlake
Teegan Stevens
- 11 Hailey Steuben
- 12 Olivia Jorgenson
- 13 Jordan Haake
Sandy (Josh) Jobman
Dominic Long
Gretta McKim
Roger Wahlgren
- 14 Amber Brown
- 16 Mariann Boyd
Bob Hicken
Rick Putnam
Raymond Warner
Allen Weidman
- 17 Breck Jobman
Madison Rosse

- 18 Ezekiel Colwell
- 19 Bella Sabin
- 20 Brecklynn Brown
- 21 Kami Brandt
Katlin Harm
Korrine Olson
- 22 Riley Ostendorf
- 23 Hudson McNally
- 24 Heath Keiser
Renee Hansen
- 25 James Brian
- 26 Treyton Hillius
- 27 Bob Ronnekamp
- 29 Jacob Rosse
Drew Tonniges
- 29 Makayla Franzen

Anniversaries

- 1 Kevin & Mariann Boyd
Matt & Gretchen Philpot
- 5 Scott & Sheila Hillius
Sam & Madeline Aden
- 8 Corey & Amanda Rossell
- 11 Glenn & Sue Finke
- 12 Ken & Nancy Christensen
Scott & Rhonda Russman
- 14 Bob & Barb Hicken
- 15 TJ & Ashleigh Brown
- 22 Tyic & Blayre Miller
- 23 Jon & Heather Blecha
- 25 Jason & Alisa Keiser
- 27 Kurt & Brooke Stevens
- 28 Doug & Vickie Keiser
- 29 Dustin & Jordan Ehlers

Sunday Volunteers

Acolytes

July 5 - Fletcher Grabenstein
July 12 - Eli Erb
July 19 - Alec Wagner
July 26 - Hadley Ostergard
August 2 - Cooper Roth

Ushers -

July 5 - Kevin Boyd, Kurt Stevens
July 12 - Glenn & Sue Finke
July 19 - Amanda & Corey Rossell
July 26 - Joyce Hudson, Elaine Keiser
August 2 - Carolyn Hicken, Pat Jobman

Communion Assistants -

July 5 - Kendra Boyd, Carolyn Hicken,
Tammy McMichael
July 12 - Scott & Jackie France, Will Rahjes
July 19 - Macy Finke, Randy & Cressy
Rossell
July 26 - Connie Dalrymple, Craig &
Mary Finke
August 2 - TJ & Ashleigh Brown, Rick Zarek

Reader -

July 5 - Linda Rodine
July 12 - Darla Schlake
July 19 - Lisa Wagner
July 26 - Logan Feather
August 2 - Kathy Graff

Welcome Center Host -

July 5 - Marlene Fiese
July 12 - Lisa Bihlmaier
July 19 - Jan Blecha
July 26 - Lori Long
August 2 - Barb Hicken

Greeters -

July 5 - Jonie Birnie, Larry Franzen
July 12 - Kara Kreis, Lori Long
July 19 - Corey & Keri Roth
July 26 - Joe & Carol Keiser
August 2 - Amanda & Corey Rossell

Sound -

July 5 - Eldon Rodine
July 12 - Cressy Rossell
July 19 - Kurt Stevens
July 26 - Scott Aden
August 2 - Eldon Rodine

Offering Counters -

June - Linda Rodine
July - Marci Ostergard

Communion Bread -

July 5 - Carolyn Hicken
July 12 - Lori Johnson-Berke
July 19 - Kathleen Stubbe
July 26 - Tom Gosinski
August 2 - Carol Wahlgren

Communion Support Person-

July 5 - Marci Ostergard
July 12 - Macy Finke
July 19 - Linda Rodine
July 26 - Kendra Boyd
August 2 - Scout Bell

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
July 2026						
5 9a Property 10a Service of Holy Communion 11a Linger Longer	6	7	1	2	3	4
		5p Music & worship 7p Congregational Council	7p Choir practice		5p America's 250th Concert	
12 10a Service of Holy Communion 11a Linger Longer	13 1:15p Communion at Stone Hearth 7p Women's Bible Study	14	15	16	17	18
19 10a Service of Holy Communion 11a Linger Longer	20	21	22	23 8:30a Quilters	24	25
26 10a Service of Holy Communion 11a Linger Longer	27	28	29	30	31	<i>The former Salem Lutheran Church of St. Francis, KS</i>