



August 2026

American Lutheran Church

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

WORD OF LIFE

Sunday Lessons in August for your devotions



August 2
10th Sunday after Pentecost
Isaiah 55:1-5
Psalms 145:8-9, 14-21
Romans 9:1-5
Matthew 14:13-21

August 9
11th Sunday after Pentecost
1 Kings 19:9-18
Psalms 85:8-13
Romans 10:5-15
Matthew 14:22-33

August 9
12th Sunday after Pentecost
Isaiah 56:1, 6-8
Psalms 67
Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32
Matthew 15:10-28

August 23
13th Sunday after Pentecost
Isaiah 51:1-6
Psalms 138
Romans 12:1-8
Matthew 16:13-20

August 30
14th Sunday after Pentecost
Jeremiah 15:15-21
Psalms 26:1-8
Romans 12:9-21
Matthew 16:21-28

«Route »
 «Last Name», «First Name»
 «Street»

 «City», «State» «Zip»





Congregation Council
Meeting
July 21, 2026 7:00 pm

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

President/Memorial: Kevin Boyd,
Secretary: Tammy McMichael,
Treasurer: Maddie Rosse, **Hospitality &
Outreach:** Barb Hicken, **Youth & Family:**
Stacy Anderson, **Music & Worship:** Ernie
Blecha, **Property:** Glenn Finke,
Stewardship: Kara Kreis, **Parish Education:**
Erica Johnson

Pastor Doug opened the meeting with
discussion regarding the authority of
the Bible, how do we read the Bible and
what is our relationship with the Bible and
scriptures.

Congregational Open Comments:
No comments

Minutes:
The June 9, 2026, minutes were reviewed. A
motion to approve the minutes was made by
Kevin and seconded by Glenn. The motion
carried.

Treasurer's Report:
The June monthly report was reviewed.
All expenses remain consistent, and all
routine bills have been paid.
Platte Valley Glass was paid \$1,700.00 for
repair of the Sunday School room windows.
Special offering funds will go to the Food
Pantry.

The April through March 2026 quarterly
report was reviewed.

Pastor's Report:

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

Pastor will be attending a retreat at the
St. Benedict Center in Schuyler at the end of
July. Pastor Berke will be covering the
Sunday, August 2, 2026 church service.

Representatives from Midland Lutheran
College will visit ALC during Mission Festival
to share information about the college with
the congregation. Mission Festival
is November 8, 2026.

Hospitality & Outreach:

Discussed the upcoming Park Pavillion
service and potluck dinner.

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

The Progressive Supper is on hold at this
time.

Youth & Family:

The church will be sponsoring a Pool Party
on Wednesday, July 29th 8:00 -10:00 pm.
Congregation members and friends are
invited to attend. Root beer floats and water
bottles will be available. The Youth kickoff
will be on Wednesday, September 9, 2026.

Music & Worship:

What a great turnout for the 4th of July community concert in celebration of the 250th birthday of the United States.

Property:

There was a good turnout for the cemetery mowing. We need people to assist in lawn mowing at the church and the north parsonage.

The storage shed at the south parsonage has been removed.

Stewardship:

No report.

Parish Education:

Erica has been working on Sunday School lesson plans for the upcoming year. Sunday School will start on Sunday, September 27, 2026 and will be held in the rooms that were previously used for preschool class.

Memorial:

The Cover Fund CD and the Memorial Money CD were renewed. They will be re-evaluated in three months.

ALC received memorial money from the Brock and Ronnekamp families.

Discussion Items/Continuing Business:

Approved the use of the fellowship hall during Harvest Festival on September 19, 2026.

The two flag poles located outside the church

will remain as they are. There have been congregation members who have volunteered to replace the flags when needed.

Aaron has been in contact with Yanda's music regarding the church's streaming and sound system. It was motioned by Erica and seconded by Kara that we accept Yanda's estimate of \$20,000—including a 10% leeway equaling \$22,000—with a Motion carried.

The council members walked through and assessed the south parsonage.

The Executive and Stewardship committees are responsible for coffee in August.

The meeting closed at 8:17 pm with the Lord's Prayer.

Next meeting will be Tuesday, August 11, 2026, at 7:00 pm.

Tammy McMichael, Secretary

Thank you to Pastor Doug for use of the all the flower pictures in this month's newsletter, as well as pictures of the stained glass windows in the sanctuary.

Mark your calendars...

The ALC Social is coming
back!!



When: August 30th at 10am

(reminder to bring a chair)

Where: Lafayette Park Pavilion

(315 27th Street)

What: We will have our church service on the lawn of the pavilion or inside depending on weather, followed by lunch and games for all ages!



**Hamburger and hotdogs will be
provided so please bring chips, your
favorite side dish or dessert.**

Things to think about bringing:

A lawn chair- (we hope to worship outside on the lawn)

A towel or perhaps a spare change of clothes in case
you get involved with any water activities

Your playful nature- there will be games for all ages!

Your favorite indoor or outdoor game. Ex. Cards,
board games, lawn games. There will be some
games available.



Did You Know?

In the window for Lent, the cross looms over the season as both Jesus' destiny and our calling. The Roman soldier portrayed on the left reminds us that Jesus was executed as a rebel, a disturber of the peace. In the Roman empire the penalty of crucifixion was primarily reserved for those who were accused of insurrection. We follow the one whose "kingship" was a threat to the status quo and the "powers that be." The purple robe and the crown of thorns were intended to ridicule Jesus, but in the gospels they reveal the deeper truth of the Christ's royal identity.

Lent is the forty-day period before Easter, and many themes of Lent have developed over the millennia of church history. As far back as the 4th century, Lent was a time of instruction (catechesis) for people who were preparing to be baptized at Easter. This theme has been renewed in the wider church over the past few decades. More generally, we have again begun to think of Lent as a time of growing and learning (during the lengthening of the days leading up to spring). In my youth Lent was characterized by a strong emphasis on confession and forgiveness and hearing extended readings about Jesus' passion. In more recent years many Lutheran churches observe Lent with midweek services of Evening Prayer and other varied dimensions of prayer and worship and music.

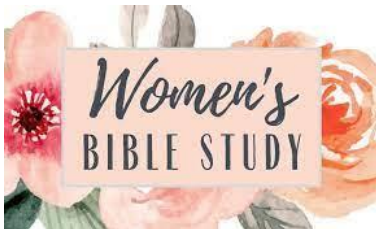


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The Lenten window of American Lutheran Church highlights the integral connection between Jesus' death and resurrection and our calling as disciples. The cross is not a sentimental story about the past, but rather a living symbol that shapes our existence. One of the readings for the second Sunday of Lent (Year B) is from Mark 8. There Jesus says, "If any want to follow behind me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it" (vv. 34-35). "Following behind Jesus" is our calling. In fact, in Mark's gospel there are three key sayings of Jesus announcing his impending suffering, death, and resurrection. Each of these three proclamations is immediately paired with words of Jesus *calling* disciples to serve and to follow in his path.

This laser focus on discipleship is also implied in the portrayal of the two women in our Lenten window. Mark's gospel reports that when Jesus was arrested, disciples such as Peter, James, and John all forsook him and fled. But there were other disciples—female followers—who had been with Jesus all along the way, and who were bravely present to watch attentively at the scene of his cross, burial, and resurrection. "These used to follow him and provided for him when he was in Galilee, and there were many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem" (15:41). The image in the window asks us to reflect that courage and steadfastness as we hear the call to follow and to serve.

Steve Berke



*Women's Bible Study in August will
be on Monday, the 10th at 7 p.m.*

Prayer Requests

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

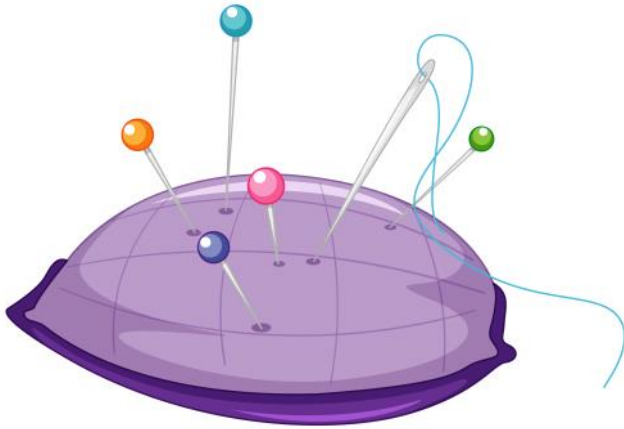
Family & Friends of Members: Lori Edwards, Chad Fuller, Abbie Hall, Jim Haver, Kristy Henn, Rich Hillan, Darcy Lenz, Shirley Stombaugh, Sabrina T., Chuck Taylor, Reese Tucker;

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

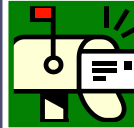
If you or a family member are ill or in the hospital, let us know so Pastor Doug can visit you and include you in our prayers or if a family member is on the prayer list and you feel that they no longer need to be included in them, please call the office at 537-3433.

Pictures from "Salute to America" concert on July 3rd





The ALC Quilters are in need of some funds to purchase supplies like batting, backing, etc. They meet every month, except November and December, on the 4th Thursday at 8:30 a.m. Anyone is welcome to join them. Quilts are given to graduating seniors and the remainder are donated to area charities. Donations can be given to a quilter, to the office, or mark on your offering that it is for the Quilters.



ALC Mailbox

From L2 for Kids:

Dear Pastor Doug and American Lutheran members,

Thanks you for your generous May special offering of \$270.00 to L2 for Kids in Gothenburg. In 2025, 74 children of 32 families purchased their own new school clothing. This donation will be used to help Gothenburg children purchase their own new school clothing for 2026-2027.

It's so important that kids feel good about themselves. We really appreciate your continued financial support throughout the year.

Sincerely,

Henry Potter



Special Offering for August is NE Lutheran Outdoor Ministries (NELOM)

Nebraska Lutheran Outdoor Ministries offer significant experiences that: provide a safe, welcoming introduction to the Christian faith, increase the relevance of faith in one's daily life, and promote community-building. At NLOM, in places set apart, we live out faith in ways that show everyone they belong and are unconditionally loved by God. Camp Carol Joy Holling is located on 317 acres outside of Ashland, NE and Sullivan Hills Camp is on 640 acres north of Lodgepole, NE. Sullivan Hills has recently renovated their pond so campers can fish and kayak.

Growing Season

As we move from July into August, we find ourselves in that familiar Nebraska space between promise and harvest. The crops are still growing. The pivots are still turning. The heat still matters. The rain still matters. The care given now will shape what is gathered later.

And yet, every farmer knows that a growing crop is still a vulnerable crop. Hail can come. Wind can flatten what looked strong. Torrential rains can damage what had been carefully tended. Until the harvest is gathered, nothing is guaranteed.

That is not a bad image for the life of faith.

Our faith can be vulnerable, too. It can be bruised by disappointment, weakened by grief, shaken by illness, strained by conflict, or worn down by fear. Like a growing crop, faith needs tending. It needs the steady watering of God's Word, the warmth of Christian fellowship, the nourishment of prayer, and the deep roots of trust in Christ.

We are not finished products. Neither is the church. God is still growing something in us. Day by day, season by season, He continues His work of shaping us into the people He has called us to be.

The Apostle Paul reminds us:

"And I am sure of this, that He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ."

— **Philippians 1:6**

And Isaiah offers this promise:

"You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail."

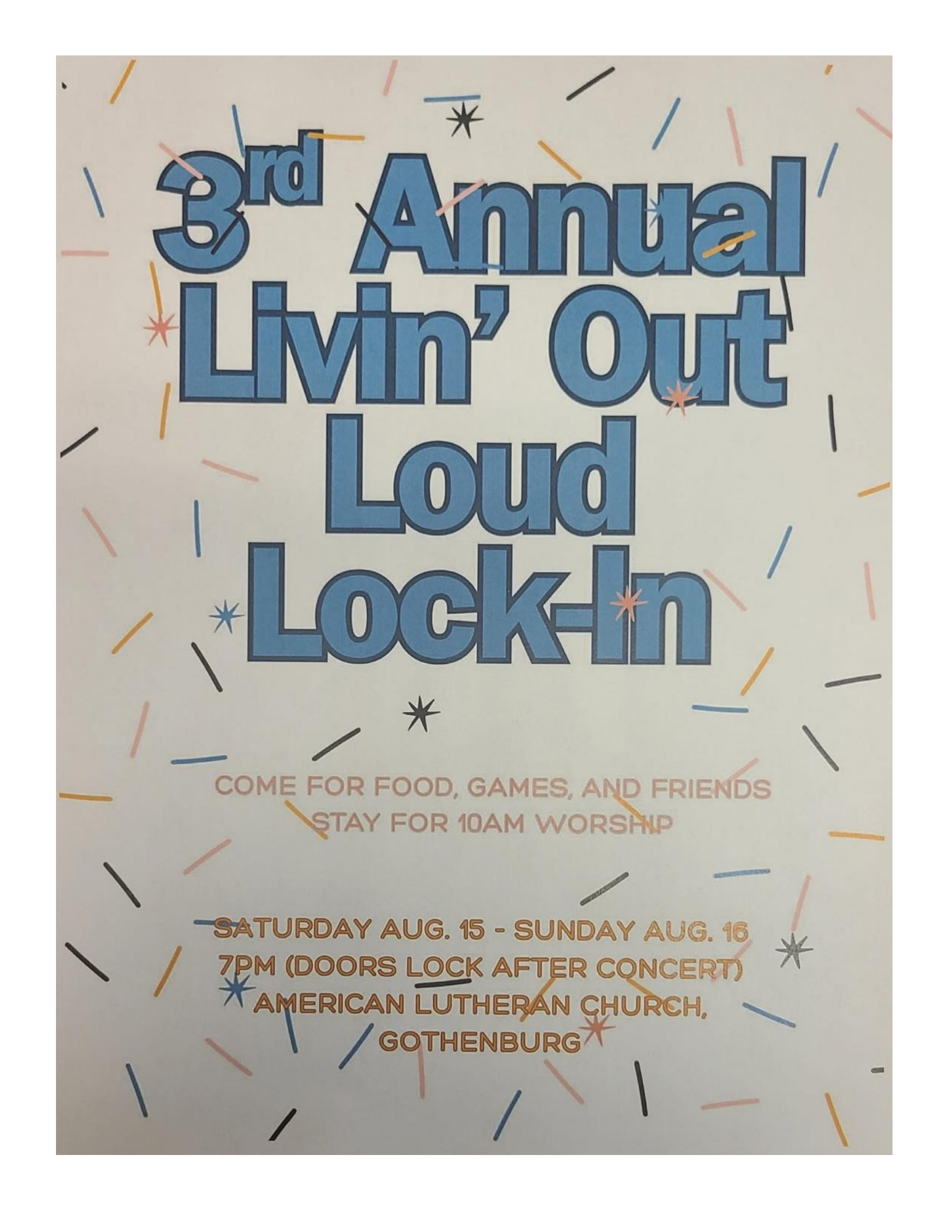
— **Isaiah 58:11**

The world offers plenty of reasons to become discouraged. We cannot control the storms that come our way, but we can decide where we place our trust. Our confidence is not in favorable circumstances, but in the faithfulness of God.

As summer moves toward autumn, may we continue to care for the faith God has planted within us. Worship faithfully. Pray often. Read the Scriptures. Encourage one another. Serve generously. In doing so, we become part of the harvest God is already preparing.

May God continue to bless you and our congregation during this growing season.

~ Tom Gosinski

The background of the entire poster is a light beige color, decorated with a dense pattern of small, colorful confetti. The confetti consists of short, thin lines in shades of blue, orange, and black, as well as small, multi-pointed star shapes in blue, orange, and black. The main title is written in a large, bold, blue font with a thick black outline. The text is arranged in four lines: '3rd Annual', 'Livin' Out', 'Loud', and 'Lock-In'.

3rd Annual Livin' Out Loud Lock-In

COME FOR FOOD, GAMES, AND FRIENDS
STAY FOR 10AM WORSHIP

SATURDAY AUG. 15 - SUNDAY AUG. 16
7PM (DOORS LOCK AFTER CONCERT)
AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH,
GOTHENBURG



The planning has started. The **2027 Youth Gathering is in Minneapolis**. This trip is for current 8th-12th graders. Please let Cressy know if you are wanting to go. We have some fun fundraisers planned to help with costs. There will be an informational meeting on **August 15th at 2:00 pm**. We hope to see everyone there.

Attention “Seniors “ and “Singles”

Put August 22nd on your calendar! We will be having a Saturday afternoon movie matinee in the chapel room. Get out of the heat and enjoy the movie with cold drinks, popcorn, and sweets. We will meet at 2:30 p.m.



The renters have moved out of the South Parsonage at 1507 Avenue F. **The Council is ready to sell the property. We are allowing members of our congregation the opportunity to purchase the property before it is listed with a realtor. To do so, we are holding a silent auction during August. Bidding will close on Monday, August 31 at 4:00 pm.** Members of our congregation may record their bids with Lisa in the church office. Bidders can have full knowledge of each bid recorded. Our minimum bid is \$110,000. ALC will cover all closing costs. Lisa can lend a key to anyone who wants to see the house. If there are no bids, we will then list the home with a realtor with an asking price of \$130,000.

August Birthdays & Anniversaries

Happy Birthday

- 1 Laurie Brown
Erica Johnson
Colton May
Tammy McMichael
Jan Neujahr
- 2 Dane Ehlers
- 4 Cecile Ackerman
Braelen Rossell
- 5 Landen Haake
Dylan Hite
- 6 Meredith Blake
Chantelle Krepcik
- 7 Connie Bihlmaier
Andy Jobman
Karl Randecker
- 8 Madelyn Keiser
Adam Kitzing
Emilia Mahrt
- 9 Patti Aden
Oakley Magnuson
- 10 Joyce Kolbo
Dana Kreis
Derek Thompson
- 11 Jonathan Blecha
Bonnie Block
Brinlye Brock
Blake Finke
Robby France
- 12 Natalie Hengen
- 13 Alyssa Holt
Gemmia Theasmeyer
- 14 Eric Evenson
Anne Franzen
Tyson Miller
Jace Russman
Pat Zarek
- 15 Gwen Gundell
Melissa Walker

- 17 Kelly Brian
Randy Rossell
- 19 Larry Schledewitz
- 20 Robyn Favinger
Taton McNew
- 21 Lichelle Aden
Eldon Rodine
Charlea Svoboda
- 22 Keri Roth
Sharise Scherer
- 23 Evelyn Franzen
- 25 Aubrey Erb
- 26 Jim Gonzales
Trenton Long
Johanna Zarek
- 27 Madison Gilg
- 28 JD Dalrymple
Braden Ehlers
- 30 Scott Russman
Lisa Wagner
Hanna Wolf
Taylor Wolf
- 31 Elaine Keiser
Jeff Neujahr
Kent Schlake

Anniversaries

- 1 Ernie & Jan Blecha
Dustin & Kendi Olson
- 3 Roger & Jan Neujahr
- 4 Brock & Stacy Anderson
- 5 Shawn & Kendra Boyd
Joe & Angie Richeson
- 7 Garth & Maria Andersen
Tyson & Shelby Miller
- 8 Trent & Misty Schlake
- 9 Mike & Erica Johnson
- 20 Ted & Diane Gaudreault
- 25 Trent & Haley Good
- 29 Robby & Devyn France

**Acolytes -**

August 2 - Cooper Roth
August 9 - Blake Brown, Jay Bell
August 16 - Fletcher Grabenstein
August 23 - Hadley Ostergard, Grace Hengen
September 6 - Gretta McKim

Ushers -

August 2 - Carolyn Hicken, Pat Jobman
August 9 - Connie Stevens, Kurt Stevens
August 16 - Lloyd Hicken, Dave Keiser
August 23 - Ken Christensen,
Bob Ronnekamp
August 30 - Amanda & Corey Rossell
September 6 - Noel & Joni Jacobsen

Communion Assistants -

August 2 - TJ & Ashleigh Brown, Rick Zarek
August 9 - Kevin Boyd, LaMonte Schlake,
Lisa Wagner
August 16 - Scott & Jackie France,
Kim Kitzing
August 23 - Kendra Boyd, Connie Dalrymple
Macy Finke
September 6 - Randy & Cressy Rossell,
Tammy McMichael

Reader -

August 2 - Kathy Graff
August 9 - Mary Finke
August 16 - Tim Franzen

August 23 - Jo Fuller
August 30 - Melissa Bell
September 6 - Kendra Boyd

Welcome Center Host -

August 2 - Lori Long
August 9 - Elaine Keiser
August 16 - Jonie Birnie
August 23 - Marlene Fiese
September 6 - Jena Rahjes

Greeters -

August 2 - Amanda & Corey Rossell
August 9 - Dan & Sharise Scherer
August 16 - Erica Johnson & family
August 23 - Larry & Sue Schledewitz
September 6 - Jonie Birnie, Larry Franzen

Sound -

August 2 - Eldon Rodine
August 9 - Cressy Rossell
August 16 - Kurt Stevens
August 23 - Scott Aden
September 6 - Eldon Rodine

Offering Counters -

August - Ernie & Jan Blecha

Communion Bread -

August 2 - Carol Wahlgren
August 9 - Michele Warner
August 16 - Carolyn Hicken
August 23 - Karan Smith
September 6 - Joni Jacobsen

Communion Support Person-

August 2 - Scout Bell
August 9 - Della Hengen
August 16 - Marci Ostergard
August 23 - Kya Roth
September 6 - Linda Rodine

August 30th service will be at Lafayette Park Pavilion.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<i>August 2026</i>						
2 9a Property 10a Service of Holy Communion 11a Linger Longer	3	4	5	6	7	8
9 10a Service of Holy Communion 11a Linger Longer	10 1:15p Communion at Stone Hearth 7p Women's Bible Study	11 5p Music & worship 7p Congregational Council	12	13	14	15
16 10a Service of Holy Communion 11a Linger Longer	17	18	19	20	21	22 Seniors & Singles 2:30p Matinee
23 10a Service of Holy Communion 11a Linger Longer 30 10a Service of the Word @ Lafayette Park	24 1:15p Communion at Stone Hearth 31	25	26	27 8:30a Quilters	28	29