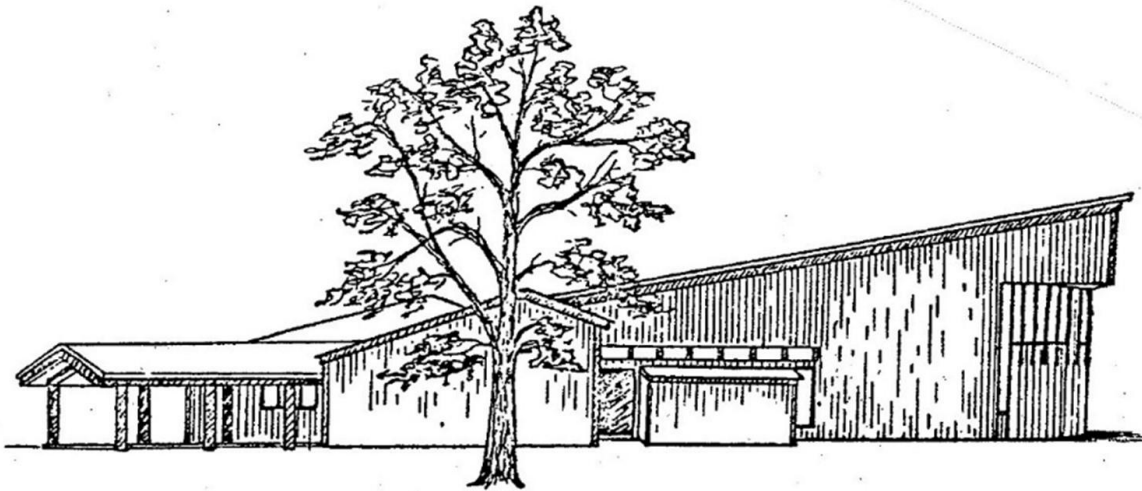


Reflections of Faith -- July 2025



FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL



"As we GROW in Christ's Love and the Word, we will SHARE Christ's Love with the World."

4009 Irving St. Marinette, WI 54143– Member LCMS

CHURCH : (715) 735-6506
PRESCHOOL : (715) 735-9903

marinettefaithlutheran@gmail.com
flpmarinette@gmail.com

www.faithmarinette.org

FAITH LUTHERAN STAFF

Officiant : Rev. James Krueger
revjfk@hotmail.com
989.293.5335

Pastor 'office hours' for July & August :
(Monday – Thursday) – *may be subject to change*:

- Days with no evening meetings or events:
7:00am --> 1:00pm
- Days with evening meetings or events:
1:00pm --> end of mtg or event

Administrative Assistant : Lynn Smith
marinettefaithlutheran@gmail.com
715.735.6506

Church office hours for July & August :
may be subject to change

- Monday – Thursday 7:00am --> 1:00pm
- Friday 7:00am --> 12:00pm

Preschool Director / Teacher : Kat Ehlers
Assistant Teacher : Taylor Grant
flpmarinette@gmail.com
715.732.9903

FAITH LUTHERAN COUNCIL

President : Jim Zill
jzill@new.rr.com
907.654.0123

Vice-President : Keith Mueller
keith.mueller1227@yahoo.com
920.621.0071

Financial Secretary : Lori Okrasinski
lori.okrasinski@gmail.com
715.927.6817

Secretary : Kelly Coan
kellycoan58@gmail.com
715.701.3374

Treasurer : Roxanne Mueller
roxanne.mueller@yahoo.com
920.366.1362

INSIDE OUR LATEST ISSUE

"2025 Summer Sermon Series	 pg. 3-4
"Birthday / Anniversary Fund"	 pg. 5-6
"A Good Word From Camp".	 pg. 7-9
"Red Cross Blood Drive"	 pg. 10
"VBS"	 pg. 10
"New Missionaries"	 pg. 11
"Becoming an Elder"	 pg. 12
"Stewardship in the Body of Christ".	 pg. 13-14
"Financial Summary"	 pg. 15
"Updating Information"	 pg. 15
"For Freedom"	 pg. 16
"Steingraber Chronicles"	 pg. 17-20
"Laird Family Update"	 pg. 21-22
"Time & Talents"	 pg. 23
"Calendar"	 pg. 24

WEEKLY

SUNDAY

- Worship Service 9:00am
- Fellowship Time 10:15am
- Bible Study 10:30am (September-May)
- Sunday School 10:30am (September-May)

WEDNESDAY

- Discipleship Class 6:00pm

THURSDAY

- Choir Practice 6:00pm (September-May)

2025 Summer Sermon Series – “Growing a Deeper Spiritual Relationship”

It is my hope and prayer that, through the summer sermon series, you are growing in your ‘spiritual relationship’ with the Lord God and His Son Jesus. If you have missed a Sunday because of travels or illness and are still in range of 103.7FM, please tune in at 9:00am and you can hear a sermon from a week or two earlier that might increase the growth of your spiritual relationship with our Father and Savior.

For those members who missed the ‘build up’ message in the June newsletter, please continue reading. Even if you read the following a month ago believe me, it is worth a ‘second read.’ In fact, ‘second takes’ of sermons, newsletter articles, Bible readings, and daily devotions are far more beneficial to our ongoing spiritual growth than anything from the world (radio, tv,

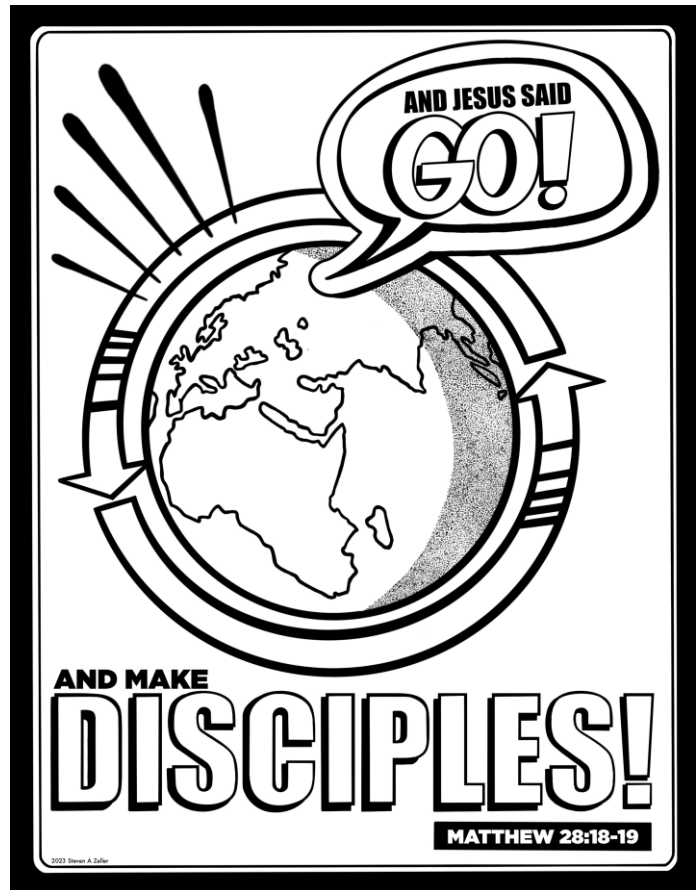
internet, etc) that only fills our mind and heart with little to nothing that can be called ‘godly’ and rarely if ever benefits our life-long journey of Christian growth.

In Matthew 28:18-19, Jesus called His disciples to “Go and make disciples of all nations.” Part of that ‘calling’ to discipleship is for followers of Jesus to teach others to obey everything Jesus commanded.

We know that this ‘teaching’ begins in the Christian home and extends to all family relationships (i.e., grandparents, aunts, uncles, Godparents, etc...). The Word of God (Bible) contains direct and unmistakable teachings on this subject, including:

Deuteronomy 6:5-7, “You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.”

Proverbs 22:6, “Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.”

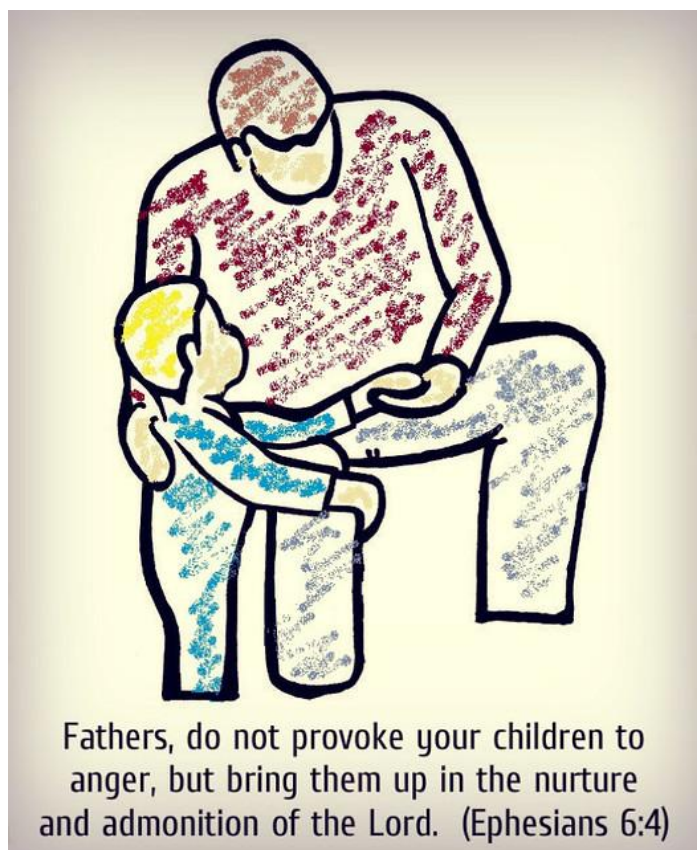


Ephesians 6:4, "Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord."

These 'callings' commit us to an ongoing lifestyle of both learning and teaching. There is never a time when we 'have arrived' and no longer need to learn or teach others about the reason for the hope that we have in Christ.

As 'followers of Jesus' we should be eager to learn AND teach while committing ourselves to a lifelong ethic of growing and learning as well.

We will grow that life-long journey this summer with a sermon series designed to deepen and strengthen our relationship with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.



We see so much value put into 'earthly' relationships / friendships / acquaintances, etc ..., but of so much greater and eternal value is how we commit to growing our spiritual relationship with the Triune God.

Matthew 6:21, "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

This SUMMER SERMON SERIES begins on June 1 – invite others to join us for the journey that brings us closer to each other and to our Triune God.



What it Takes to Grow Our Relationship with God

PRESCHOOL “Birthday / Anniversary Fund”

Keeping our preschool competitive one offering at a time.

Faith Lutheran Preschool is our ‘front door’ to the larger mission field that exists in the homes of our community and the communities around us. The precious lambs entrusted to our care present us with daily, weekly, and monthly opportunities to teach them about Jesus and His love for them.

After months of careful thought and planning by the members of Faith Lutheran’s Board of Education, the decision was made to offer both ‘half-day’ AND ‘full-day’ preschool classes beginning with the 2025-2026 school year.

Yes, we will continue facing the challenges of competing with other preschools and daycare facilities around us, but we have an opportunity as a congregational family to reduce the amount of tuition so that we become the ‘best Christian option’ in the area.

This is where you – the family of Faith Lutheran Church – have an opportunity to prayerfully consider participating in an extra gesture of financial support for our preschool.

The creation of the “Birthday / Anniversary Fund” provides a necessary and crucial element to keeping our preschool tuition at the most affordable rate in the area each year. Families of Faith Lutheran Church are encouraged to pray about this opportunity to participate in a program that directly impacts the availability and affordability of our preschool **starting with the 2026-2027 school year.**

Our preschool already has a ‘Scholarship Fund’ that is designed to provide financial assistance to families with ‘demonstrated need.’ **The “Birthday / Anniversary Fund”** is entirely different and exists only to reduce the annual tuition for all families who consider enrolling their children in our preschool.

Can we contribute ‘electronically’? YES, you can contribute ‘electronically’ if you so desire.

Directions for ‘electronic giving’ can be found on our Faith Lutheran website under the button titled “Give Now.” There are five tiles from which to choose – one of them is the “Birthday / Anniversary Fund” with options for you to choose how much and how often to make those transfers.

A separate fund with our bank has been set up that receives all the offerings that are received specifically for this program. The existence of a ‘special account’ ensures that these funds will not be siphoned away on ‘operational costs,’ but they are reserved for the specific purpose of reducing annual preschool tuition rates.

"Birthday / Anniversary Fund" envelopes are available in the spinning wheel on the table in the entryway for you to use to support this program (and others).

All you need to do is indicate on the envelope if your 'thank offering' is being given in honor of your birthday or anniversary ALONG WITH your envelope number as this would be considered by the IRS as a 'charitable donation' for tax purposes.

HOW CAN I SUPPORT OUR PRESCHOOL THROUGH THIS PROGRAM?

On the Sunday closest to the occasion of your birthday or the birthday of one of your children or your wedding anniversary, please make a 'sacrificial' offering to the preschool equal to the number of years of the birthday being celebrated or the number of years married.

For individuals and couples of Faith Lutheran Church who would like to join in this form of financial support for our preschool but whose birthdays and / or wedding anniversaries occurred earlier this calendar year before the envelopes were available, please use an envelope on the table in the entryway or make your electronic offering for this calendar year.

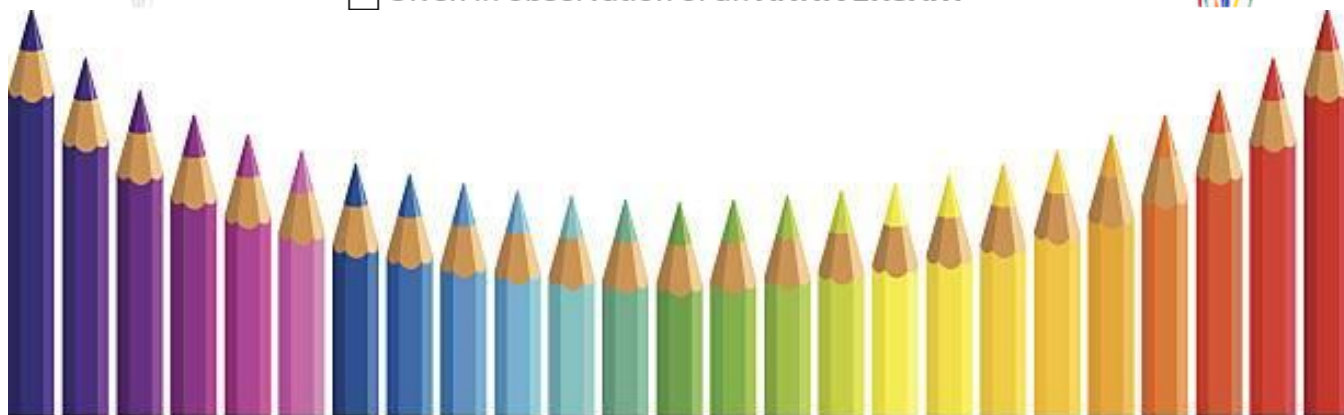
Please prayerfully consider this opportunity that continues to make a positive impact on the long-term future of our preschool ministry. Thank you!!!



BIRTHDAY ANNIVERSARY FUND

(please check one)

- ☐ Given in observation of a **BIRTHDAY**
- ☐ Given in observation of an **ANNIVERSARY**



MAY-JUNE 2025: A GOOD WORD FROM CAMP

Greetings in the Name of Christ,
As usual I am behind schedule. This time, however, I have a new excuse: my computer was stolen along with my back up SSD--more about that below. It's all a bit discouraging, but I did manage to revive an old laptop--it is slow, but I can now work.

The academic year has ended at our Theological Institute, English services will most likely take a hiatus for the summer (after Trinity Sunday) and summer ministry and travels are beginning. Below is the usual QR code which I hope works if people want to subscribe to this prayer letter. Remember, feel free to use any or part of this as long as it is in such a way that reflects favorably on the Gospel and the Church. Also, feel free to pass this letter on to your friends, associates, and even your enemies. Why not?

This Month's Word: Bop--Vore--thief

Matthew 6:19 " Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; 20 "but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.

About two weeks ago I accompanied Bishop Ivan to the European Lutheran Council meeting in Lisbon, Portugal (group photo above). As He had received his visa through Hungary, we had to fly through Budapest and spend a couple of days there. Given closed borders, sanctions and so forth, we flew from Moscow to Istanbul, to Budapest. From Budapest to Milan and then from there to Lisbon. The way back was through Barcelona (then Budapest, Istanbul and St. Petersburg). At the airport in Barcelona someone absconded with my computer bag--which contained not only my computer, but all my thumb drives and my back up SSD.



Usually, I leave some of this at home, and if I travel with my back up, I keep it with my passport in an inside pocket. My drives were with me because I wanted to catch up on some work, and for some reason, I decided to put them all in my computer bag. My back was sore, so I took the computer bag off my shoulder and put it on a luggage cart. Literally, I turned by back for a few seconds and it was gone.

After trying to contact the local police for over an hour, I happened to accidentally see a patrol passing by. After explaining the situation, I was informed that to make out a report would take at least another 40 minutes--of course, our plane was boarding, so I couldn't stay to make such a report. I have changed my passwords and so forth, but my contacts might be hacked--I don't know. I was told by locals that generally speaking stolen computers are sold to second hand electronic stores where they are cleared and resold. If that is the case, praise the Lord. Otherwise, I don't know what might happen. Of course, there is hope that the thief or thieves might read English, read one of my sermons, come to faith and repent. Of course, when the devil or his minions attack--forward with the Gospel.

As seriously inconvenient as having my computer stolen--and as stupid as I feel about letting it happen, my treasure is not on my SSD.

After arriving in Lisbon Bishop Ivan and I were Ubered to St. Paul's Catholic seminary which the local Lutheran Church who was hosting the meeting had rented for the occasion.



Part of me thinks that if they were really doing their job, it would be our seminary, since many now Lutheran Churches were once captive to Babylon (if I might make reference to one of Luther's writings). Visible from the campus which is at the top of a hill is this huge statue of Jesus which overlooks the city of Lisbon--a reminder that our Risen Lord is watching over us.

The theme of the gathering was "Is the Christian faith too foolish for our young generation?" The answer, of course, is "of course not." At least not anymore foolish than it has been for all generations. There was a lot of helpful discussion, and Ivan managed to present on what our Church here is doing--as we are actually growing among the youth. The one interesting practical idea I came away with from Pastor Samiec representing the British Lutheran Church concerned one of his confirmation practices: he has the young confirmands interview an older member of the congregation about their faith. This builds bridges between the generations.



English Language Worship

This picture is from our joint Easter service at Jaani Kirik, or St. John's, the historically Estonian speaking parish in St. Petersburg. We will also be holding a joint service on Pentecost. I will lead a separate English service for Trinity Sunday and then English language services will be suspended until mid-August. At present, because of the closed

borders and so forth, those attending services are mostly Russians. Our plan is to reach out to the foreign student population for this coming fall. At our joint services I usually preach and pastor Konstantin Subbotin translates--he knows English very well, and his Russian is much better than mine.

A brief history of St. John's

- 1787 the first Lutheran services in St. Petersburg in the Estonian language
- 1842 the parish of St. John's is established for Estonian speakers (under the Tsars, Lutheran services had to be held in the native languages of the people--not ever Russian because of the Russian Orthodox).
- 1930 (or thereabouts) St. John's closed by the communist regime.
- 1993 first services held in Estonian language (but at St. Mary's).
- 1997 The parish allowed to use the current Church building
- The mid 2000s saw an addition of more Russian language. Although some Estonian is still used, the main language of the parish is now Russian.
- 2024 first Advent--English services begin.

Prayer Requests: An extra prayer for protection since the loss of my computer--identity theft and all that stuff, and that I don't get too stressed. Pray also for the thieves that they repent and come to faith. Related to this is God's help in redoing all the work I lost (about 5 years since the computer I revived is I quit using in 2020). Some one thought I might be feeling violated. Actually, I just feel really stupid, more stupid than I usually feel--and at present I am very discouraged. Pray for the travel plans this summer--God willing I will be traveling to various parishes to present seminars, I am also planning to attend Corpus Christi in Prague, and travel to California for a couple of weeks.

Blessings, Leif & Zhanya Camp
18 line V. O. dom 43 Kv. 7
St. Petersburg, Russia, 199178

(note: sometimes our mail is stolen) email: lzkcamp@mail.ru



RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

Wednesday, August 13th from 11am - 5pm



VBS 2025

AUG. 3RD - AUG. 7TH

3:30PM - 6:30PM



New Missionaries



In April Mission Central informed us that Rev. Samuel Bobby and his family were leaving Latvia. In response to this, the Board of Missional Life has chosen Rev. Jonathan and Cheryl Naumann as our new missionaries in the Dominican Republic.

The Rev. Dr. Jonathan and Deaconess Cheryl Naumann serve the Lord through The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) as missionaries based in the Dominican Republic (DR). As the Latin America and

Caribbean regional chaplain, Jonathan provides pastoral care to LCMS missionary families in over 10 countries. He also teaches future Latin American pastors at the seminary in the DR.

Cheryl administers the Dominican Republic Mercy Center, teaching women to share the Gospel and to carry out acts of mercy. She also assists with the diaconal work in mission congregations and facilitates the Spanish translation and distribution of Lutheran resources to LCMS missionaries, mission churches and partner churches in this region.

Jonathan was born in Springfield, Ill. He received a bachelor's degree from Concordia University Ann Arbor, Ann Arbor, Mich., and his Master of Divinity from Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind. He earned his Ph.D. from Glasgow University, Scotland. Jonathan served as a missionary pastor for over two decades in East Kilbride, Scotland, and Ruislip, England, and then as pastor of Redeemer Lutheran Church and School, Oakmont, Pa. He has worked extensively with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of England and has taught students in the United States and abroad.

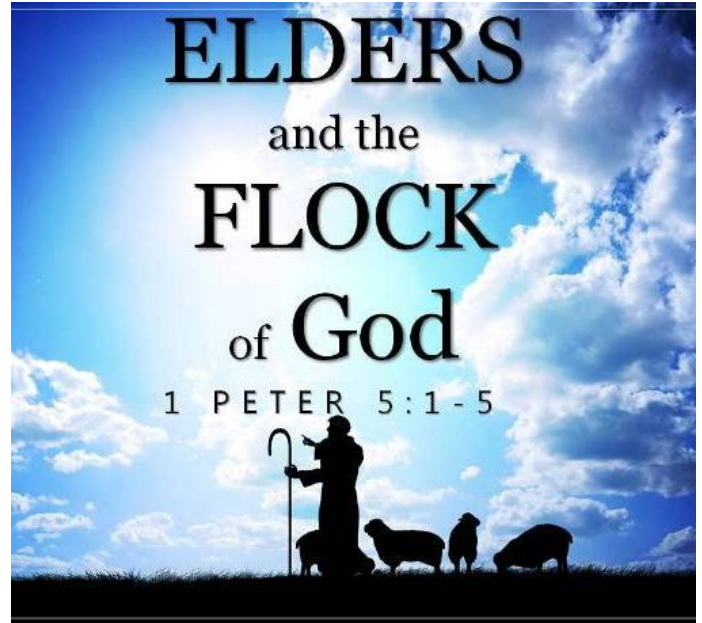
Cheryl's hometown is Bremerton, Wash. She received a bachelor's degree from Valparaiso University, Valparaiso, Ind., and was consecrated as a Lutheran deaconess. She earned a master's degree in theology and church history from Glasgow University, Scotland. Cheryl has served as a deaconess at Lutheran Home for the Aged, Kendallville, Ind., and by her husband's side at congregations in Scotland, England and Pennsylvania. Over the years, Cheryl has worked as a freelance writer and editor, authoring three books, and has taught deaconess students in the U.S., Latin America and Africa. The Naumanns have six adult children and 21 grandchildren.

Prayers

God, protect Jonathan and Cheryl as they travel and do the work You have created for them to do. Increase the faith of those they serve. Provide people in the U.S. who will partner with them, pray for them and give them financial support. In Jesus name, Amen.

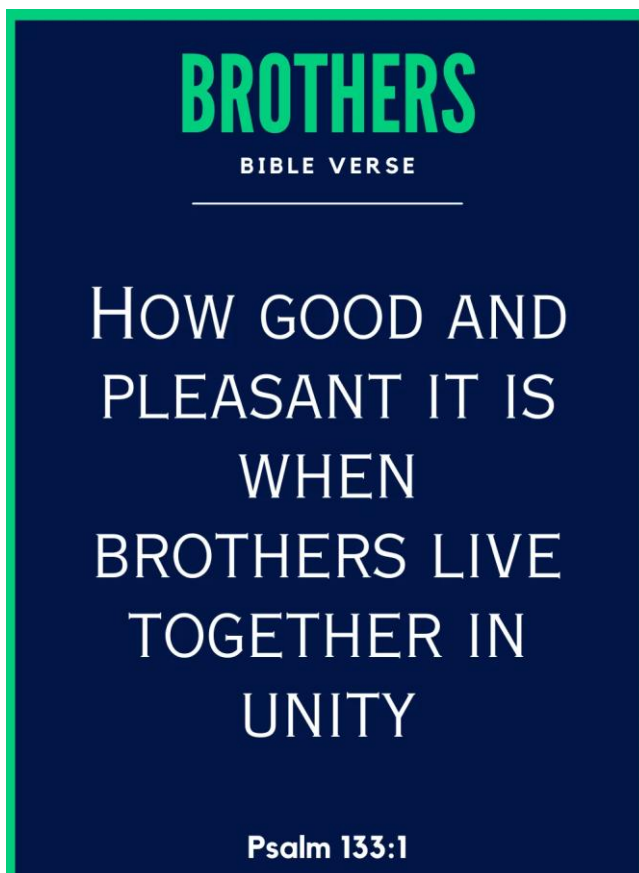
Becoming an “Elder”

Have you ever thought about becoming an “Elder” here at Faith? or what is required of an elder? how much time does it take up? Well let me help with some of the questions or “misconceptions”. First of all, you do NOT need to be asked to be a member of the Board of Elders – though every new member must be approved by the existing board members per our Constitution here at Faith. If becoming an elder is something you have thought about or want more information about, you can talk with any one of the existing members or simply check the box on your Time and Talents sheet later this year. Second, not everyone is made the same way so while some are better at certain aspects of the responsibilities, others may be better at other aspects – we all work together to ensure that the spiritual needs of the congregation are met.



Some individuals in the past have thought that they need to be able to conduct a service or deliver a sermon in those “emergency” situations that arise now and then – we are all good at something but not all good at the same things which, again, is why we work together as a team to accomplish what needs to be done! In the past months you’ve heard or read about the “Elder Assistant” that we have been promoting and this is another excellent path to learning what it is we do on Sunday’s. If you have an interest or just a question or two, please contact any one of us as we are always there to assist. There is currently one open position on the board and I know there are more than a few men in our congregation more than capable of “doing what we do”. Being an elder is a very rewarding experience allowing each member to work closely with the Pastor and members of the congregation to maintain a happy, healthy, and very spiritual church life here at Faith.

In HIS service,
The members of the Board of Elders



Stewardship in the Body of Christ.



Baseball season is upon us. The southern images of spring training give way to the pageantry of Opening Day. On that day, the hopes and dreams of every major league team, player and fan focus on doing whatever it takes to get to the Fall Classic, the World Series. Baseball is a secular way that so many of us confess that hope “springs” eternal.

With all of this in mind, baseball can also teach us a new perspective about stewardship. Think about the game itself. Baseball is a team sport. The home team faces off against the visitors. Yet while it is a team game, there are repetitive, individual confrontations that take place within the game. The baseball game cannot start without the individual pitcher against the hitter. Once the batted ball is in play, the battle is between the ability of the fielder against the speed of the baserunner.

Once there is a runner on base, an attempt to steal a base pits the runner against the catcher. A base hit into the outfield pits the outfielder against a runner trying to score.

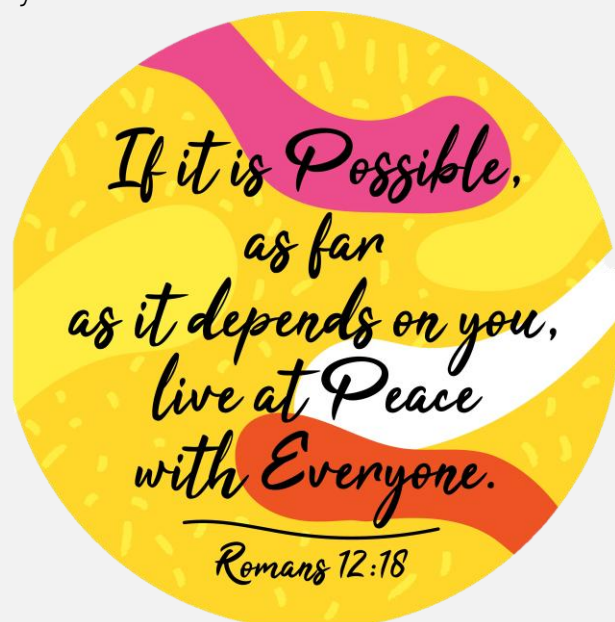
Baseball is a team game with many smaller units at play. Without all those smaller units working together and achieving their tasks, the team will lose.

Romans 12 puts our stewardship of the Gospel in a similar setting. The church is certainly described as a team, if you will.

Verse 3: “For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.” This is where the Body of Christ is really seen as a team.

No one member of the baseball team can win the game by themselves. In the same way, no one part of the Body of Christ can accomplish stewardship of the Gospel alone. The pastor cannot. The congregational chair cannot. The lead soprano in the choir cannot. But each of these individuals have been added to the local congregation to be built into a team that can win the victory with Jesus.

Verses 4–5: “For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.” In baseball, the pitcher pitches. The catcher catches. The hitter hits. When a pitcher attempts to hit, the result is usually not very pretty. Catchers often do not excel at running the bases. The hitter usually does not do well when they are sent to the mound to pitch. Every member of the Body of Christ has a unique set of abilities and functions. Not everyone preaches. Not everyone leads. Not everyone sings well. Yet when the congregation assembles together as a team, it can succeed in ways unattainable by the individual.



Verses 6–8: “Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.” Each member of the team has a role to play. Abilities and opportunities are entrusted to the individual members of the Body of Christ to be used for the ultimate purpose of stewarding the Gospel for the glory of God and the benefit of the neighbor. The one preaching is no more or less important than the others. The one serving or the one teaching, the leader or the merciful one — all are equally important in the faithful stewardship of all that the Lord has entrusted to the Body of Christ. All this stewardship is for the sake of the other!

A baseball team can have five All-Star pitchers but cannot win if the hitters do not hit. The best lineup in the league will struggle if the pitchers cannot get anyone on the other team out. Pitchers need the defense behind them to play well. Coaches need to lead well. When they all work together, you have a winning baseball team. When the Body of Christ has all its members faithfully stewarding the unique individual talents that have been entrusted to them, the victory goes to Jesus! This is the goal of faithful stewardship! It is all about Jesus!

May 2025 Year-to-Date Financial Summary :

Offerings for Operations \$67,825
Operating Expenses \$72,447
Interest Income \$ 450
Loss from Operations \$ (4,172)

Offerings for missions and community outreach projects thru 4-30-25 totaled \$5,995 (over and above the offerings for operations)

Praying God will bless us in order that we may fulfill His calling for each of us as we grow in Christ's love and the word, so that we may share Christ's love with the world. May God continue to bless our time, talents, and treasures as we serve Him, our church, our members, and our community outreach ministries throughout 2025.

2 Corinthians 9:7-8 Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.

Respectfully submitted,
Roxanne Mueller
Treasurer

Update
your
Information



MEMBERS DIRECTORY

ADDRESS CHANGES



We celebrate this month because of the freedoms and liberties our country has afforded us. We are right to do this. We should be thankful for these liberties – the freedom to gather together to worship and to live out what believe in our daily lives.

But freedom and liberty in our age have devolved. It has become a freedom from duty instead of a freedom for it. Indeed, freedom and liberty in our age has turned into licentiousness – a license to do what we want, when we want. This license is a submission again to a yoke of slavery. For freedom as license to do what we desire when we desire it means we are slaves to our desires and slaves to our passions.

Christ died to set us free from our desires. In Holy Baptism, our Old Adam is drowned and put to death along with all sin and evil desires so that a new man may arise and live before God in righteousness and purity. In Christ, we are a new creation. We are set free from the passions of the flesh so that we are free to do our duty and bear fruits of the Spirit.

Our duty is what God calls us to do as members of a family, society, and the Church. God calls us to believe in His Word and gladly hear and learn it. He calls us to pray for all people. He calls us to live in faith toward Him and in fervent love for our neighbor. He calls us to put the gifts He gives to us in His service. God calls parents provide for their children and raise them in the fear and admonition of the Lord.

And God calls children to honor their parents and provide and care for them when they are no longer able to do so themselves. God calls the government to punish those who do evil and to reward those who do good. He calls citizens to pay their taxes and honor the governing officials as God's servants. He calls pastors to preach and teach the Gospel, repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And He calls hearers to support those who teach them with every good thing.

Christ died to set us free from the works of our selfish flesh, giving us the freedom and liberty to do our duty. Stand firm, then, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

June 2025

Steingraber Seminary CHRONICLES

Greetings in Christ,

June has been a busy month for the Steingraber family so far. We were able to travel to Wisconsin to visit friends on Memorial Day weekend. David has been playing basketball with a summer league at Lutheran South High School. He also was able to travel to a regional police explorers competition in Topeka, Kansas. That same weekend, Steve, Lori and Timmy visited the Daniel Boone House in St. Charles County to see some historical reenactors demonstrate life from the early colonial period. Timmy loved it! We are thankful that these activities and travels have been met with less weather issues. Concordia's campus has returned to normal, with a few less trees from the tornado in May.

Summer classes are starting up at the seminary. Steve completed a one week intensive "Lutheranism in America" class, which was about Lutheran History from the colonial era to the more recent developments in the synod. Summer Greek will soon be starting for the incoming first year seminary students. We will continue to see a convoy of U-haul's going into and out of married housing on campus. It will be a blessing to see a new set of families on campus!

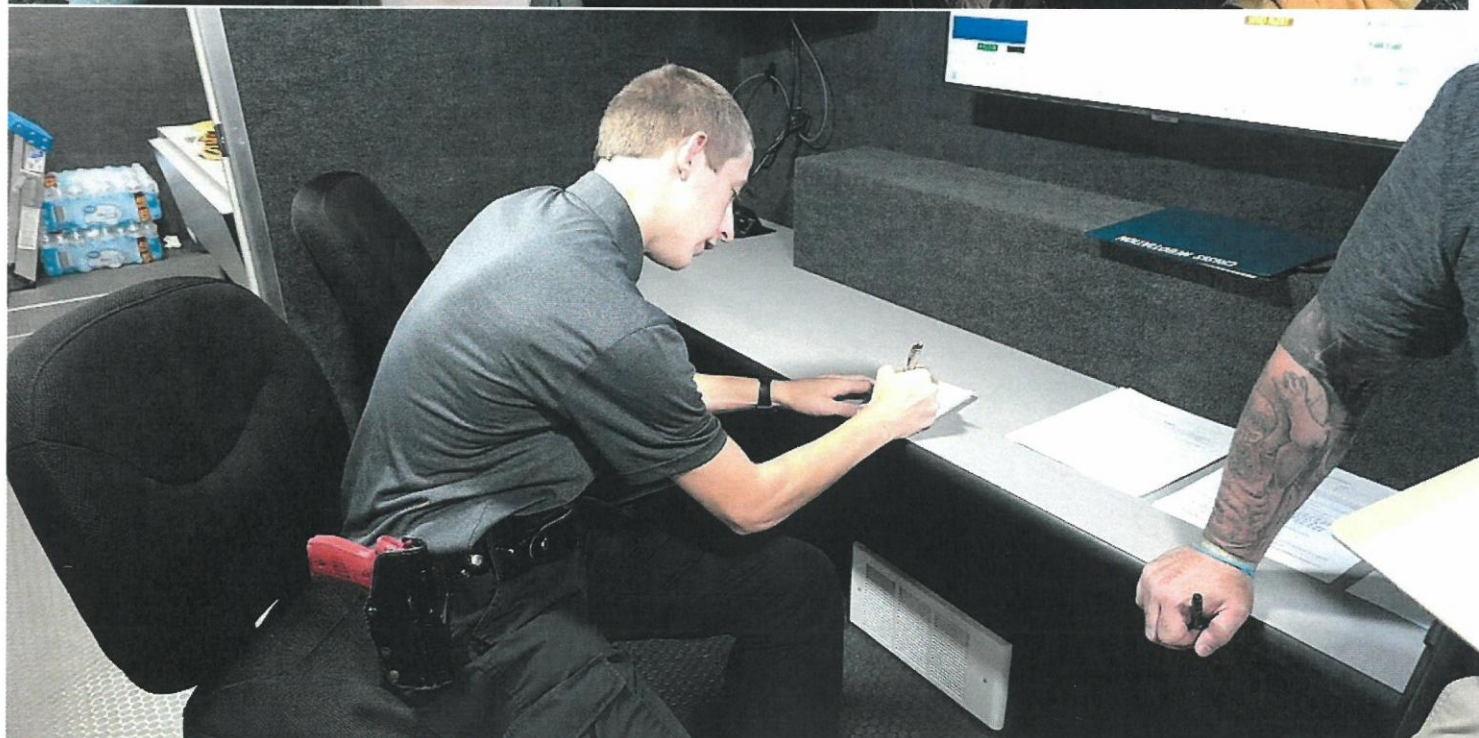
June is also a time of celebration as we celebrated with our friends, Nathan and Rachel, who were married in the seminary chapel. Nathan is Steve's classmate and Rachel is Lori's co-teacher; and both are good friends of the family. Lori was asked to play the organ for the wedding (and one of the seminary chapel services, picture below). Steve helped with the sound in the chapel. We had a great time celebrating the blessing that the Lord is giving to Nathan and Rachel, while also thinking about our own wedding anniversary on June 23rd.

Please keep the students and families of both seminaries in your prayers as many students are coming and going from various places through the summer. Thank you for the prayers and/or support you have given during this time of learning for the whole family. We appreciate you all!

Peace and Love in Christ,

The Steingraber family
801 Seminary Place
St. Louis MO 63105
steingraber@csl.edu





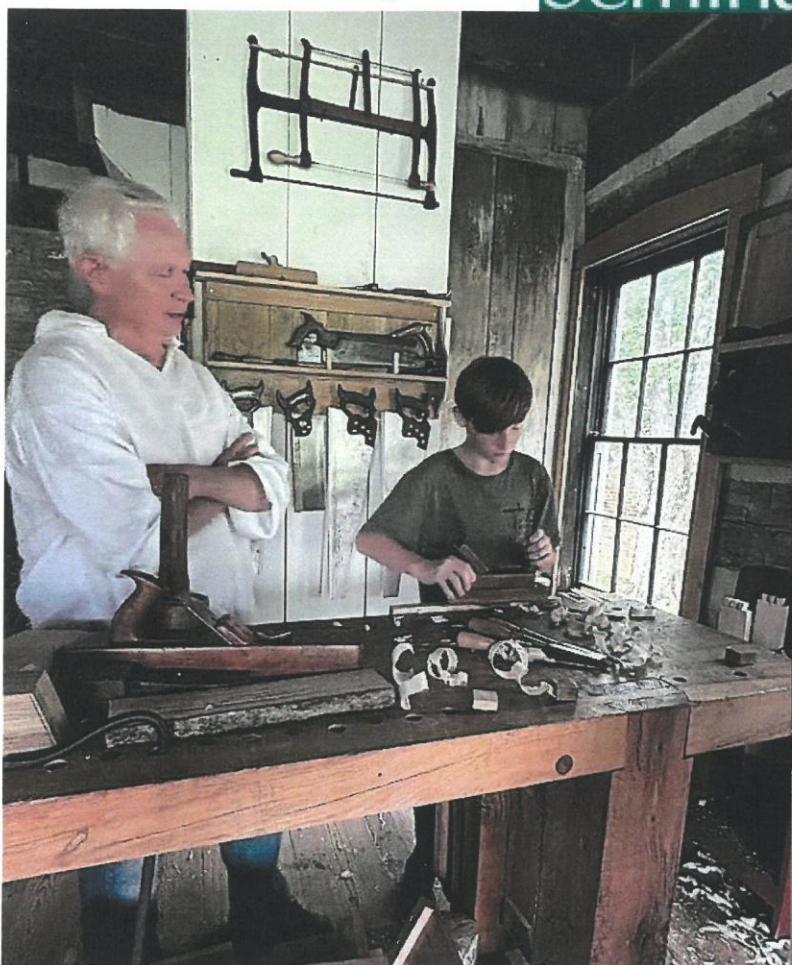


Previous page: Above, visiting with friends in Wisconsin. Below, David's scenario as a hostage negotiator in the Police Explorer competition.

Above: David and the winning Dodgeball team of explorers from St. Louis City (blue) and St. Louis County (Tan). David was highly valued for his ball handling skills, earning the nickname "The Grabber"! Winning the dodgeball game on the last day after all the other law enforcement scenarios are done is a very coveted award at this Explorers event.

Below: David and his JV Basketball team playing against other teams in St. Louis.





Above Left: Timmy was able to help using a plane of a piece of wood in the carpenter's shop near the Daniel Boone house.

Above Right: Timmy was so excited to be able to hold a Kentucky Long Rifle (a replica of Daniel Boone's rifle) in Daniel Boone's house! Its almost as tall as him!

Below : Lori practicing on the seminary organ for chapel and the Bublitz wedding.

Right: Family picture time at the wedding!

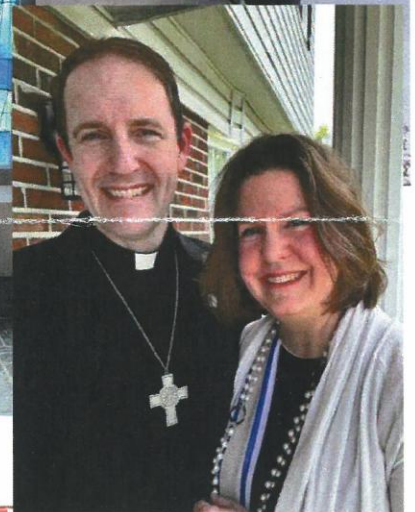
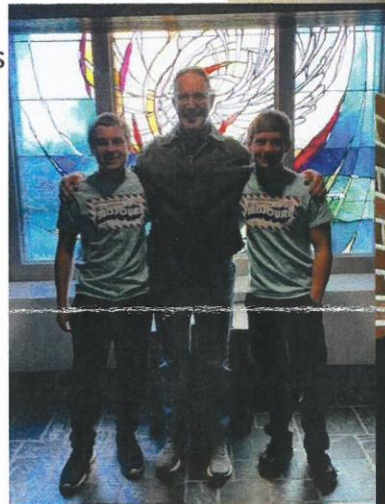




Dear friends and family,

I'm not sure where the last three months have gone, but the Summer is already sprinting toward the Lairds and we're all scrambling a bit to get ready for the new season along with all the changes that are coming along with it. Our eldest daughter, Clara, is doing great up at the University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire while her younger sisters (Lucy, Stella, and Agnes) have been keeping busy with studying, participating in Easter Day Sunday School skits, and spoiling their younger brother, Cormac, when he isn't busy getting Annie or me to read to him or when he's eating. In between classes I got a chance to show Lucy and Stella how to take a car door apart thanks to an electrical short that was causing our car to act like it had a mind of its own. Unfortunately it was a wiring harness issue instead of an easy switch repair, so we had to take it to the repair shop anyway, but it was a great break from all the volumes of academic work.

One of the many benefits of being in St. Louis is how many visitors we get! In this case, it was my nephews Jack and Nate who were here on a trip sponsored by their high school choir. But even better than the visitors are the excellent professors that we get to learn from while we are here. Some of my more creative classmates got together and thought it would be a great way to honor one of our favorite professors by starting the totally **unsanctioned** but still totally "official" Dr. Joel P. Okamoto fan club! The fan club's color has to be red in recognition of Dr. O's world famous red shoes, of course! All the profs are definitely keeping us on our toes this year, but it is humbling learning tons about our amazing Triune God!



This card certifies that:

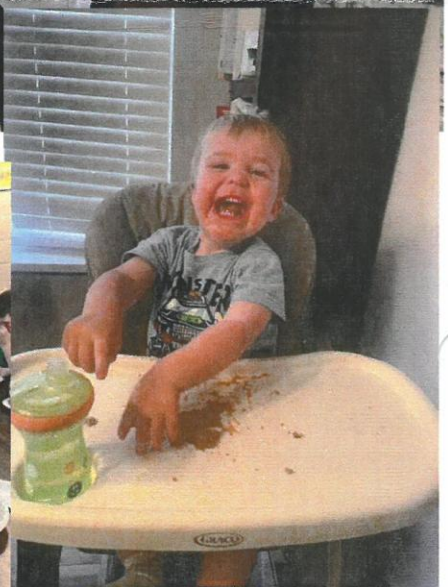
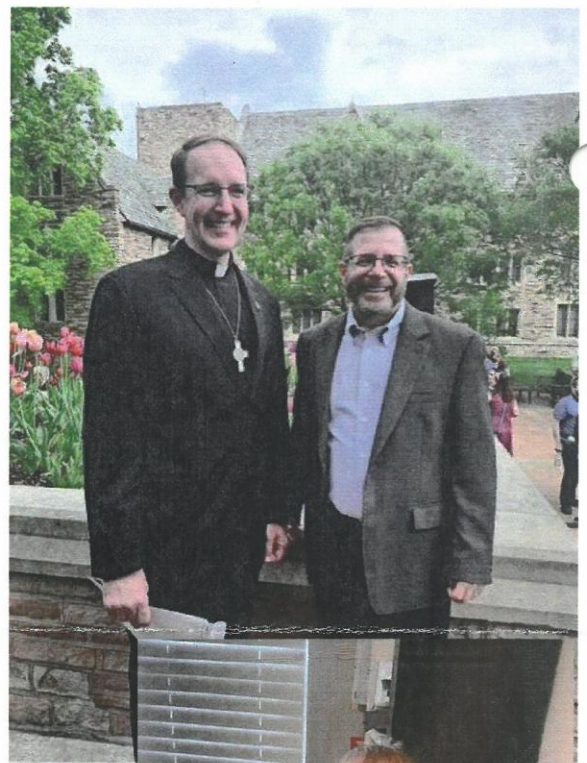
Rob Laird

is a member of the

JOEL P OKAMOTO

OFFICIAL FAN CLUB

The big news this quarter is that Call Day was on April 30th where my second-year classmates and I received our vicarage or internship assignments for next year! Now this wasn't my first exposure to a selection process, having gone through Service Selection Night at the Naval Academy, but even so, I was a bundle of apprehension and excitement. I have been assigned Our Savior Lutheran Church, Saint Charles, MO starting in July and the Holy Spirit really knocked it out of the park for us. Our Savior is a sole pastoralship under the guidance of Pastor Mike Iannelli. I am super excited about this assignment as Our Savior has a pretty substantial early childhood center, a pastor emeritus, and even a Director of Christian Education (DCE)! This is going to be great for my development on many levels as I have never had the opportunity to work with a church that has this level of complexity. All this and it is less than 20 minutes from our house so the kids get some academic and social stability while Annie can maintain her spot with the Navy Reserve Nurse Corps detachment here in Saint Louis.



Annie recently started a two-year long assignment as her detachment's Officer in Charge (OIC) so the local vicarage is a great blessing for her also. She got an early start to her summer training requirements this year by taking a National Security Course at the National Defense University in Washington DC. Next month she'll be hanging out with the US Marines at Camp Lejeune getting a course in Advanced Trauma Life Support so please keep her in your prayers for safe travel.

Although we are very excited for the upcoming vicarage year, will miss our friends at Zion Lutheran in Maryland Heights but at least we can look forward to catching back up with them when we return in our fourth year at the Seminary. God's blessing on you all and thank you for all of your continued support. We look forward to discovering what God has in store for us in this new phase of our adventure and we can't wait to share it with you as it unfolds.

In His service,

JULY CALENDAR OF CHURCH EVENTS

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
PASTOR 'OFFICE HOURS' FOR JULY & AUGUST : <i>(Monday - Thursday) - may be subject to change:</i> Days with no evening meetings or events: 7:00am --> 1:00pm Days with evening meetings or events:						
6 FOURTH SUNDAY a PENTECOST 9:00am - Worship Service 10:15 am - Fellowship	7 5:00pm - Board of Elders' 5:00pm - Board of Missional Life	8	9 6:00pm - Discipleship Class	10	11 Bake-Sale for RAWHIDE at United Methodist Church <i>(in Peshigo)</i>	12 Bake-Sale for RAWHIDE at United Methodist Church <i>(in Peshigo)</i>
13 FIFTH SUNDAY a. PENTECOST 9:00am - Worship Service 10:15am - Fellowship & Bake Sale	14	15	16 6:00pm - Discipleship Class	17	18	19
20 SIXTH SUNDAY a. PENTECOST 9:00am - Worship Service 10:15 am - Fellowship	21	22	23 6:00pm - Discipleship Class	24	25	26
27 SEVENTH SUNDAY a. PENTECOST 9:00am - Worship Service 10:15 am - Fellowship	28	29	30	31	CHURCH OFFICE HOURS FOR JULY & AUGUST : <i>may be subject to change</i> Monday - Thursday 7:00am --> 1:00pm Friday 7:00am --> noon	