

The Celebration *Connection!*



2025

Celebration Lutheran Church

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In this Issue...

1 From the Pastor

4 Game Day 8/10

4 Bring One Sunday 8/10

**5 Women's Bible Study
8/20**

**5 Annual Church Picnic
8/17**

**6 Ministry of the Month
Hamilton School Kits**

6 Anniversaries/ B-days

7 Intercessory Prayers

8 August Prayer Rotation

9 August Devotions

Calendar

Sunday Servants

Puzzles

From the Pastor

I recently read about a wealthy Texan who died, and his attorney gathered the entire family for the reading of the will. Relatives came from near and far to see if they were included in the bequests.

The lawyer somberly opened the will and began to read:

"To my cousin Ed, I leave my ranch."

"To my brother Jim, I leave my money market accounts."

"To my neighbor and good friend, Fred, I leave my stocks."

"And finally, to my cousin George, who always sat around and never did anything, but wanted to be remembered in my will, I want to say,

.....'Hi, George.'"

I believe one of the things that endeared Peter to Jesus was that he was a man of action. There are a lot of people who have good intentions, a lot of people who say they are believers, a lot of people who are going to get started one of these days, but a relatively few people who will step out on faith and act now! Peter was one of those rare few.

But even the Apostle Peter made mistakes. I mean, who did he think he was, trying to walk on the water in the first place?

*Creeping Charlie and Wandering
Jew and now living in our garden.
How about that!?*

Could they be weeds?

After all, there was nothing fearful about Peter. "Lord," he shouts to Jesus over the wind and the waves, "If it is you, bid me to come to you on the water." Jesus said simply, "Come." And Peter did. At least he tried. He took a few steps and suddenly reality slapped him in the face. "What am I doing here?" he asked himself. "This is ridiculous." And as his faith sagged, so did his body. He began to sink. "Lord, save me," he cried.

Or, what about the time in the garden when he cut off the ear of the high priest's servant? Did he think he could hold off an entire legion of Roman soldiers all by himself? What about the time beside the fire when he denied that he ever knew Jesus. All the rest of the disciples had fled. Only Peter was foolhardy enough to follow at a distance to see where his Master was being taken. If he had not followed, he never would have been found out. ...And he never would have denied his Lord.

Simon Peter made his mistakes. Everybody who ever accomplishes anything in life does!

Think about Winston Churchill. Churchill was by far the most successful politician of his age in Britain. By his mid-thirties he was already a roaring success. The son of a notorious politician, he had achieved fame as a reporter and author. The principal subject matter of his writings was his own military adventures. Elected to Parliament at the age of twenty-five, he entered the Cabinet at thirty-one, and at the outbreak of World War I, was Lord of the Admiralty and part of the War Cabinet. Intelligent, hardworking, eloquent, single-minded, ambitious the world lay at his feet. But Churchill's world revolved around him as the sun. He was more interested in himself and his own ideas than in anything else and his peers were reluctant to trust him.

It was in 1915 that Winston Churchill's world collapsed. A military expedition for which he was held responsible turned into a bloody calamity. He was forced to resign from the Cabinet. One biography calls this period of his life, 'The Rise to Failure.'

But, it was during this dark time, Churchill forged some new qualities which became instrumental in his success as a great leader during World War II.

Nearly everyone who accomplishes anything in this world stubs his or her toe somewhere along the way.

People who never go anywhere never have to worry about tripping.

Peter was a person of action. He made his mistakes, but at least they were not those of a man afraid to get in the arena.

Christ wants us to be people of action! I truly believe that Christ means for us to make a difference in the world. That is why he called us light and salt and leaven. (No, it is **not** enough to simply be "nice" folk with good intentions.)

The philosopher/theologian Soren Kierkegaard once told a parable about a wild goose that was brought down by a hunter's shot one day. Fortunately, only his one wing was wounded, and he landed in a barnyard. Naturally, the domestic ducks, geese, and chickens were quite startled by this sudden visitor from the sky. Soon, however, they sidled up to him and asked him to describe what it was like to fly.

The wild goose proceeded to extol the glories of flight, remarking how thrilling it was to soar out in the wild blue yonder. "Why, this barn down here looks like it's only an inch high," he said, "and you are all but specks seen from such a distance." And the domestic fowl were quite impressed by his little speech. Sometime later they asked him again to describe the glories of flight.

And it got to be quite a weekly occasion, while the goose's wing was healing, for him to get up in front of the others and talk. They even provided a little box to stand on so they could see him better.

But do you know what happened? While those domestic fowl very much enjoyed hearing about the glories of flight, they never tried to fly themselves. And the wild goose, even though his wing healed, just continued to talk about flying but never flew again either.

How easy it is to be at ease and to ignore Christ's call to action. How easy it is to sit in the premises and not act on the promises in a world in desperate need.

Theodore Roosevelt read a book by New York newspaperman Jacob Riis, entitled, "How the Other Half Lives." It described the slums of the city, with all its vice and crime. Theodore Roosevelt went at once to the newspaper, but Riis was not in. Roosevelt left his card and wrote on it, "Have read your book and have come to help."

That would be a good motto for us as we kneel in the presence of God to commit ourselves yet again to God's service and the service of the world. "Have read your book and have come to help."

Such is the motto of those ready to walk on water. To live recklessly for Christ. To have the kind of faith Peter had the kind of faith about which Jesus said, "Upon this rock I will build my church." That's us. That's who we are. That's who we are called to be. Not hens lying around the barnyard but creatures meant for the sky. Of course we will make mistakes. But when we fall, by God's grace, we will fall forward and the world will be blessed because we have heeded Christ's call.

See you all as you fly to worship your Lord!

Pastor Fogle

SUMMER IS OVER HOW ABOUT RETURNING TO COMMUNITY?

Returning to church presents an opportunity for personal and communal renewal, a pivotal step for those seeking spiritual encouragement, a sense of community, and faith revival. For a quick take-away:

Returning to church is a journey of rediscovery and renewal. As the world has shifted since Covid, so have church dynamics, and revisiting a physical place of worship can help align new values with enduring faith. Through shared prayer, communal worship, and engaging in spiritual disciplines like Bible study, individuals can find a renewed sense of purpose and connection.

Going back to church offers numerous personal and emotional benefits. Studies show that regular church attendance is linked to better mental health. It can decrease the likelihood of depression and other mental health issues.

Church provides a social support system that is crucial for emotional well-being. When isolation can easily creep in, being part of a church community offers a network of care and support. This network helps individuals find meaning and satisfaction in life.

Spiritual growth is another key benefit. Engaging in worship, listening to sermons, and participating in Bible studies help deepen one's faith. This growth is not just personal but communal, as each member's spiritual journey enriches the community as a whole.

Going back to church also means embracing diversity. It's about coming together with people from different backgrounds, learning from each other, and growing together in faith. This unity in diversity strengthens the church and enriches the faith journey of its members.

Churches today are evolving, often embracing diversity and change more than ever before. This shift can be an opportunity to experience new perspectives and connect with people from different backgrounds. Embracing this diversity can enrich your spiritual journey and help create a more inclusive community.

Article continues on page 7

“Bring One Sunday”

As part of our ongoing commitment to care for neighbors in need, we continue to collect non-perishable food for the First United Methodist Food Pantry. We are asking you to donate at least one non-perishable food item. Items such as canned vegetables and fruit, pasta, rice, peanut butter, cereal, soups, canned proteins like tuna and chicken, and other shelf-stable goods. Every can, box, and jar add up to a powerful expression of love and compassion.

You can drop off your donations in the designated bins across from the office anytime. **August 10th is the next designated “Bring One Sunday”.**

Let’s come together as a congregation to bless others with the gift of food. Your small act of generosity can make a big difference in someone’s life.

If you would like to make a monetary donation, please make your checks payable to “First United Methodist food pantry.” If you have questions, contact Greg or Gloria Tapper 734-427-1142.

Office Closed
Labor Day Weekend
August 29-September 1



For All
the
Kiddos

Game Day
during
coffee hour on Sunday,
August 10

Crafty Connections

Looking for a fun and meaningful way to connect with others in our church family? Join us for Crafty Connections on Monday, **August 11th at 7:00pm** or Wednesday, **August 27th, 10:00am** in the Gathering Space.

Crafty Connections is a time of creativity, fellowship, and laughter. Bring your own craft project-whether it’s knitting, crocheting, felting, scrapbooking, or any other hobby you enjoy- along with all the supplies you’ll need.

This is a relaxed, come-as-you-are gathering where we can work on our individual craft while enjoying conversation and community. It’s a great opportunity to share ideas, encourage one another, and maybe even learn something new.

So, bring a friend, your favorite project, and join us for . . .

crafting and connections!



Women's Bible Study

Where two or more are gathered: Flourishing in relationships

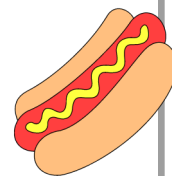
When we consider healthy relationships, friendships are often overlooked—eclipsed in cultural importance by romantic relationships. Yet, friendships are often the first relationships outside of family where we learn important lessons about ourselves. On the playground and other childhood settings, we encounter others who delight in us, seek us out, and tell us that we are important or lovable. Friendships help us to learn empathy, develop our personalities, and grow into adulthood. Healthy friendships lead to healthier romantic relationships. When we have healthy friendships to rely on, we are more resilient, less stressed, and more able to work through difficulties in all of our relationships.

Relationships aren't always comfortable. At times, we find ourselves navigating the painful work of growing and changing within relationships. How do we draw on the stories of our faith to help us face great challenges in our lives and relationships?

At the August Bible study, we'll explore the story of Queen Esther and her uncle Mordecai, as well as how vulnerability, trust and faithful friendships help us to grow.

The Women's Bible study will meet on **Wednesday, August 20 at 1:00 pm.** Copies of the Bible study are available in Laureen Preston's mailbox.

Annual Church Picnic Get ready to *Fall* back into action



As summer activities come to close, we are preparing to resume programs here at the church. To kick things off, we are planning a picnic. **Come to worship on August 17 and stay for the picnic** to be held in the picnic area behind the church (weather permitting).

The Women of the ELCA will be grilling hot dogs and will supply the buns and condiments.

If you plan to attend, please sign up on the poster in the Welcoming Area so we know how many to plan for AND indicate if you are willing to bring a dish to pass.

Besides *food* there will be *games* for the kids of all ages. Luan has been painting so there will be *garden art* to be auctioned. (The proceeds to be used for WELCA charitable projects.)

Days for Girls



Days for Girls provides reusable feminine hygiene kits and educational materials to girls in developing countries.

We continue to collect the items needed for the hygiene kits:

100% cotton flannel and quilting fabric

100% cotton washcloths

Underwear, colors if possible, (brief style) 100% cotton: Girls' sizes 8, 10, 12 or 14 Women's sizes 6, 7 or 8

Travel size bars of soap



Hamilton School Kit Builds

Our August Ministry of the Month continues our long standing practice of providing 500 school starter kits for the students at Hamilton Ele-

mentary School in Westland. School starts on August 26 and since Members provide most of the components for the kits, we will start collecting the parts for those 500 kits very soon. You will find the collection bins and progress thermometers by the coat rack. Here's the list of components that will be needed for each kit:

- 2 Ticonderoga pencils
- 1 box of 24 Crayola crayons
- 1 glue stick-7-gram size
--no brand requested
- 1 spiral bound single subject notebook/
wide ruled
- 1 dry erase marker/chisel tip/black ink

We will be building the kits after worship on August 24, so please plan to stay and help us put the kits together.

Live Streamed Services

You can sponsor a Sunday livestream service in memory of a loved one, in celebration of a special occasion, or simply to support the ministry, for only \$15. Your sponsorship helps us reach shut-ins, those who are ill, traveling, or anyone who cannot attend in person. Each sponsorship will be acknowledged in the bulletin and the newsletters.

Sign up on the church Communication Board or contact the office.

August live streaming has been sponsored by:

August 3: Steve and Andrea Kolhoff

August 10, 17, 24 and 31: Barb Heidmann



Anniversaries

1 Bob and Janet Clisch
4 Mike and Pat Villemure
6 Randy and Jill Brown
9 Leo and Sandy Albert
Steve and Andrea Kolhoff
16 Bud Johnson and Annie Featherstone
18 Bill and Carol Gregg
25 Ray and Barbara Smith
31 Rono and Margi Danakili

Birthdays

1 Christopher Kolhoff
Glenda Tarr
6 Steven Prinz
8 Mary Mahlow
10 Matt Dent
14 Carole Hakala
Jeremiah Livingston
15 Ed Klosterhaus
19 Carol Noonan
23 Lori Fernyhough

Prayers for Our Community

As a church family, we believe in the power of prayer and the strength that comes from lifting one another up to God. Each week we share the names of those in need of prayer whether it's for healing, comfort, guidance, or thanksgiving.

Names submitted for prayer are read aloud during worship for two weeks. After that, these names will be included in both the weekly and monthly newsletters to ensure continued support through prayer. Please be sure to notify the office when prayers have been answered so that we may give thanks and update our list. We start the prayer list anew the first Sunday of Advent.

If you would like to add someone to the prayer list, you can do so by using the yellow welcome cards available on the backs of the chairs in the sanctuary or on the prayer request sheets located on the stand next to the greeters in the Welcoming Area.

Prayers for the ill/homebound:

Scott Bowker; Jon and Karen Call; John Gambotto; Julia Gardner; Marge Gask; Kathy Groff; Kathy Tyler, Carole Knapp; Eva Miner; Carol Noonan; Mark Roffi; Gladys Seeger; Larry Hartsell; Ray Smith; Janet Clisch

Prayers for the ill/homebound (friends and family of our members):

Sue Baliko; Tammy Barkoff; Richard Clish; Michael Costello; Arnold and Hilma Anderson; Larry Davis; Sally Evancho Karen and Ray Fisher; Kamira Ford; John and Marg Gregg; Bridgette Hoepner; ;Don Hoyt; Suzie Jasek; Kevin Kraushaar; Ken Krekler; John McMullen; Cindy Naylor; Tom Noonan; Leonard Pfeifer; Paul Reed; Stacy Reed; Janet Reid; Terry Salomonson; Stella; Beth and Chris Weertz; Ron Squires; Amanda Smith; Crystal Tillman; Jim Tennant; Kenny; Connie; Charlie; Tom Rossi; Irene; Dean; Poe Essey; Larry and Chris Davis; Pat Jolly; Ashley Frey; Tom Prinz;

Kay Prinz; Wilma Wondolkowski; Curt Thompson; Claire Thompson; Minnie and Don Kensreg; Emily and Tommy Connelly; Bernice Jones; Betsy Barlow

Prayers for member with special needs:

Elizabeth Reed

Prayers for families and friends with special needs:

Alexander Grasley; Samantha Grasley; Elizabeth Reed; Mike Sweier; Albert Wade Jr; Zach and Theresa; Kirissa; Asher; Jaylee; and Jordan; The Hamric family; Ellen Crall.

Those who are serving our country:

Ian Bramigk (Army), Calvin Heim (Air Force), Ryan Lloyd (Air Force), Tyler Miller (Army)

RETURNING TO COMMUNITY continued:

Unity in diversity is a powerful concept. As you engage with a diverse church community, you'll likely find that your own faith and understanding deepen. This unity doesn't mean uniformity; instead, it celebrates the unique contributions each person brings.

Returning to church can be a journey of refining and renewal. It offers a **renewed purpose** and a chance to deepen your connection with God.

Going back to church helps you reconnect with the core of your faith. It's a place to reflect on your beliefs, find solace in worship, and experience the joy of communal prayer. This shared experience can lead to a deeper understanding of God's love and guidance in your life.

Church is not just a place for worship; it's a community that supports you through life's ups and downs. By engaging in church activities and building meaningful relationships, you can find a network of support that shares your values and encourages your spiritual journey.

Taken from Sharethestruggle.org copyright 2024

August Member Prayer Rotation

August 3

Ray Wickman
Fred Williamson
Ericka Williamson
Savanna Willis

August 10

Christopher, Kristina,
Arne, & Bruno Wommer
Diane Yagerlener
Emily, Jeff, Maxwell, and Levi Yandura
Lois Zilka

August 17

Kelley Zombirt
Bill and Lisa Albert
Leo and Sandy Albert
Jane Alder

August 24

Mike and Linda Bierbaum
Larry and Esther Bowers
Scott and Cheryl Bowker
Dennis and Deborah Bramigk

August 31

Randy, Jill, Megan and Andrew Brown
Trudy Buelow
Jon and Karen Call
Catherine Carter

Altar Flower Sponsorship

For \$25 you can dedicate flowers in memory of a loved one, in celebration of a special occasion, or simply to honor someone meaningful in your life. Your sponsorship helps beautify our worship space and adds a personal touch to our services. Sign up on the Communication Board or call the church office.

August 3

Carole Hakala in memory of Anne Schilling
Vase 2: Available

August 10

Stew Israel in memory of Kathy Israel.
Vase 2: In Honor of Ed Klosterhaus Birthday

August 17

Rick and Jodi Reed in memory of Rick's father, Bob Reed
Margaret Grasley in memory of Joe Grasley

August 24

Vase 1: Available
Vase 2: Available

August 31

Marge Ross
Vase 2: Available



Daily Devotions for August

Friday, August 1
Psalm 49:1-12
Proverbs 24:1-12
Ephesians 4:17-24

Saturday, August 2
Psalm 49:1-12
Ecclesiastes 1:1-11
Mark 10:17-22

Sunday, August 3
Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23
Psalm 49:1-12
Colossians 3:1-11
Luke 12:13-21

Monday, August 4
Psalm 127
Ecclesiastes 2:1-17
Colossians 3:18—4:1

Tuesday, August 5
Psalm 127
Ecclesiastes 3:16—4:8
Colossians 4:2-6

Wednesday, August 6
Psalm 127
Ecclesiastes 12:1-8, 13-14
Luke 12:22-31

Thursday, August 7
Psalm 33:12-22
Job 21:1-16
Romans 9:1-9

Friday, August 8
Psalm 33:12-22
Ecclesiastes 6:1-6
Acts 7:1-8

Saturday, August 9
Psalm 33:12-22
Genesis 11:27-32
Matthew 6:19-24

Sunday, August 10
Genesis 15:1-6
Psalm 33:12-22
Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16
Luke 12:32-40

Monday, August 11
Psalm 89:1-18
2 Chronicles 33:1-17
Hebrews 11:1-7

Tuesday, August 12
Psalm 89:1-18
2 Chronicles 34:22-33
Hebrews 11:17-28

Wednesday, August 13
Psalm 89:1-18
Jeremiah 33:14-26
Luke 12:41-48

Thursday, August 14
Psalm 82
Joshua 7:1, 10-26
Hebrews 10:26-31

Friday, August 15
Psalm 82
1 Samuel 5:1-12
Hebrews 10:32-39

Saturday, August 16
Psalm 82
1 Samuel 6:1-16
Matthew 24:15-27

Sunday, August 17
Jeremiah 23:23-29
Psalm 82
Hebrews 11:29—12:2
Luke 12:49-56

Monday, August 18
Psalm 32
Jeremiah 23:30-40
1 John 4:1-6

Tuesday, August 19
Psalm 32
Jeremiah 25:15-29
Acts 7:44-53

Wednesday, August 20
Psalm 32
Jeremiah 25:30-38
Luke 19:45-48

Thursday, August 21
Psalm 103:1-8
Numbers 15:32-41
Hebrews 12:3-17

Friday, August 22
Psalm 103:1-8
2 Chronicles 8:12-15
Psalm 89:1-18

Saturday, August 23
Psalm 103:1-8
Nehemiah 13:15-22
Luke 6:1-5

Sunday, August 24
Isaiah 58:9b-14
Psalm 103:1-8
Hebrews 12:18-29
Luke 13:10-17

Monday, August 25
Psalm 109:21-31
Ezekiel 20:1-17
Hebrews 3:7—4:11

Tuesday, August 26
Psalm 109:21-31
Ezekiel 20:18-32
Revelation 3:7-13

Wednesday, August 27
Psalm 109:21-31
Ezekiel 20:33-44
Luke 6:6-11

Thursday, August 28
Psalm 112
Proverbs 15:13-17
1 Peter 3:8-12

Friday, August 29
Psalm 112
Proverbs 18:6-12
1 Peter 4:7-11

Saturday, August 30
Psalm 112
Proverbs 21:1-4, 24-26
Matthew 20:20-28

Sunday, August 31
Proverbs 25:6-7 or
Sirach 10:12-18
Psalm 112
Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16
Luke 14:1, 7-14



Spend time with God this summer

Puzzle!

The biblical calendar had many feasts and festivals. They were connected with the changing of the seasons or special events.

Use the code to find the name of the special days the Israelites observed.

CODE:

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
Z	Y	X	W	V	U	T	S	R	Q	P	O	N	M	L	K	J	I	H	G	F	E	D	C	B	A

SEASON

HOLIDAY

1. End of Summer

New Year

I L H S S Z H S Z M Z S

2. Fall

Day of Atonement

B L N P R K K F I

3. Fall

Festival of Booths

H F P P L G S

4. Winter

Festival of Rededication

S Z M F P P Z S

5. Winter

Festival of Lots

K F I R N

6. Spring

Festival of Unleavened Bread

K Z H H L E V I

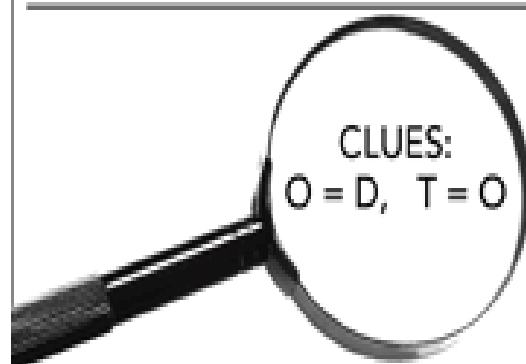
7. Spring

Feast of Weeks/Pentecost

H S Z E F L G

Puzzle!

For this cryptogram, use the clues to decode Proverbs 27:1, NIV.



CLUES:
O = D, T = O

O O O T O T
T D F D O E D B P O B E D Y O

T O O O O O
O D U D H H D L Z D H G D Y

O O O T O T
T D F D O N F D L L R B O

B T B G U B G E H A F M

Proverbs 27:1, NIV

Answers: 1. Roth Harvest, 2. Yom Kippur, 3. Sukkot, 4. Hanukkah, 5. Purim, 6. Passover, 7. Shavuot

Answers: Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring.
Proverbs 27:1, NIV

