



# July newsletter

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### From "2 Be Alive" to "Created to Be"

My first assignment as the Intern Pastor at Shepherd of the Hills in McHenry, Illinois was to debrief the High School Youth who had just returned from the ELCA Youth Gathering. Since then, I have prepared a few groups for their turn to go but have not gone myself. Now, thirty years after that internship experience, I will have the incredible privilege of accompanying two members of Our Lord's Youth, Charlotte and Katelyn, to New Orleans for "Created to Be."

My thanks to Debby Gunderson who has prepared our youth to engage the themes, speakers, and activities of this event. We will have hard conversations, foster relationships, and hopefully create a sanctuary for all who are a part of the gathering. I was particularly struck by this quote about the theme: "We are saint and sinner simultaneously, and we need forgiveness when we aren't or can't be brave, authentic, free, disruptive disciples." That's Lutheran! Both Luther's theology and his actions are summed up in that sentence. Please pray for the youth of this congregation and Lutheran youth throughout the country this month. And if you attended an ELCA Gathering when you were a youth, please join us on Sunday, July 14 for the Service of Commissioning. Just as you were blessed and sent, come bless and send Charlotte and Katelyn.

--Pastor Darla Ann

### ELCA YOUTH GATHERING - JULY 16-20

*Please keep all attendees, organizers, host staff, and others connected with the gathering in your prayers.*

2024 ELCA Youth Gathering  
**CREATED TO BE MYLE**  
the tAble Young Adult Gathering  
ELCA Youth Gathering July 16-20



OUR LORD'S  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

"Called to share Christ's Love with all."

## THE SPIRIT OF OUR LORD'S NEWS

July, 2024 | Volume 58, No. 7

A PUBLICATION OF OUR LORD'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

[www.ourlords.org](http://www.ourlords.org)

July 6 & 7

7th Weekend after Pentecost

“Christian Boasting:

Testimony from Our Siblings in Christ”

2 Corinthians 12:2-10

Mark 6:7-13

July 13 & 14

8th Weekend after Pentecost

“When Our Faithfulness Scares Others”

Amos 7:7-15

Mark 6:14-29

July 20 & 21

9th Weekend after Pentecost

Guest Pastor: S. Blake Duncan

Jeremiah 23:1-6

Psalms 23

Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

July 27 & 28

10th Weekend after Pentecost

“Growing Young: Unlock Keychain Leadership”

2 Kings 4:42-44

Psalms 145:16

John 6:1-21

Listen to services using your phone or tablet!

Scan the QR code or download AudioFetch on Google Play or iTunes..



Saturdays at 5 pm & Sundays at 9 am  
2nd Sunday Services will resume in September

5:00 pm and 9:00 am services will be livestreamed

“Created to Be”

Theme for the ELCA Youth Gathering

We have been created to be ourselves. Created by the Holy One. Since the last time the ELCA came together for an ELCA Youth Gathering, our young people have experienced several major life events. Still today, we are experiencing an ongoing public health crisis mixed with an economic and political crisis. However, we can rest assured that we are created to be in relationship with one another.

We are *created to be brave*, to show up with an open mind and heart, willing to be challenged.

We are *created to be authentic*, to bring our whole selves and know that we are loved by our Creator.

We are *created to be free*, to be transformed by the gospel.

We are *created to be disruptive*, to work for justice for all our siblings.

We are *created to be disciples*, to be sent out into the world to love our neighbor just as we are loved by God.

JULY GIVING EMPHASIS: BACK TO SCHOOL

Supplies for Caseyville Elementary and financial gifts for Lutheran Campus Ministry (St. Andrews Lutheran Campus Center)

In the middle of summer, it is sometimes hard to wrap our minds around the fact that the new school year will start in approximately six weeks for the children of our community and for many college students. That means that schools and universities are gearing up to receive those students. Our Lord’s Lutheran has a wonderful history of supporting Caseyville Elementary School with a collection of much needed supplies. Some of you may remember that Susan Rimar, who teaches at Caseyville Elementary, spoke to us this past November about the difference we make for both students and teachers through our donations. Our caring spirit and practical gifts make her so proud to be a member of Our Lord’s.

In mid-July, boxes to receive the following supplies will be placed in the Narthex. Donations of cash can also be given and the shopping will be done for you. Please bring your donations between Saturday, July 13 and Sunday, August 4.

- Wide ruled notebook paper
- Wooden Pencils (not Penway)
- 3-ring binders 1" or 1 1/2"
- Crayola crayons 24 count
- Facial tissues (boxes)
- Rectangle pencil boxes
- Handheld pencil sharpeners
- Watercolor paint sets
- Plastic 2 pocket folders in blue, yellow,

- Colored pencils
- Washable markers
- Glue Sticks
- Pink erasers
- Scissors





We also have a reputation for supporting Campus Ministry. Last year we focused on Lutheran Campus Ministry at Illinois State. This year our focus is St. Andrew's Lutheran Campus Center; Champaign, IL. We will see a 4-minute video during our worship service on the weekend of July 13 and 14. Some of you may remember that this is the congregation Kate Henderson attended while at the University of Illinois, Champaign. She served on the Church Council during a period of significant transition. Wonderful things are happening at St Andrews as a new building is taking shape. Please consider giving a financial contribution so they may deepen student engagement with the teachings of Jesus Christ and the community that bears his name. Gifts to this ministry may be made out to Our Lord's and given anytime between July 1 and July 31. We will send one check from OLLC sometime in early August. Thank you.

**HERE COMES THE SUN!  
SOLAR ENERGY PROJECT CAMPAIGN -- JUNE, JULY, & AUGUST**

The campaign to raise funds for the OLLC Solar Energy Project is underway! \$1550 has been received. There is still work to do if we are to meet our goal of \$40,000. Prayerfully consider increasing your giving to help fund the solar project (*capital campaign funds are in addition to your regular giving*). Visit the **"Here Comes the Sun"** display in the narthex; pick up donation envelopes, information cards, and a bottle of sunshine (Sunny D).

One-time contributions or monthly contributions are possible. Consider contributing the cost for one, two, three or more solar panels (approximate cost \$1500 per panel). If the cost of an entire panel does not work for you, contribute whatever dollars you can afford toward the solar project. If you are a part of an OLLC ministry group such as Morning Glories, Worker Bees, Adult Bible Study, Church Council, etc. consider pooling your funds to 'purchase' a panel, then challenge other OLLC ministries to match your group's giving. **Every dollar raised gets us closer to reaching our goal!**

**"Here Comes The Sun"**  
Make a contribution for a panel in the OLLC Solar Energy Project \$1500/panel  
Help Our Lord's Go Solar!

1	4	7	10	13	16	19	22	25	28	31	34	37	40	43	46	49	52	55	58	61	64	67	70	73	76	79	82
2	5	8	11	14	17	20	23	26	29	32	35	38	41	44	47	50	53	56	59	62	65	68	71	74	77	80	83
3	6	9	12	15	18	21	24	27	30	33	36	39	42	45	48	51	54	57	60	63	66	69	72	75	78	81	84
<b>OLLC</b>									<b>IL RECs</b>						<b>Fed. Tax Credit</b>												

The company leading the installation of solar energy for OLLC has been identified. Day & Night Solar will be coordinating the project for Our Lord's. The cost for the solar energy project was bid at \$120,154; the Federal Tax Incentive and Illinois Energy Renewable Credits anticipated total \$80,387.

All funds received through **"Here Comes the Sun"** exceeding the solar project costs will be used toward funding all/part of the compensation needed for a Coordinator of Young Adult, Family, & Member Ministries position; resealing the WC parking lot; and resealing the LC front parking lot.

**GETTING TO KNOW YOU - NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT**



**Meet Lori Orlando**

**What do you like to do when you are not working?** She spends time with her grandson. She likes to garden. Practices piano. She is learning Spanish and it's her fourth year learning the language. She volunteers with Vitas Hospice with her dog, Lucy. Lucy and her are part of their Paw Pals program.

**Tell us a little about your family.** Lori has one son, named Daniel and he is 35 years old. She also has a daughter-in-law named Janna who is also 35 years old. She has a grandson named Owen who is two. There is also another grandchild on the way that is due on January 1 st , 2025.

**Tell us about your work background?** Lori is a retired Professor of Teacher Education from St. Louis Community College (SCC) where she taught for 15 years. She retired in December of 2022 and continues to teach adjunct at SCC. Orlando also teaches at Lewis & Clark Community College on Tuesdays and Thursdays in their College for Life Program (students with Disabilities.)

**What are your hobbies?** Gardening, piano, Spanish, sewing, animals, bicycling, hiking-anything that has to do with the outdoors.

**What is your favorite book?** "The Kite Runner"

## REVIEW OF MISSION, VISION, & VALUES

The Mission, Vision, & Values (adopted 2021) explains the beliefs, values, and purpose of Our Lord's and are used as a guide when making decisions for future actions and experiences within the church. After three years it is time to revisit and re-imagine OLLC. The review process will be led by the **Identity and Action Team**; team members include: Deb Ackerman, Ron Blotevogel, Dom and Nona Echevarria, Anna Foppe, and Steve Perry. We pray for the Identity and Action Team and ask God to guide the members as they begin the process of revisiting and re-imagining the Mission, Vision and Values of OLLC.



## CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OUR GRADUATES

- **Matthew Beaver**, great nephew of Loretta and Mike Williams, graduated from Wingate University with a pharmacy degree. He is now Dr. Matthew Beaver, Pharmacy MD.
- **Elise Bost** is the great niece of Loretta and Mike Williams. Elise graduated from the University of North Carolina with a Bachelor of Science in Exercise Science and a minor in Psychology. She is now a student at East Tennessee University College of Clinical and Rehabilitative Health Sciences working toward a Doctorate of Occupational Therapy.
- **Thomas Bost**, Elise's twin brother and great nephew of Loretta and Mike Williams, graduated from the University of North Carolina- Chapel Hill. Thomas received a Bachelor of Science in Biology and a double minor in Chemistry and Asian Studies. He is taking a gap year to gain research and clinical experiences with the hope of applying to either physician assistant or physical therapy graduate programs.
- **Briley Bruninga** graduated from Edwardsville High School on June 1st, 2024. Briley is currently pursuing her personal trainer certification and will continue her education at Illinois State University for her bachelors degree in health science.
- **Kylie Fremder** graduated from Collinsville High School on May 11th 2024. Kylie is currently working in home health and finding that she really enjoys it. She is planning to pursue a career in nursing.
- **Maureen "Mo" Johnson** graduated from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville's School of Business this past May with her Masters in Business Administration. She also graduated from SIUE in 2011 with a bachelors in Business Administration and again in 2013 with a Masters in Public Administration. She resides in Edwardsville with her husband Nathan, and twins William and Mara. Additionally, she works as a Director of Product Development for Infoplus Commerce assisting warehouses with their inventory needs through software development.
- **Lia Kampwerth** graduated from Edwardsville High School on June 1st, 2024. Lia plans to attend Illinois State University this fall and will major in Nursing.
- **Zachary Noga** graduated from Edwardsville High School on June 1st, 2024. His college plans include attending Southwestern Illinois College in the fall to work towards a degree in Aviation Maintenance.
- **Mari Short** graduated June 1st from Edwardsville High School. This fall, she will be attending SIUE and majoring in Mass Communications-Media Production. She plans on moving to Michigan to find work at a radio station after getting her Bachelors in Mass Communications.
- **Josie Steinmann** graduated from Edwardsville High School on June 1, 2024. She plans to attend Southeast Missouri State University in Cape Girardeau, Missouri. Josie plans to major in Psychology with an emphasis in Early Child Development. Josie's favorite memory at Our Lord's is working as a leader during Vacation Bible School.

Dear Lord,  
Bless the lives of graduates with goodness and love.  
Help them use their gifts wisely  
Pursue their dreams boldly and  
Guide them to walk  
into the future with faith, hope and great love.  
Amen.



OUR LORD'S LUTHERAN CHURCH  
PRESENTS

# Concert in the Pines

LIVE MUSIC!  
FOLK & ACOUSTIC SONGS  
CLASSIC & CURRENT ARTISTS



FEATURING

Brian Gunderson + Cady Thomas-Potts + Olivia Cross

**Friday – July 26, 2024**

Concert will be rescheduled in the case of rain.

**7:00 PM – Cool beverages & light desserts**

**7:30 PM – Concert**

Community is invited!

Bring your lawn chairs or sit on one of our cushioned benches.

Remember, it is always considerably cooler in the pines.



The position will require the coordinator to:

- 1) announce the serving schedule to the church membership (monthly requirement 15-20 minutes)
- 2) solicit volunteers for meal preparation and serving (monthly - sign up sheet is placed in the Narthex and if there are not enough volunteers you need to call possible congregational members and SoS coalition volunteers) - required time varies could be up to 2-3 hours
- 3) set the menu (monthly or bi-monthly done at Coalition meeting)
- 4) obtain the supplies needed for the meal (normally shopping can be completed at Gordon Food Service and Sam's Club - required time normally runs 3 hours)
- 5) lead the preparation and serving of the meal (monthly - normally arrive early to bring in supplies and prepare the kitchen for the volunteers - then stay until completion of serving - required time between 4-6 hours).

OLLC normally serves on the second Tuesday or the second Thursday. While not every month, we do serve 8-10 times a year. There is a Coalition Member meeting every two months, which takes about an hour in the evening if you join by Zoom or 1 hour and drive time if you are physically in the meeting room. For the interim Gail will take the meetings as the new coordinator(s) get their bearings working the serving effort. The SoS mission needs your prayerful consideration to meet this vacancy in our mission outreach efforts. Please feel free to contact Gail Jorgenson if you have questions regarding this request.

## 2ND ANNUAL FIRST RESPONDER'S BREAKFAST

*Calling all First Responders within our congregation and surrounding communities.  
You are invited to attend the 2nd Annual First Responders Appreciation Breakfast*

**Saturday, September 14, 2024; 8:00 am to 11:00 am (OLLC Fellowship Hall)**

Enjoy a hearty breakfast prepared by our members. This is our way to say **THANK YOU** for all you do to help keep our community safe.

Menu: scrambled eggs, sausage patties, biscuits and gravy, pancakes, donuts, assorted pastries, assorted juices and coffee

Volunteers needed to assist with meal prep, setup, serving meals, and delivery service. Contact Cindy Pugh (618-334-1046) if you are available to help with the First Responder's Breakfast.



## SERVING OUR LORD'S



**SOS will not be serving in July or August.**

**September 10 is the next date OLLC is responsible for meal prep & serving.**

In effort to minimize cost, food for SOS will be purchased through a local wholesaler, therefore, rather than donating specific items, we are asking anyone interested in supporting this ministry to provide cash contributions. Donations can be given via check, cash, or through Vanco online giving, please note S.O.S. in the memo line. Assistance with preparation and serving the meal is still needed. Please contact Gail Jorgenson or the church office with questions.



**Worker Bees: Saturday, July 13**

**breakfast at 7:00 am, church 8:00 am.**

If you plan on attending, please confirm by email or text to Chuck Pugh.

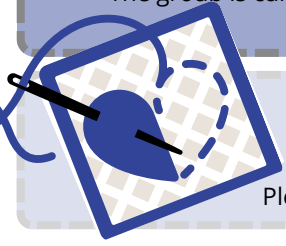
**Mowers & trimmers are still needed! Mowers & trimmers typically complete their turn in the rotation once per month. If you are able to assist with the lawn care of OLLC contact Chuck Pugh.**

# OLLC EDUCATION & FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

## FEEDING THE SOUL

**Wednesdays at 3:00 pm** Chapel of the Pines (weather permitting) or LC Conference Room

The group is currently discussing *Godbreathed* by Zack Hunt



## MORNING GLORIES - CATCH UP THURSDAYS

2nd Thursday in June, July, & August @ 10:00 am

Morning Glories will take a break for the summer but will still get together once a month to "Catch-Up".

Bring your own snacks and beverages. Location is TBD.

**Morning Glories Bible Study will resume in September.**

July 11th

## OUR LORD'S CRAFTERS

**Crafters will meet July 24** in Fellowship Hall from 12 pm - 3 pm. Please contact Kathy Nehrt with any questions!

## CRAFTS & LAUGHS

Crafts & Laughs is taking a break for summer. The next meeting will be in September. Contact Cindy Pugh (618-334-1046) with questions.

## TUESDAY TEA

**Tuesday Tea is on summer break.**

The next meeting will be September 10 for an end of summer tea.



## SERENDIPITY BOOK CLUB

**Book Club will meet July 15th at 11:30 am**

We will discuss *Iona Iverson's Rules for Commuting* by Clare Poole. Bringing your lunch is optional. Zoom will be available on request. New members ALWAYS welcome

## LOOKING AHEAD

### AUGUST

- August 25 - Confirmation Orientation & Rocket Launch

**Giving Emphasis:**  
**"African Vision of Hope"**



### SEPTEMBER

- September 2 - Labor Day - Office Closed
- September 8 - Rally Day
- September 10 - New Member Classes begin
- September 14 - First Responders' Breakfast
- September 14/15 - God's Work, Our Hands
- September 28/29 - Service Commitments Dedication

**Giving Emphasis:**  
**"Month of Service" with Dedication of Service Commitments**

### OCTOBER

- October 8 - 1st Communion Classes begin
- October 5 - Pet Expo
- October 31 - 1st Communion, Reformation Sunday

**Giving Emphasis:**  
**Spirit of Sharing (SOS) - M&M Tubes given out at end of October**

## CENTRAL/SOUTHERN ILLINOIS SYNOD NEWS AND EVENTS

*"LIKE GOOD STEWARDS OF THE MANIFOLD GRACE OF GOD, SERVE ONE ANOTHER WITH WHATEVER GIFT EACH OF YOU HAS RECEIVED"*  
1 PETER 4:10.

The 2024 Central/Southern Illinois Synod Assembly was held June 6-8 at Decatur Conference Center and Hotel with 277 people in attendance, including 145 lay voting members, 86 rostered ministers, and 46 visitors.

Bishop Greg Busboom presided over his first Synod Assembly with the theme of "Many Gifts, One Mission," based on 1 Peter 4:10, highlighting that we each have different gifts that we bring together to carry out the one mission of the church.

This year's Assembly featured a large slate of elections for open positions at both the synod and churchwide levels.

- Synod Vice President: Ms. Molly Berry
- Synod Council Members: Mr. David Poland and Ms. Cassie Roach
- Male rostered ministers nominated to the 2025 ELCA Churchwide Assembly for election to the ELCA Church Council: the Revs. Ryan Anderson and Adam Dichsen
- Voting members to the 2025 ELCA Churchwide Assembly: Mr. Scott Dietrich, Mr. Christopher Edmonds, the Rev. Jon Fry, Ms. Bella Karunas, Ms. Sundae Johnson, the Rev. Julia Rademacher, and Ms. Ana Viera. They will join Bishop Busboom and Ms. Molly Berry, who serve ex officio.

Voting members approved the synod's 2025 budget of \$1,230,000. Of that, \$578,100 (47%) will be directed to the ELCA for ministry at the churchwide level, with \$651,900 (53%) to be used by the synod.

The Assembly received the results of our synod-wide visioning surveys and listening sessions, which identify values, mission, vision, and emerging priorities. "Spirit Labs" breakout sessions were used to continue drilling down and identifying specifics that will shape our future as a synod.



Central/Southern Illinois Synod  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

**CONGREGATION MEMBERS**

Don Klingsick	John Nehrt	Joyce Tatjenhorst
Dan Homes	Sonja Cheatham	Kendyll Pugh
Linda Spencer	Rod Orr	Sarah White
Brian Kassing	Dean Lackey	Dave Chaffee
Don Simonson Sr.	Greg Perkins	Shellie Lackey
Nicole Williams	Mike Williams	Emily Callahan
Dave Gocken	JoAnn Hartke	April Clark

**PRAYER CONCERNS**

Ozzie	Miriam
Joyce	Rose K.
Grace	Shelley Bruntjen
Bill Miles	Jamie Moravec
Austin Cummings	Jim R.
Andrea Lair	

**FAMILY & FRIENDS**

**PRAY FOR THOSE THAT HAVE DIED & FAMILIES THAT ARE GRIEVING**

William Schneider (brother in law of Rhonda Comrie)



**PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY PERSONNEL**

Zach Huff	Lance Cpl. Clayton Campbell
John Meyer	Major James Carmichael
Zachary Neubauer	Airborne Ranger Keegan Crosby
Amador Ochoa	Staff Sgt. Tyson Crosby
Capt. Blake Crosby	Erica Webb, US Private E-3
Josh Pace	SrA Paul Kampwerth
Scott Prengel	Staff Sgt. Skipper Smith
Jake Randall	Sgt. Matthew Spencer (Ret.)
SPC Bill Homes	Staff Sgt. Stephan Spencer

**CELEBRATIONS THIS MONTH**

**July Birthdays**

Pr. Bob Downs	Chuck Pugh
Tesla Krueger	Tom Steinmann
Randall Christopher Helms	Lia Kampwerth
Connie Nyland	Tonia Bridenbaugh
Sarah White	Bruce Fritz
Ruth Ann Blotvogel	John Huster
Forrest Hancock	Emerson Morris
Susan Perkins	Don Schlonat
Nicole Williams	Barbara Stahlheber
Connie Wyvell	Tyler Wyvell
Sharon Bruhn	Maureen "Mo" Johnson
Danny Schrader	Mara Johnson
Evan Blind	William Johnson
Leighton Eli Morris	Ezekiel Huster
Elaine Baden	

**July Anniversaries**

Don & Jackie Schlonat

Scott & Michelle Mihalich

Jim & Terri Schickel

Tim & Laura Schoenecker

Michael & Loretta Williams

Jeanette & Ronnie Goetter

Lee & Barb Werne

David & Caryl Kassing

Don & Elaine Baden

**REMINDERS**

**PRAYER LIST**

Please let the office know if you would like to add a new person, remove a current person, or change the status of anyone on our prayer list. OLLC practice includes removing individuals from the prayer lists **after 8 weeks** unless an update is received.

**PRAYER VENTURES**

Two pages of monthly prayer support for ELCA ministries are available at: <https://www.elca.org/Resources/Prayer-Ventures>

**WHEN YOU HAVE CHANGES**

Please let the church office know of changes to e-mail address, mail/resident addresses, telephone numbers, job, college, graduations etc.

**OTHER INFORMATION**

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America -- <https://www.elca.org/>  
 Central Southern Illinois Synod -- <https://www.csis-elca.org/>





OLLC now offers multiple ways to give. Simply scan this QR code with your smart phone. The QR code takes you directly to the OLLC giving page. On the giving page you have the opportunity to identify if your contribution is for Benevolence (church expenditures) or for one of the designated funds. Of course, cash or checks are always welcomed. No matter how you choose to give, donations received will help us sustain our ministries throughout the year.

**Thank you for all you do to support the mission of Our Lord's Lutheran Church!**

**OUR MINISTRY TEAM**

**OLLC STAFF**

**The Rev. Dr. Darla Ann Kratzer,**  
Pastor

**Cynthia Haggitt,**  
Administrative Assistant

**Cady Thomas Potts,**  
Director of Worship Music for  
Sundays & Special Services

**Olivia Cross,**  
Leader of Non-Traditional  
Worship Music

**Dr. Rhonda Comrie,**  
Organist

**Matt Gross,**  
Streaming Tech

**Benjamin Maynard,**  
Worship Tech

**CHURCH COUNCIL**

**Dr. Karen Cummings-Larson,**  
President

**Dr. Emily Truckenbrod,**  
Vice President

**Jeanette Goetter,**  
Secretary

**Dr. Laura Schoenecker,**  
Treasurer

**Linda Hester,**  
Member At-Large

**The Rev. Dr. Darla Ann R. Kratzer,**  
Pastor

**MINISTRY SUPPORT TEAM**

**Kathy Nehrt:** Education

**Cindy Pugh:** Fellowship

**Ed Foppe:** IT

**Carol Orr:** Service

**Dr. Rhonda Comrie:** Worship

**Sunday School:**  
Lisa White

**Fair Trade Store:**  
Mike Williams  
vablu2@aol.com

**Newsletter Editor:**  
K. Cummings-Larson

**Facebook:**  
Maureen "Mo" Johnson

**COUNCIL BRIEFS**

The threat of summer craziness has become a reality. I expected life at Our Lord's to slow down; that was not the case during June and July may be even busier. The summer began with VBS and graduation celebrations, we kicked off "Here Comes the Sun" to raise funds for the solar energy project, and identified the company that will lead the solar installation--all of this in the month of June. July is shaping up to be busy as well. There is a buzz going on in the church about the start of a young adult ministry and a ministry for young families; the Identity and Action Team will begin the review of the OLLC Mission, Vision, and Values; two OLLC youth plus Pastor will be attending the ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans; and Olivia, Cady, & Brian will share their musical talents during a "Concert in the Pines."

As I create the calendar of July events for the newsletter I felt a twinge of stress and anxiety. Isn't summer supposed to be stress-free and with fewer responsibilities? How do I find the time to do everything that needs to be done?

I recently came across a devotion from *Proverbs 31 Ministries* that suggested ways to navigate a stressful summer. To get through the chaos and stress of summer the article states, remember to focus on God's sweet goodness, instead of all the scribbles on the calendar. Focus on all the good things God has done for us so far this year, instead of the challenges of the summer months. Remain calm and pray for God's peace when the demands of family and life seem overwhelming. Ask God to give us rest and strength when we begin to feel stretched thin and worn out. Take time to unplug completely - meaning no phone or emails. Do something for yourself once a week.

The bottom line.....God promises He will help us with whatever we face: "The LORD gives his people strength. The LORD blesses them with peace" (Psalm 29:11).

Busyness and stress can heat up quicker than the summer sun. But it is possible to stay cool on the inside. Whether we are low in spirit or low in energy, depending on God and seeking a daily infusion of His strength and peace can ensure a less stressful summer.

Yours in Christ,  
*Karen Cummings-Larson*

*If you would like to become involved in the leadership at OLLC, (serving on church council or as part of the ministry support team) please contact Pastor Darla Ann or a council member. If you are interested in attending a meeting, contact the church office for access information.*

**FINANCIAL NEWS**

Provided by OLLC Treasurer Laura Schoenecker  
If you have any questions, please contact Laura at lswanso@siue.edu.

**General Benevolence Income**

May 2024..... \$17,655

**General Benevolence Expenses**

May 2024..... \$22,905

*Cash - Unrestricted* ..... \$11,579

*Cash - Designated* ..... \$53,778

**Total Cash** ..... **\$65,357**

**Treasurer's May Summary**

The balance of the Monthly Emphasis Fund at the end of May 2024 was \$635.00. The following were included in the total.

- School Supplies \$135.00
- April Clean-up \$50.00
- ELCA World Hunger \$150.00
- Madagascar Synod \$300.00

The funds for the Madagascar Synod were distributed via a check taken to the C/SIS Synod Gathering in June.

General Benevolence Income in May was 17,665.00. I will submit \$1,590 (9% of 17,665.00) to C/SiS for Synod Benevolence for May. Based on March, April and May General Benevolence Income, there is \$597.66 (1% of 59,766.33) available to allocate for Local Benevolence.

*Thank you for sharing your financial resources with this congregation in support of the mission we share.*

# PUZZLE

## Summer's gifts

Summer brings longer days, warmer nights and – for many people – time spent near water. Complete this puzzle to find out who's behind all those summertime joys.



Directions: Read Jeremiah 31:35 (NIV) below. Draw a  around words describing God's actions. Draw an  around words that describe day. Underline words that describe evening. Draw under words that describe the ocean.

He who appoints the sun to shine by day,  
who decrees the moon and stars to shine by night,  
who stirs up the sea so that its waves roar ...



Directions: Circle the capital letters. Then write them from left to right on the lines below to reveal God's name in this Bible verse.

i t T W H s p j E k e m a b L f g O h b c R d  
e D q r s t c e a t o n a h f z z v u A w y L  
a v n M q z l s k y z G u w H h m o T k j k Y



\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



Answer: The LORD Almighty

# PUZZLE

## "IN DEPENDENCE" DAY!

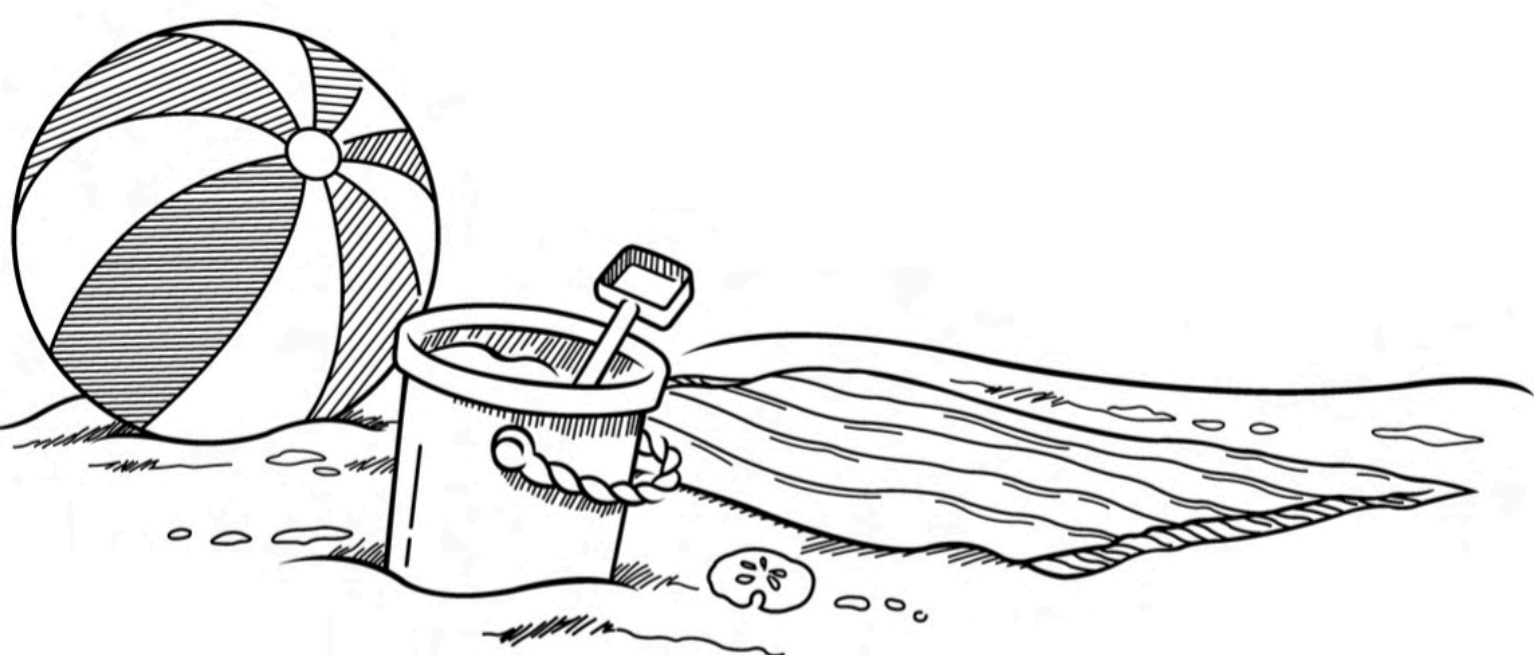
Always live "in dependence" on God.

Directions: Use the vowel code to complete Psalm 16:8, NIV.

A= E= I= O= U=

k \_ \_ p my \_ y \_ s  
l w \_ y s \_ n th \_ L \_ RD.  
W \_ th h \_ m \_ t my  
r \_ ght h \_ nd,  
w \_ ll n \_ t b \_ sh \_ k \_ n.  
Ps \_ lm 16:8, N \_ V

Answer: I keep my eyes always on the LORD. With him at my right hand, I will not be shaken. Psalm 16:8, NIV



# JULY 2024 CALENDAR

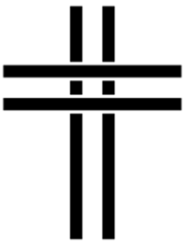
SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
<p><b>2024: A New Era of Giving</b></p>	<p><b>1</b> Pastor on Vacation</p> <p><b>3:00 PM</b> Music Lessons, C. Thomas Potts -LC</p>	<p><b>2</b> Pastor on Vacation</p> <p><b>3:00 PM</b> Music Lessons, C. Thomas Potts -WC  <b>7:00 PM</b> NAR-ANON - LC Conference Room  <b>7:00 PM</b> NA Recovery - LC Basement</p>	<p><b>3</b> Pastor on Vacation</p> <p><b>3:00 PM</b> Feeding the Soul - Chapel in the Pines weather permitting  <b>3:00 PM</b> Music Lessons, C. Thomas Potts</p>	<p><b>4</b> Pastor on Vacation</p> <p><b>Church Office Closed</b></p> <p><b>Independence Day</b></p>	<p><b>5</b> Pastor on Vacation</p>	<p><b>6</b></p> <p><b>3:30 PM</b> Praise Band Practice  <b>5:00 PM</b> Worship: Praise Service  <b>6:15 PM</b> Hospitality</p>
	<p><b>7</b></p> <p><b>9:00 AM</b> Worship: Traditional Service  <b>10:15 AM</b> Hospitality (Coffee, Teas, &amp; Treats)</p>	<p><b>8</b></p> <p><b>3:00 PM</b> Music Lessons, C. Thomas Potts -LC  <b>6:30 PM</b> Ministry Support Team Mtg.</p>	<p><b>9</b></p> <p><b>3:00 PM</b> Music Lessons, C. Thomas Potts -WC  <b>7:00 PM</b> NAR-ANON - LC Conference Room  <b>7:00 PM</b> NA Recovery - LC Basement</p>	<p><b>10</b></p> <p><b>3:00 PM</b> Feeding the Soul - Chapel in the Pines weather permitting  <b>3:00 PM</b> Music Lessons, C. Thomas Potts  <b>7:00 PM</b> Lakeview Garden Club Meeting - WC</p>	<p><b>11</b> OLLC serves S.O.S.</p> <p><b>10:00 AM</b> Morning Glories. Location TBD  <b>5:00 PM</b> Music Lessons, C. Thomas Potts - WC  <b>6:30 PM</b> Identity and Action Team Meeting</p>	<p><b>12</b></p> <p><b>Pastor's Sabbath</b></p>
<p><b>14</b></p> <p><b>9:00 AM</b> Worship: Traditional Service  <b>10:15 AM</b> Hospitality (Coffee, Teas, &amp; Treats)</p>	<p><b>15</b> Newsletter Deadline</p> <p><b>11:30 AM</b> Serendipity Book Club  <b>3:00 PM</b> Music Lessons, C. Thomas Potts -LC  <b>6:30 PM</b> Church Council Meeting</p>	<p><b>16</b> <b>17</b> <b>18</b> <b>19</b> <b>20</b></p> <p><b>ELCA YOUTH GATHERING "CREATED TO BE" ----- NEW ORLEANS ----- JULY 16-20</b></p>		<p><b>18</b></p> <p><b>5:00 PM</b> Music Lessons, C. Thomas Potts - WC</p>	<p><b>19</b></p>	<p><b>20</b></p> <p><b>10:00 AM</b> La Leche League - WC  <b>3:30 PM</b> Praise Band Practice  <b>5:00 PM</b> Worship: Praise Service  <b>6:15 PM</b> Hospitality</p>
<p><b>21</b></p> <p><b>9:00 AM</b> Worship: Traditional Service  <b>10:15 AM</b> Hospitality (Coffee, Teas, &amp; Treats)</p>	<p><b>22</b></p> <p><b>3:00 PM</b> Music Lessons, C. Thomas Potts -LC</p>	<p><b>23</b></p> <p><b>3:00 PM</b> Music Lessons, C. Thomas Potts -WC  <b>7:00 PM</b> NAR-ANON - LC Conference Room  <b>7:00 PM</b> NA Recovery - LC Basement</p>	<p><b>24</b></p> <p><b>12:00 PM</b> Our Lord's Crafters - WC  <b>3:00 PM</b> Feeding the Soul - Chapel in the Pines weather permitting  <b>3:00 PM</b> Music Lessons, C. Thomas Potts</p>	<p><b>25</b></p> <p><b>5:00 PM</b> Music Lessons, C. Thomas Potts - WC</p>	<p><b>26</b></p> <p><b>Pastor's Sabbath</b></p> <p><b>7:00 PM</b> <b>Concert in the Pines</b> with Olivia, Cady, &amp; Brian</p> 	<p><b>27</b></p> <p><b>3:30 PM</b> Praise Band Practice  <b>5:00 PM</b> Worship: Praise Service  <b>6:15 PM</b> Hospitality</p>
<p><b>28</b></p> <p><b>9:00 AM</b> Worship: Traditional Service  <b>10:15 AM</b> Hospitality (Coffee, Teas, &amp; Treats)</p>	<p><b>29</b></p> <p><b>3:00 PM</b> Music Lessons, C. Thomas Potts -LC</p>	<p><b>30</b></p> <p><b>7:00 PM</b> NAR-ANON - LC Conference Room  <b>7:00 PM</b> NA Recovery - LC Basement</p>	<p><b>31</b></p> <p><b>3:00 PM</b> Feeding the Soul - Chapel in the Pines weather permitting  <b>3:00 PM</b> Music Lessons, C. Thomas Potts</p>	<p><b>July Giving Emphasis:</b></p> <p><b>Back to School</b>  <b>School Supplies for Caseyville Elementary &amp; Donations for Lutheran Campus Ministry</b></p> 		

**We are created to be disciples,  
to be sent out into the world  
to love our neighbor just as we are loved by God.**

ELCA Youth Gathering 2024

**“The Spirit of Our Lord’s News”  
Our Lord’s Lutheran Church  
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**July 2024 Newsletter**

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