

Good Shepherd



Joyfully His....

August Newsletter 2026

Summer is coming to a close, school is only a month away. Do you know your teachers? If you're reading this maybe you're thinking of your children or grandchildren's teachers. Maybe you can think back to treasured teachers you once had. It is important for students to know who their teacher is! Usually, the town knows who a teacher is for a classroom when the principal or district hires them. On top of that the kids know who it is from back-to-school night or meeting them when they enter their classroom. But there is a clearly defined process for identifying who is the teacher of the rowdy 3rd grade class or the extremely intelligent 8th graders.

In education there has always been understandable caution letting anyone become a teacher. Children are precious gifts from God. They spend over 1,200 hours with that teacher annually!¹ So we develop structures to help create good teachers.

Now, it should be a surprise and a shock to us, that when it comes to pastors, preachers and teachers of God's Word, at times we throw that same caution to the wind. Here's an example of what I mean.

One day Sally and Trenton woke up on opposite sides of the world. Both of them had grown up in the church and had a strong desire to serve the Lord Jesus. When they woke up, they thought to themselves, "I think God is calling me to be a pastor--"

Let me interrupt the story at this point and ask you, what should the next step be for each other them? Think about it, you've probably heard myself or one of our elders talk about the shortages of pastors in the LC-MS (Lutheran Church Missouri Synod). If one of these two imaginary people told you this, what should the next step be?

That question may make you uncomfortable but it is one that biblically we have many examples and clear direction to guide our journey and life together as the Church.

St. Paul's journey is formative for this conversation on how pastors are and are not made. You can read about this journey in detail beginning in Acts 9, but don't stop there! Follow the train of Paul's acceptance as a preacher and teacher of God's Word all the way through Acts 15.

¹ <https://www.educationnext.org/time-for-school-assessing-inequality-access-instructional-time-united-states/>

For a more concise retelling of God's call to Paul, read Galatians 1:11-24. Essentially Paul received a direct revelation from the Lord Jesus to go preach and teach the good news. Some people today claim to receive similar direct revelations. Both should be treated with a healthy amount of skepticism, and Paul's was! That's why he writes Galatians 1:11-24. It's strange then that today, we don't always give the same level of scrutiny to people who claim to have revelations from God, or who emphasize how "called" they feel about preaching and teaching.

Article XIV of the Augsburg Confession helps us clearly define the next steps for both Sally and Trenton or any preacher today! On a side note, it also helps clearly define the next step for the people of God who can encourage others to enter into the Office of Holy Ministry.

Concerning church government it is taught that no one should publicly teach, preach, or administer the sacraments without a proper [public] call.

AUGSBURG CONFESSION ARTICLE XIV



No one, not Sally, Trenton, Jonathan, your best friend, or a really great speaker you heard should publicly teach, preach, or give the sacraments without a proper public call.

That is critical for following the mission of God to baptize and make disciples of all nations, teaching them to obey everything Jesus has commanded us because it unifies the witness of the Church in a public way clearly.

If we didn't believe, teach, and confess Article XIV it would be worse than having a substitute teacher every week at school. Article V that we looked at a few months ago told us that the church exists, "among those who rightly teach the Word of God and rightly administer the sacraments..." That means it is just as important to know how you get your pastor. Jesus is the Lord of the Church and he works through it by his Holy Spirit. You called your pastor trusting that he was prepared through good education, never forget that no matter who your pastor is.

Joyfully His,

Pastor Jonathan Jahnke

ELDERS CORNER

Forgiveness

As I ponder today's world, I find that forgiveness comes to mind.

When I watch the Charlie Kirk Memorial, Ericka his wife said this directed to the shooter. She said, "I forgive you because Charlie would want me to and God demands it."

Many times, I have struggled with forgiveness in my life. In Matthew Chapter 6 verse 14, God says:

*For if you forgive
others their trespasses,
your heavenly Father will
also forgive you...*

Matthew 6:14



"For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you." He also warns in verse 15: "But if you do not forgive men their sins, your father will not forgive you."

This is very hard to do but I believe that forgive does not mean forget, it is not even a pardon, it is letting God be the judge. If we hold on to resentment and anger, we are the one being punished inside, we need to offer up our anger to God, and ask for forgiveness, and forgive the other person. When we do not seek vengeance, we open our hearts to forgiveness, the darkness is banished and the evil is no more.

Remember, forgiveness comes from an open heart, it comes without condition or it does not come at all. Jesus forgave all of our sins and the darkness of sin is no more.

Jesus' love is not only when things are good and easy in our life but it is when things seem to be falling apart, giving us another chance to grow our faith in Jesus building a real relationship and, truly trusting in him, in faith. Thank you, God, for providing your grace to all of us every day and offering up your only son Jesus to conquer the darkness for all of us.

In Christ,
Keith Ramsay
Your servant



EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Highlights from July Executive council meeting....

1. Lakes Area Christian Educators (LACE) was present at our meeting and thanked Good Shepherd for the use of the facility and asked to use it for the 2026-27 school year on Wednesdays.

2. Fellowship Hall- walls painted and flooring replaced. Thanks to Dave Nelson and everyone that helped with this project.

3. Playground- there has been discussion June and July meetings on making Good Shepherd a place where families with children or youth have more reasons to play, hangout and grow in their faith all in 1 place, more about this in next couple of months.

Please pray for us the Executive Council that We can lead Good shepherd in God's direction and not our own.

Yours in Christ,
Loren Boysen

TREASURE

June 2026 at a Glance

May 2026	FUNDS	EXPENSES
Current Month's Offerings	\$30,112	
Year To Date Total Offerings	\$213,915	
Thrivent Choice Dollars- YTD	\$3,299	
Miscellaneous Income- YTD	\$250	
LCEF Account Transfer- YTD		
Current Month's General Expense		\$33,062
Year to Date Total Expense		\$201,186
Current Month Net Less Expense		(\$2,549)
Year to Date Net Less Expense		\$16,278

Financial & Attendance updates will be changing to monthly! If you have questions regarding Good Shepherds Finances, please reach out to Eric Wenz-Treasure @ goodshepherdalextreas@gmail.com

ALTAR GUILD

I have written about decorations in the Church in the past, since we are in the season of beautiful flowers, I will share the use of flowers in the Church, which is very common in many churches today. Flowers do not serve any liturgical function, but help to set a joyful tone and mood for an event, an expression of the goodness and beauty of God's creation.

When using flowers as decorations, we have to keep in mind the kind of arrangement. Must we use real flowers, or may artificial flowers be used? Are the flowers to be cut, or can they be potted plants? The rule of thumb is that real flowers are preferred. This rule abides by the rule that objects used in the house of God should be genuine. However, the use of artificial plants and flowers today is widespread, because of convenience and cost. The placement of the flowers is also a concern. They should never obstruct the view of the altar cross or any other significant decoration or symbol. Flower stands offer a number of possibilities within the chancel and may also be placed on the floor of the nave where it joins the chancel. No matter where the flower stands are placed, they should not interfere with the movement of the Pastor, or communicants going to the altar to receive communion.

The arrangements shouldn't be higher than the candles or the altar cross. Color is important too. While all flowers in the arrangement need not match the color of the paraments, the arrangement as a whole should harmonize with them and be consistent with the festival or the season of the Church Year.

If your flower gardens are looking beautiful and you would like to share them for the Altar, the sign-up calendar is posted on the LWML bulletin board.

A big thank You to the Carol Rasmussen for caring for the altar care and providing flowers in July. Gary and Jean Christianson will care for the Altar in August.

May your summer continue to be enjoyed with family and friends!
God's Blessings ~ Amory Anderson

LIBRARY

"All the way Home" was written by Ann Tatlock about two young girls, a Japanese-American girl, Sunny and an American girl, Augusta who became friends.

Augie and her family had moved in with their Uncle Finn's family and were forced to sleep up in the attic of the house. She eventually spent most of her time at Sunny's home where she discovered what a real family was like.

Things were good until Pearl Harbor was bombed during WWII. Then the Japanese-American family were sent to camps far away. They promised to write and let them know where they were. While in the camp, Sunny found out about Jesus, and became a believer.

Augie had loved books and eventually became a journalist. She was sent to write a story about the problems blacks had in registering to vote in Mississippi. She wasn't aware when she went that one of her lifelong dreams would come true..... You can read this and many others in the library!

Love
Patches
Sewing Love into every stitch!



It has been great to have several quilters get together this summer. The fellowship we have makes it so special. Since May we have given out 10 lap quilts and one baptism quilt. It is a great blessing to us to be able to help individuals in this way.

FELLOWSHIP HALL RENOVATIONS

DEMOLITION



COMING TOGETHER



NEW FLOORING

PAINTING IN PROGRESS



Thank you
everyone
for
helping!

CLEANING INSTRUCTIONS!!!

With the new flooring there are some important cleaning instructions to keep it looking nice and provide longevity! They are as follows:

1. VACUUM/VACUUM/VACUUM~DUST/DUST/DUST After every event dust mop or vacuum repeatedly before any other cleaning- this will remove all debris that can dull the surface or cause additional build up destroying the finish.
2. SPOT CLEAN using the spray bottle marked FH FLOOR CLEANER (premixed) in the pantry closet, lightly spray cleaner onto the floor surface followed immediately by mopping this area and rinsing.
3. PLEASE DO NOT use any other cleaning products or water



To learn more please watch: <https://youtu.be/qYRMCzxEOl8?is=wd-F6kNewIZV-G2h>

If you have questions, please reach out to Sue or David Nelson for tips.

LWML: Lutheran Women in Missions

Greetings in the name of Christ!

The LWML women's retreat at Lutheran Island Camp will be held August 7-9. Our speaker will be Christina Walther. She is deeply passionate about guiding individuals to connect with Christ at every stage and walk of life. If you are interested in attending there is information on the LWML bulletin board.

Our next meeting will be on Monday, August 17th. We will start at 5:30 pm with a potluck in the fellowship hall with our meeting to follow at 6:30pm in the ed wing. As always, all women are invited to join us!

Blessings on your summer and remember to let His joy be your joy (John 15:11)

Tracy Boysen

FELLOWSHIP

Worship Together in God's Creation-Sunday Aug. 23

"And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers." Acts 2:42

The Fellowship Committee warmly invites everyone to join us for a special **Outdoor Worship Service** on **Sunday, August 23** at beautiful **Lake Brophy County Park**. Come worship with your church family surrounded by God's wonderful creation, then stay for food, fellowship, and fun as we enjoy a picnic together!

Event Details

- **When:** Sunday, August 23 at **10:00 AM**
(Please note the special start time—our service will begin one hour later than our usual 9:00 AM worship.)
- **What:** Outdoor Worship Service followed by a church picnic
- **Who:** Everyone is welcome! Invite a friend or family member to join you.
- **Where:** Visitor Center at Lake Brophy County Park, 2175 Brophy Landing NW, Alexandria, MN 56308

Spending time together outside of our regular routines strengthens the bonds of our church family. We hope you'll join us as we worship our Creator in His creation, grow in fellowship, and enjoy meaningful conversation and time together.

The Lake Brophy Visitor Center and surrounding area are handicap accessible, and handicap parking spaces are available. Some picnic tables will be provided, but if you are able, please bring a lawn chair for the worship service.

The church will provide the meat, buns and bottled water. The congregation is invited to bring a potluck dish to share. A potluck sign-up sheet will be posted after VBS wraps up. Your presence is what matters most, so don't worry if unable to bring a dish to share!

If you'd like to help with the picnic, please contact **Danielle Meinert** at **320-491-3009**.

We look forward to sharing this special day of worship and fellowship with you!

Save the Date for Upcoming Fellowship Opportunities

- **August Fellowship Lunch: Tuesday, Aug. 11 at 11:30 AM – Fired Up Bar & Grill**
- **Polka Fest – Saturday, Sept. 12th**
- **Progressive Dinner – Saturday, Oct. 10th**
- **Trunk or Treat – Saturday, Oct. 31st**
- **Chili Cookoff and Game Day – Sunday, Feb. 7th 2027**



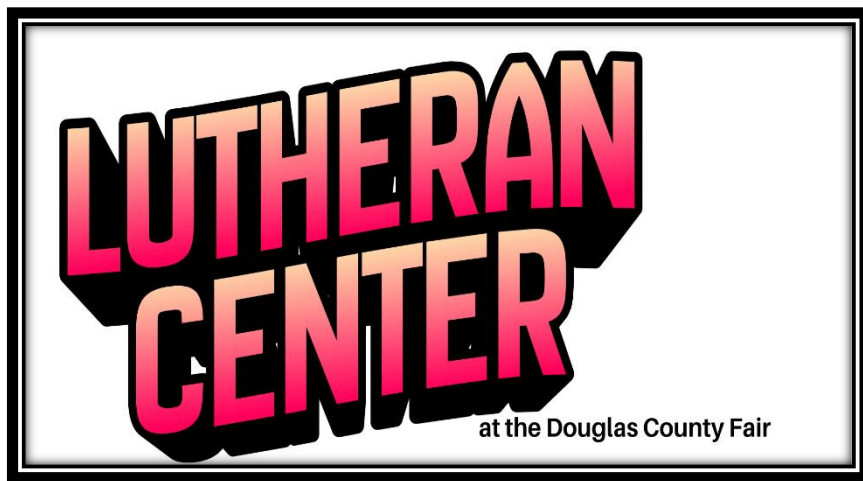
PRAISE GOD!!!

2026 Vacation Bible School will begin Monday August 3rd with **85 children preregistered**-God is so amazing and we are so blessed and grateful for being able to share His love with so many children and families this coming week.

Thank you to all our volunteers, prayers and support from all of our Good Shepherd Family.

As we get ready to launch into exploring God's amazing universe, join in praying:

God, let our church be a great influence in our community through our VBS. We want your perfect love to be at the foundation of our community, and we pray that we spread your love. Let our doors be open and our hearts be welcoming to all kids and their families. Let your goodness shine through us. In Jesus' name, Amen.



WHAT IS THE LUTHERAN CENTER?

“Fair booth ministry”-is one way that congregations and circuits in the Minnesota North District can spread God’s Word.

The Alexandria Circuit has had an active fair booth ministry since 1951, when “The Lutheran Center” building was erected on the Douglas County Fairgrounds (close to the east gate) with the purpose of “sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ” with the people of Douglas County and surrounding areas.

The Lutheran Mission Center Volunteers are beginning to gear up for the upcoming Douglas County Fair week. *August 19th - 22nd.*

The booth’s Mission for 2026 is **Together in Missions** of Alexandria Circuit LCMS churches.

Crafters, quilters, seamstress, gardeners the booth would like to offer a variety of items for sale to help our 2026 Mission. If you would like to donate items for the center please see Evelyn Beulke. Items that sell well are:

Art/crafts	needlework projects
sewing	quilts
baby blankets	scrubbys
dish towels	Fresh produce

Volunteers from each congregation staff the booth each day, Sharing Gods Love and providing an opportunity for fair goers to enjoy a cup of coffee, pop, bars and BBQs, or browse the amazing handmade items donated for sale.

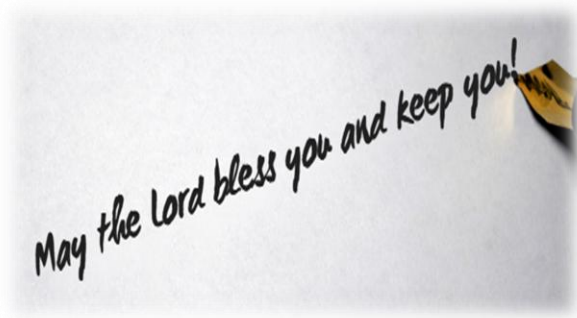
The Good Shepherd volunteers will be able to help with the fair booth staffing on Wednesday, August 19th from 10:00am-3:00pm.

SIGN UPS are now available on the LWML Bulletin board for staffing help and home baked goodies (bars preferred)



Happy Anniversary to..

Keith and Beth Melrose	Aug-05
Matt and Erin Johnson	Aug-06
Merlyn and Marilyn Groth	Aug-07
Riley and Becky Samari	Aug-07
Brandon and Kirstin Girard	Aug-07
Chris and Kari Brown	Aug-08
Kevin and Melody Mork	Aug-09
Mike and Carrie Carlsrud	Aug-09
Doug and Nancy Hasz	Aug-14
Gary and Marcia Lips	Aug-15
Gene and Christy Meier	Aug-16
Brenda and Paul Wysoski	Aug-17
Jeremy and Amanda Thurk	Aug-27
Jeff and Rhonda Fassett	Aug-2



Happy Birthday to..

Hallie Nelson	Aug	03
Dianne Schwanke	Aug	04
Jo Berninghaus	Aug	04
Ella Wenz	Aug	05
Connor Walberg	Aug	07
Kirstin Girard	Aug	07
Brandon Girard	Aug	07
Erik Samari	Aug	08
Kerrie Hieb	Aug	09
Marcia Lips	Aug	09
Leah J. Hunt	Aug	10
Cheryl Erickson	Aug	10
Joanna Girard	Aug	12
Sue Raisanen	Aug	13
Jason Simonson	Aug	13
Tracy Erickson	Aug	14
Elaine Beulke	Aug	14
Kathryn Oscarson	Aug	14
Kathy Zimmerman	Aug	14
Evelyn Beulke	Aug	14
Sue Nelson	Aug	16
Chuck Jensen	Aug	17
Gary Lips	Aug	17
Brenda Wysoski	Aug	19
Cody Hunt	Aug	19
Hazel Wenz	Aug	19
Brianna Varnum	Aug	19
Lee Lueth	Aug	21
Kirsten Berger	Aug	22
Charlie Christopherson	Aug	22
Nolan Tabbert	Aug	24
Lydia Jonas	Aug	26
Elizabeth Ortiz	Aug	26
Ian Boysen	Aug	27
Barb Schuneman	Aug	28
Abby Sanborn	Aug	28
Jaxon Oscarson	Aug	28

August

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 9:00am Worship	27	28	29 10:00am Bible Study	30 Valley Counseling/Library 9:00am Love Patches	31	1 10:00am Irene Roth Graveside Service
2 9:00am Worship with Communion	3 5:00pm "Cosmic Wonder" VBS	4 5:00pm "Cosmic Wonder" VBS	5 NO Bible Study 5:00pm "Cosmic Wonder" VBS	6 Valley Counseling/Library 9:00am Love Patches 5:00pm "Cosmic Wonder" VBS	7	8
9 9:00am Worship with Communion	10 4:15pm LWMML Lead Meeting	11 11:45am Fellowship Lunch 5:15pm Fellowship Team 6:30pm Executive Council Meet	12 10:00am Bible Study	13 Valley Counseling/Library 9:00am Love Patches	14	15
16 9:00am Worship	17 5:30pm LWMML Fall Potluck 6:30pm LWMML MEETING	18 4:30pm Worship Team practice 7:00pm Elders Meet	19 26-27 Memoria Circle Home School Orientation All Day 10:00am Bible Study	20 Valley Counseling/Library 9:00am Love Patches 6:30pm UPLIFTERS ALEXANDRIA	21	22
23 10:00am Outdoor Worship @ Brophy 11:00am Church Picnic @ Brophy	24	25	26 10:00am Bible Study	27 Valley Counseling/Library 9:00am Love Patches	28	29
30 9:00am Worship w/Holy Communion	31	1	2 10:00am Bible Study	3 Valley Counseling/Library 9:00am Love Patches 6:30pm UPLIFTERS ALEXANDRIA	4	5