



FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Faith Matters



2026

WORSHIP TIMES

SUNDAYS— 9:00 A.M.
WEDNESDAYS — 6:15 P.M.

CHURCH OFFICE

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Jill Wittmus, *Bookkeeper*

Rose Behnke, *Custodian*
Tony Schad, *Custodian & Lawn Cutter*

Sue Riesterer, Whitney Schamburek, Devin Zahringer
Organists

FLC President: Alan Gilbertson
FLC Vice Pres: Julie Hartman
FLC VP Elect: James Schuessler
Secretary: Mary Thomsen
Treasurer: Theresa Haupt



INSIDE

<i>In the Life of Faith</i>	2
<i>In the Life of Faith continued</i>	3
<i>Finances</i>	4
<i>Liturgical Roles/Membership</i>	5
<i>VBS Fun</i>	6
<i>Sunday school, Confirmation</i>	7
<i>Faith Lutheran Church Minutes</i>	8
<i>Celebrating Your Birthday</i>	9
<i>Calendar</i>	10

Stopping and Looking Around by Pastor Dan Lyman

I was thinking about our nation on the 250th anniversary of our declaration of independence. And it got me thinking of the past, in general. I remember the 200th anniversary pretty well, the bicentennial.

The future was so unknown. I think we tend to imagine the future as "like the present only more so," but it is seldom as we imagine.

When they first invented computers, they imagined maybe half a dozen companies might ever need a computer. When they later invented personal desktop computers, they imagined that maybe one department of an accounting firm might want ONE in their department. They never imagined that we would ALL have phones in our pockets that had more computing power in each phone than existed in the whole world just a decade before.

I grew up reading books and going to movies. They say that people don't read books anymore. Audiobooks are big. But publishing has changed. I think those big fat books by James Michener would be edited down now. I read books less than I used to. I suppose I am looking at the internet instead.

I still try to go to the movies. The last time we went, it was to some movie that had a great big buildup. We went on the opening Friday night, and we were the only people in the theater. I don't know how they can keep the theaters open. But honestly, 90% of the time I just wait for the movies to come out on Netflix or Amazon Prime.

Now we have Artificial Intelligence making images and imitating voices. When a video recording of something newsworthy comes out, mere hours later clever people have used AI to remake it into something funny or ridiculous.

Even science fiction writers never imagined the things we see now in our daily life. All these changes.

I remember one Sunday morning, back in Florida, there was a storm. Power at the church went out. We still had candles for light. The organist moved over to the piano, and the worship of God continued. Then, during the sermon, there were several well-timed thunderclaps to punctuate the Word of God. It impressed upon all of us that we had been worshipping God in many ways over many years, and that God is, from age to age, the same, and worthy of worship. Clever faithful people are expressing their faith in these new ways, but it is the same God we worship. It is, to me, a reassuring thought.

Homemade Pie and Ice Cream Social

The Fellowship Committee is sponsoring a Homemade Pie and Ice Cream Social to raise funds for Faith Lutheran's Pantry.

Join us on Sunday, August 2, from 11:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. at the Valders Community Center for a Homemade Pie and Ice Cream Social. Slices of pie with ice cream will be available for \$5.00, and whole pies will be available for \$20.00. Take-out orders will also be available.

Proceeds and Donations

Proceeds will support Faith Lutheran's Pantry and help those in need in our area. We need 50 homemade pies by Saturday, August 1. Please drop off pies at the Community Center between 1:00 and 4:00 P.M.; Sue Riesterer will be there to receive them. Please bring each pie in a disposable 9-inch pie pan. **Allergy Note:** If your pie contains nuts, please label it clearly so guests with allergies can be informed.

How You Can Help

To help make the social a success and support our community, please sign up on the sheet in the Gathering Space. Help us make this event successful!

Thank you for your pies. -- Sue Riesterer, Fellowship Board Chair



AUGUST STEWARDSHIP ~ SCHOOL KITS

(4)) 70-sheet notebooks of wide or college ruled paper 8 x 10 1/2

No loose leaf paper.

(1) centimeter ruler, or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other.

(1) pencil sharpener

(1) box of 24 crayons

(5) black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel or click pens)

(1) blunt scissors No pointed please

(1) 2 1/2" eraser (no smaller than 2 1/2")

Please buy only the items listed. Place items in the stewardship cabinet near the church office labeled "school kits".



Senior Christians will meet Tuesday, August 18 at 9:00 am at Ethel's in Brillion.

Music Moments: Kum Ba Yah by Devin J. Zahringer, Parish Organist

There are hymns that make us smile. There are hymns that fill our churches with triumphant praise. And then there are hymns born from tears. *“Kum Ba Yah” is one of them.*

For many of us, the melody immediately brings us back to campfires, youth retreats, and evenings spent singing beneath the stars. Its gentle tune has become well known through fellowship. Yet hidden beneath its familiar melody is one of the most profound prayers ever sung...

The words *“Kum Ba Yah”* come from the Gullah language spoken by descendants of enslaved Africans along the southeastern coast of the United States. The phrase simply means: *“Come by here.”* Not as an invitation. But as a desperate plea. ***“Come by here, Lord.”***

This hymn was born in communities where suffering was an everyday reality. Families knew hunger. They knew injustice. They knew grief. Yet they also knew that even when the world wouldn't allow them to speak, God was still listening.

One of the most beautiful and often overlooked traditions surrounding *“Kum Ba Yah”* is that the verses were never meant to be fixed. Rather than singing only the words printed on a page, people would often insert their own burdens into the hymn.

“Someone’s crying, Lord... come by here.” “Someone’s sick, Lord... come by here.” “Someone’s praying, Lord... come by here.” If a neighbor had lost a loved one, they might sing: “Someone’s grieving, Lord... come by here.” If a child was ill: “My baby’s hurting, Lord... come by here.” If a family faced uncertainty, those very fears became the next verse.

The hymn became more than music. It became prayer. Every person could bring their own pain before God, trusting that He not only heard them but walked beside them. Perhaps that’s why this hymn has endured for generations. It reminds us that we don’t have to hide our struggles from God. We are invited to place them into the song itself.

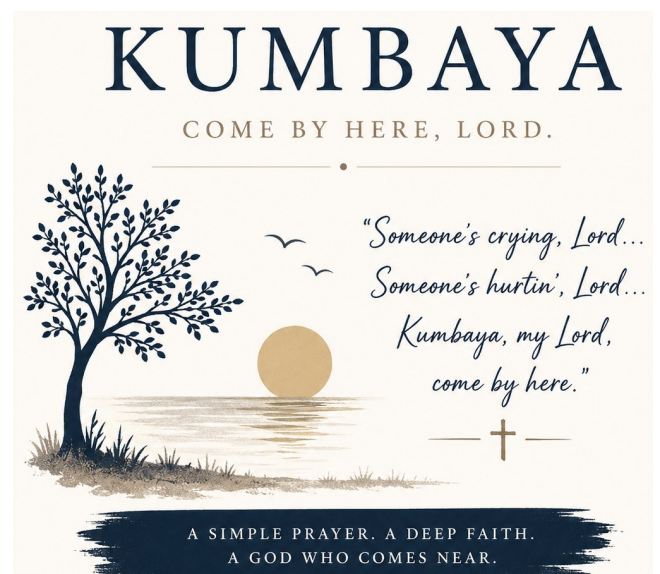
If *Kum Ba Yah* were written in our congregation today, what verses might we sing? *“Someone’s waiting for test results, Lord... come by here.” “Someone’s marriage is breaking, Lord... come by here.” “Someone’s anxious, Lord... come by here.” “Someone’s lonely, Lord... come by here.” “Someone’s searching for work, Lord... come by here.” “Someone’s grieving, Lord... come by here.” Perhaps your own heart is already writing a verse... one that no one else knows. One you’ve prayed quietly for weeks, months, or even years.*

The beautiful truth of the Gospel is that God welcomes those prayers. Throughout Scripture, His people cried out from places of fear, doubt, sickness, and sorrow. God never turned away from honest hearts.

And in Jesus Christ, God answered humanity’s greatest prayer. He CAME. BY. HERE. He entered our broken world. He stood beside the grieving. He touched the sick. He comforted the lonely. He carried our sin to the cross. He defeated death through His resurrection. And He continues to draw near to His people today.

So this month, when we sing *“Kum Ba Yah”*...don’t simply hear a familiar melody. Hear generations of believers placing their deepest fears into the hands of God. Then, quietly in your own heart, add your own verse. Whatever burden you carry. Whatever joy you celebrate. Whatever uncertainty lies ahead. Offer it to the One who has promised never to leave you nor forsake you. For the prayer of this hymn is as relevant today as it was generations ago: ***“Lord... come by here.”***

And thanks be to God, in Christ, He always does!



Finances

Income - June 2026

	<i>Month Actual</i>	<i>Budget</i>	<i>YTD Actual</i>	<i>YTD Budget</i>
Envelope Offerings	\$ 33,503.00	\$ 21,998.75	\$ 142,108.00	\$ 131,992.50
Lent, Holiday Offerings	\$ -	\$ 833.33	\$ 4,693.00	\$ 5,000.00
Loose Offerings	\$ 30.00	\$ 166.67	\$ 744.77	\$ 1,000.00
Room Use - Utility Donations	\$ 145.00	\$ 166.67	\$ 810.25	\$ 1,000.00
Other Income	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
General Fund Income	<u>\$ 33,678.00</u>	<u>\$ 23,173.75</u>	<u>\$ 148,356.02</u>	<u>\$ 139,042.50</u>

Operating Expenses - June 2026

Administrative/Office Expense	\$ 1,265.65	\$ 1,365.00	\$ 10,703.32	\$ 8,190.00
Benevolence	\$ 2,693.04	\$ 1,853.90	\$ 11,867.38	\$ 11,123.40
Board Expense (Total from all 7 Boards)	\$ 5,379.79	\$ 6,576.67	\$ 31,307.41	\$ 39,460.00
Miscellaneous Expense	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Personnel Salaries/Benefits	<u>\$ 20,262.63</u>	<u>\$ 21,086.80</u>	<u>\$ 123,247.56</u>	<u>\$ 126,520.78</u>
General Fund Expense	<u>\$ 29,601.11</u>	<u>\$ 30,882.36</u>	<u>\$ 177,125.67</u>	<u>\$ 185,294.18</u>

GENERAL FUND NET INCOME/LOSS

\$4,076.89

(\$28,769.65)

Year to Date General Fund Net Income : (\$28,769.65)

Income needed per week to meet our 2026 Budget \$ 7,126.70

Income needed per month to meet our 2026 Budget \$ 30,882.36

Liturgical Roles ~ Worship Responsibilities

Pastoral Acts

Funerals Richard Lodel and Roger Sorenson

Membership

Baptized 811
Confirmed..... 552
Families 98

Worship Attendance

	Sunday	Wednesday
6/14	70	34
6/21	93	40
6/28	68	45
7/5	85	25

Altar Guild Servers

Communion:

August..... **Bev Torrison, Chair** (Committee #2)
September..... (Committee #1)

Lectors

8/2 Jenniffer Zutz
8/5 Carol Ulness
8/9 Lynn Merino
8/12 Susan Christel
8/16 Kaye Jandrey
8/19 Deb Schreiner
8/23 Ava Ulness
8/26 Dennis Luckow
8/30 Bob Wigen
9/2 Larry Burzynski

Communion Servers

8/2 Jenniffer Zutz
8/12 Susan Christel
8/16 Kaye Jandrey
9/2 Larry Burzynski

Head Usher Scott Reinertson

Acolyte Schedule

8/2 Westen Schisel
8/9 Walker Ulness
8/16 Garrett Jeske
8/23 Peytyn Peterson
8/30 Trevor Pinkerton

Greeters

8/2 Wayne Huske
8/5 Mike Zutz
8/9 Jo Jones
8/12 Don and Nancy Christianson
8/16 Tom and Rae Madson
8/19 Jan Behnke
8/23 David and Debra Linzmeier
8/26 Judy Valleskey
8/30 Keith Lippert
9/2 Sherrie Pinkerton

Ushers

8/2 Mary Thomsen, Earl and Barb Griffin
8/9 Joan Pritzl, Keith Lippert, Rod Merino
8/16 Marcus Galien, Al Gilbertson, Bob Wigen
8/23 Jim Ahrens, Thomas and Kathy Muench
8/30 Richard Menza, Ron and Kaye Jandrey

Sound Operator

8/2 Loren Ulness
8/9 Carter Lenzner
8/16 Makenna Kaderabek
8/23 Loren Ulness
8/30 Loren Ulness

Video Operator/Live Stream

8/2 Eric Thomsen
8/9 Carter Lenzner
8/16 Jake Kaderabek
8/23 Al Gilbertson
8/30 Liam Cline

Projection

8/2 Judy Harris
8/5 Kayla Hildebrandt
8/9 Zachary Lenzner
8/12 Cindy Pederson
8/16 Makenna Kaderabek
8/19 John Schnell
8/23 Al Gilbertson
8/26 Susan Christel
8/30 Loren Ulness
9/2 Kayla Hildebrandt



Pastor Sheri Lodel, daughter of the congregation, visited Faith, her home church, for her father's funeral. Pastor Lodel serves a congregation in Grand Island, Nebraska.

VBS FUN!



We are excited to announce that plans are underway for our **2026–2027 Sunday School, Confirmation, and High School Youth Group** Christian Education programs!

Christian Education is an important time in your child's life as they continue to grow, discover who they are, and strengthen the faith we hope to nurture in their hearts and minds. We will be using **online registration** this year. Please use the QR code or the website below to complete **one registration form for each child**, whether they will be participating in **Sunday School, Confirmation, and/or Faith on Fire**. **Registration Deadline: August 15, 2026** Registering by August 15 will allow us to prepare classroom materials, order supplies, and finalize class rosters before the start of the year.

Once again, we are blessed to offer all of our Christian Education programs **free of charge**. We look forward to another wonderful year of growing in faith, learning God's Word, and building relationships with all of God's children. Watch your emails mid-August for the **2026-2027 Christian Education calendars** and other information.

September Kick-Off Events

Sunday, September 13

Bible Distribution Sunday 9:00 am
*New to Sunday School students in **3K and 4K**
*All **3rd Grade** students
*All **6th Grade** students
God's Work Our Hands Sunday

Wednesday, September 16 – Confirmation Kick-Off Night

5:45-6:15 p.m. – Parent/Student Meeting Grades 7 & 8

6:15-8:15 p.m. – Worship Service, 7th & 8th grade stay for Introductions, Program Review, and Group Activities.

Following the Worship Service, 9th Grade students, mentors, and parents will meet. This will enable us to make sure everyone has all the information needed for a successful year!

Sunday, September 20

Blessing of the Backpacks 9:00 am Service
Ice-Cream Sundaes "Because Sundays are just a little sweeter with Jesus, fellowship, and ice cream!"
First Day of Sunday School (3K-6th Grade) 10:00-11:00 am

We are looking forward to another wonderful year of growing in faith together. Thank you for making Christian Education a priority for your family. ~Faith Lutheran, Board of Christian Education
If you have any questions, please contact Bridget Valleskey, **Youth Coordinator**, at valleskeyb@gmail.com or text 920-905-5273.



<https://form.jotform.com/261916121122142>

Faith Lutheran Church Minutes— June 15 2026

Pastor's Report: Special services held: Pentecost, Holy Trinity Sunday, VHS Baccalaureate (169 people attended, 40 were graduates, guest speaker was Deacon Randy Jaeckels from St. Mary's Clarks Mills.) Synod Assembly was attended by Pastor Dan, Bridget Valleskey, and Devin Zahringer. Current Synod Bishop, the Rev. Anne Edison-Albright, was re-elected to her second 6-year term. Pastor also reported the sale of the office building in Appleton, with proceeds of that sale improving the financial status of the synod. There were many reports about good things being done by the synod in local areas and around the world. Funeral: Pastor officiated at a graveside funeral for Caroline Mae Peterson-Coble. Visitations/Communed: Pastor reported 6 visits to members both at home and in the hospital. Upcoming: Confirmation Camp will be July 5th through July 10th. Vacation is planned for August. Ice cream sundae special planned for SS kickoff. Pastor reported a total of \$563.48 was collected during the 2 special collections held for Crossways Camp staff support. A motion was made and carried to take additional funds (\$436.52) out of the Undesignated Funds account to bring Faith's donation to an even \$1,000 to Crossways Camping Ministry.

Housekeeping Items: Al reported the sound issue for streaming was finally fixed. Sue named 6 core people who could be called upon to deal with trouble shooting. She would like to get these people together to discuss issues that have come up and how they have dealt with them and develop a documented trouble shooting manual. There was discussion on an issue during VBS with variable sound levels between mics, which may have been an issue with using the laptop for the video & sound. People who need a special mic at a service need to make Christine aware a week in advance, so she can alert the sound operator to make sure adequate mics are set up prior to service. A check list should be prepared for live stream operators to review before service begins to be sure that sound and video is working to be checked. A blue tooth headphone would be needed to check sound.

New Business: Rides for people to appointments – It was suggested to make the phone number for "Assist to Transport" available in our newsletter for members who need transportation for medical or other purposes within Manitowoc County. Climate Survey – Jim handed out reports on the results of the climate survey. Comments were somewhat scattered in the surveys, so Jim provided 2 different ways to report the information, to allow better evaluation of the information. Some personnel items brought to light in the survey results have already been worked on with the staff involved. Council members should review the reports prior to the next meeting, so all are prepared to make decisions at the July meeting: Information sharing – what will be fully shared & what needs to be kept more confidential (most likely involving staff). Determine priority of items to be worked on. Come up with ideas of how to make things happen (Perhaps new small groups could be set up and the people involved will run them themselves.) Jim plans to do a temple talk to keep the congregation up-to-date on the progress of the survey. Share why it was done, what has been worked on already, and what the plan is going forward. 91 surveys were turned in. There was a lot of positive information provided. Some topics brought up were issues with service music and the need for more small group activities, especially for young adults without children.

OctoberFest – Joan reported on the discussion held by the Board of Stewardship regarding a fundraiser for October 2026. Date options recommended were October 10th and October 25th. Suggestions for food were brats, hamburgers, hot dogs, cold potato salad, baked beans, and dessert. Other activities suggested include a musical performance group, silent auction raffle baskets (each Board, Sunday School, Faith on Fire, Confirmation & 2-3 quilts from the Quilting Group), corn hole tournament, sheepshead tournament, bingo, & various games for young children.

Treasurer's Report – Terry Haupt – A written report was presented showing a net loss of \$1,277.66 for May; Check book balance is \$67,894.18. Adding in the balance of the general fund CDs, the total general fund balance is \$130,492.13. Only 3 accounts were \$250 or more over budget, due to timing of annual bills, such as QuickBooks software and the Synod Assembly registration fees; and another covering several months. May's average attendance was 151/week or 18% of total members.

Stewardship – Joan reported they will be working on the Stewardship Drive.

Lay Ministry – Jennifer reported on special summer services being planned: Praise Band on a Sunday, a Healing Service, Scout Sunday, and Undy Sunday (to give to schools for "special needs").

Evangelism – Ted – Met June 1st – handed out review sheets for the website & discussed plans for the Valders parade - plan to use VBS decorations, a truck & trailer has been lined up, plan to throw out beach balls with Jesus Loves You stickers on them.

Fellowship – Sue – meeting on June 28th – will discuss the Senior Appreciation Dinner.

Christian Education—Alisa - VBS was successful on day 1

Having completed all business, the meeting was adjourned following the Lord's Prayer at 8: p.m. Next Meeting – July 20, 2026 Devotions – Joan *Submitted by Joan Pritzl, acting secretary*

Celebrating Your Birthday!

AUGUST

2. Cathleen Luckow
Matthew Berge
Caleb Boll
3. Maelyn Miller
4. Stephanie Mittnacht
Callie Wenzel
5. Myrna Lippert
Aubrey Hill
Hadley Beckman
6. Tammy Meyer
Taylor Zucchi
7. Thomas Madson
Scott Zucchi
Mary Reichardt
Reggie Kranz
8. Guy Valleskey
Hunter Spindler
Carver McCulley
9. Mark Ulness
Hunter Griffin
10. Cheryl Domrath
Kylee Tuschel
Matthew Brill
Kylee Griffin
Edyn Peterson

11. Gloria Giese
James Jandrey
Courtney Platten
Janice Pingel

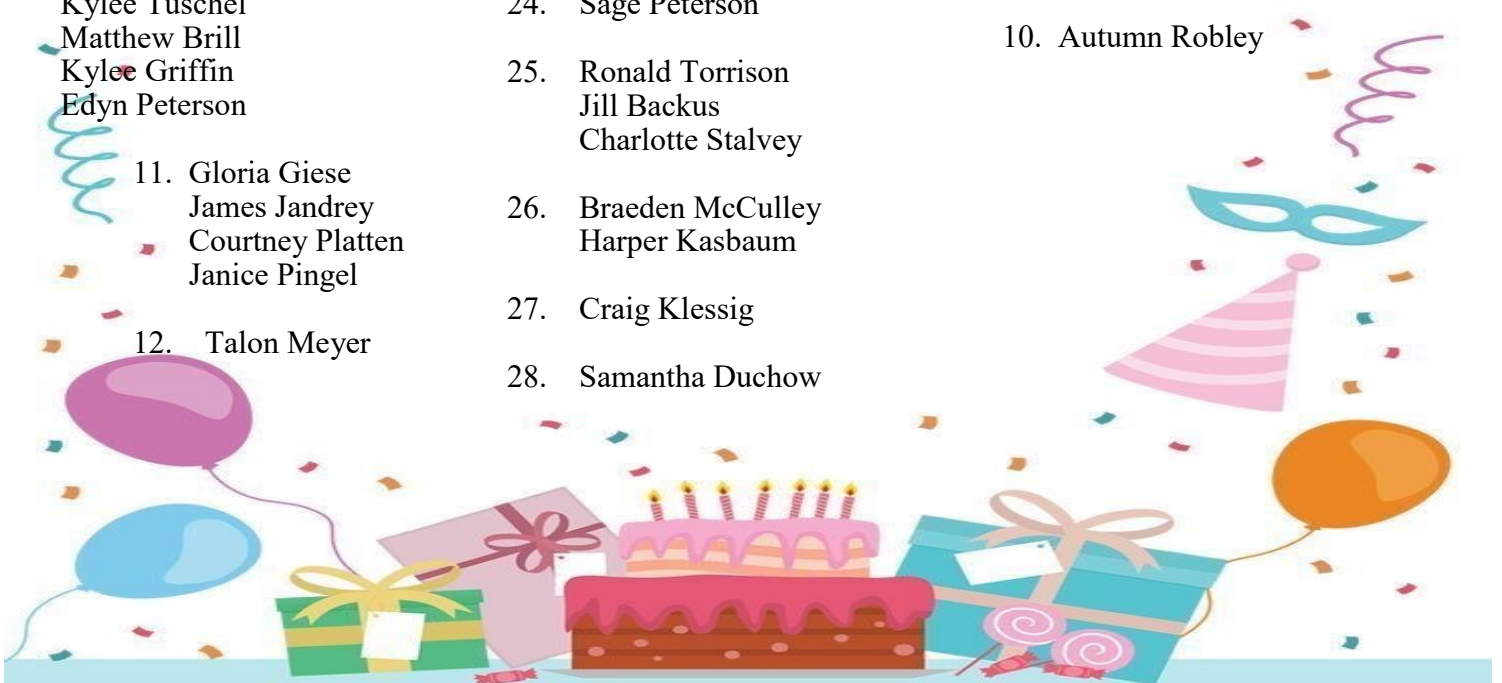
12. Talon Meyer

13. Jeffrey Wittmus
Julie Hartman
Levi Wenzel
14. Tara Rutherford
Hunter Popp
15. Lauren Pritzl
Bridget Valleskey
16. Julie Endries
Bailey Koehler
17. Steven Tracy
19. Abigail Beckman
Kari Schisel
Carter Kuenstler
20. Greg Evenson
21. Lilliona Loucks
22. Caroline Alfson
Carol Zutz
Nicole Zucchi
Gary Exner
Alan Gilbertson
23. Daniel Pederson
24. Sage Peterson
25. Ronald Torrison
Jill Backus
Charlotte Stalvey
26. Braeden McCulley
Harper Kasbaum
27. Craig Klessig
28. Samantha Duchow

29. Matthew Jones
Isabel Gordon
31. Emily Kasbaum
Daniel Griepentrog

SEPTEMBER

1. Jeanette Schuessler
Ann Jeske
2. Karen Voss
3. Gary Heeler
4. Chad Junk
5. Cynthia Kwasny
Caleb Madson
6. Kenneth Popp
Ethan Halverson
7. Mitchell Kaderabek
8. Earl Griffin
9. Lee W. Evenson
Terry Huske
Larry Burzynski
Zachary Lenzner
10. Autumn Robley





SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2 9:00 Worship with Holy Communion 10:00 Fellowship Hour	3 9:00 Women's Bible Study 6:00 Boards of Lay Ministry and Evangelism	4 2:00-6:00 Blood Drive 	5 9:00 Jazzercise 6:15 Worship	6 8:00 Quilting	7	8 9:00 2nd Saturday Bible Study
9 9:00 Worship 10:00 Fellowship Hour	10 9:00 Women's Bible Study Newsletter info due	11	12 9:00 Jazzercise 6:15 Worship with Holy Communion	13 8:00 Quilting	14	15 9:00-10:00 Open Pantry
16 9:00 Worship with Holy Communion 10:00 Fellowship Hour	17 9:00 Women's Bible Study 5:30 Board of Stewardship 6:30 Council	18 9:00 Senior Christians at Ethel's in Brillion	19 9:00 Jazzercise 6:15 Worship	20 8:00 Quilting	21	22
23 9:00 Worship 10:00 Fellowship Hour	24 9:00 Women's Bible Study	25	26 9:00 Jazzercise 6:15 Worship	27 8:00 Quilting	28	29
30 9:00 Worship <i>Healing Service</i> 10:00 Fellowship Hour	31 9:00 Women's Bible Study					

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
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AUGUST

Word Search Puzzle



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

Find these words related to the month of August

- | | | | |
|----------|-----------------------|-----------|---------|
| BOAT | KAYAK | SUN | WARM |
| GARDEN | BARBECUE | SHADE | LAKE |
| CAMPFIRE | OCEAN | VACATION | TOWEL |
| BIKING | CANOE | SWIMSUIT | POOL |
| FLOATIE | PICNIC | SWIMMING | PARK |
| FISHING | BEACH | POPSICLES | CAMPING |
| RIVER | ICE (as in ice cream) | READING | SUNSET |
| AUGUST | | | |



Alcoholics Anonymous
Meets at 6:00 p.m. Mondays
St. Gregory’s School, 212 Church Street, St. Nazianz

Al Anon
Meets at 7:00 p.m. Mondays
404 S. 29th Street, Manitowoc
and
Saturdays at 9:00 a.m.
443 Manhattan Street, Chilton

The words may be hidden vertically, horizontally or diagonally.