



Thanking & Worshiping the God who gave you the Summer

1 Timothy 6:7

"God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment."

What is the most enjoyable summer that you have ever had? Some of my most favorite memories of my younger years are when we went camping as a family. My Mom and Dad had camping down to a science. My Dad, with a long history in the Navy, usually had everything shipshape and ready to go. He would come home from work ask my mom if she wanted to go camping and within 45 minutes we would be packed in the car and headed to some campground like Harrison Hills, Pelican Lake, or some other lake around Northern Wisconsin. Likewise, they had taught and disciplined my brother and myself at an early age to have fun out on the lakes, in the rivers, and the forest but to be smart, safe, and not do anything foolish because that could turn a fun outing into a bad one.

We can have fun because we have faith. As Paul tell us in 1 Timothy 6:7, *"God has given us everything for our enjoyment."* God has given us the summer to enjoy. I hope in some ways we can all find something to do and to enjoy. God wants us to enjoy life, just like we love it when our loved ones are enjoying themselves. Because Jesus loves and forgive us, we can enjoy this summer thanking God for all the great chances we have to live, laugh, and love.

Indeed, Jesus taught concerning the gift of eternal life that *"You shall laugh"* (Luke 6:21). His very first miracle at the Wedding of Canaan was so that people could enjoy themselves. So a healthy balance of a theology of fun is a great blessing for those who have faith in Jesus Christ.

While God want sus to enjoy ourselves, He want us to be smart, safe and not to be foolish with our fun. What God has given us to enjoy Satan always wants to destroy or wants us to misuse. Remember to not let the good things God has granted you to become your god and to push the true God away. Remember the God who created the summer, who allowed you to have the summer, and who guides you



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throughout the summer. True faith and thanksgiving to God will make an honest priority to worship the Creator of summer according to His Holy and glorious commandment in the Third Commandment to "Remember the Sabbath Day to Keep it Holy." In the same way as we enjoy our freedom, we want to enjoy it without any regrets. The Holy Spirit says Galatians 5:13 *"You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love."*

Finally, praise God for the summer as we enjoy it we can also share God's love and blessings that He gives us with others. The rest of the passage that Paul writes about goes: *"Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life."* (1 Timothy 6:17-19)

Summers can be a very small taste of the life to come for those who cling to Jesus Christ in faith. May God bless us and realize that we can have fun because we can have faith.

Pastor Love

Join Us For

Pickin' and Grinnin'

Around the Campfire

at St. John's Lutheran Church

July 18, 2025

6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Bring your talents you want to share
(CLEAN jokes, storytelling, singing).

Hot Dogs, Chips, Smores Will be Provided

(Bring Your Lawn Chairs)

The Stewardship & Evangelism will be collecting items from June 29 – July 13 that will be sent along with the Youth Group heading to New Orleans for the National Youth Gathering.



Items donated will be divided between the **Desoto County Dream Center in Horn Lake, MS** where we will be stopping to participate in a Servant Event and the **Food Bank at the Concordia Seminary in St. Louis** where we will stopping for a tour of the campus.

Items that are being requested for the Desoto County Dream Center are: Non-perishable Foods, Personal Hygiene Items, Feminine Products, Individual Snack Items and paper products.

Items that are being requested for the Concordia Seminary are: Non-perishable Foods, Juices, Pasta, Canned Vegetables, Canned Meats, diapers and paper products.

(Seminary students may shop twice a month during the academic year and once a month during the summer free of charge. The amount of food each student is eligible for is based on family size.)

For more information, talk with Bonnie Grueneberg.

Faithfulness: The Stewardship Standard

“Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful” (1 Cor. 4:2).

What is the standard to which a steward is held? Ask the average person, and they might talk about percentages, tithes, and commitments. Too often, the default mode of measuring stewards is by how much and how frequently they give. This is not helpful. Measuring activity without any connection to baptismal identity is a recipe for disaster. It can either breed a sense of superiority and self-righteousness or create a culture of scarcity and despair. Neither outcome is godly or helpful.

This is not to say that stewardship should be regarded as “no big deal.” St. Paul, within his discussion of the ministry to which he has been called, sets the standard of accountability for the steward: faithfulness. This removes any sense of superiority or self-righteousness and dispels scarcity and despair. When a steward manages what the Lord has entrusted to them — resources and all aspects of life — for God’s purposes, the focus is not on how much or how frequently they give.

This standard reflects the stewardship portrayed in the Gospels where Jesus entrusts varying amounts, each according to ability. The commended stewards were recognized for their faithfulness in their vocation, not the amounts they managed. Conversely, the condemned stewards were not castigated for their lack of performance but for their lack of faithfulness.

What does this mean for the steward in the pew? The Lord has entrusted you with various things. Luther

captures them in his explanation of the First Article of the Apostles’ Creed and the Fourth Petition of the Lord’s Prayer. The familiar couplets of food and drink, house and home, spouse and children, land, animals and all possessions are the Lord’s, and He has entrusted them to you for His purpose. This trust brings an active realization of thanksgiving.

This active thanksgiving is our stewardship. It can be distilled into two questions that the steward regularly needs to answer:

1. How has God blessed me?
2. How is He calling me to respond?

The first question is quite simple to answer: if the Lord has entrusted something to you, it is a blessing. This blessing is for God’s glory and the benefit of your neighbor. The second question is more challenging to measure; it is not about percentages and charts. Instead, it is about a life of thanksgiving that flows from the mercies of God revealed in Jesus Christ. This thanksgiving starts at and flows from the cross and the empty tomb. Our stewardship of the Gospel drives our stewardship of everything else.

The standard, then, is faithfulness. Faithfulness flows from eyes focused on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith. It does not come from our efforts but through the working of the Holy Spirit in our lives, through Word and Sacrament. It begins at the altar in the Divine Service but extends into the world — from hearth and home to workplace and classroom, from commerce to leisure. The mercy of God, freely given in Jesus, leads us to demonstrate a faithfulness that reveals to others the same mercy we have received in Jesus.

This faithfulness cannot be measured empirically. It is simply allowing the Holy Spirit to work in and through us for the glory of God and the benefit of our neighbor. Weekly. Daily. Faithfully.



BIBLE BRAIN TWISTER

I once made a remark about the hidden books of the Bible. It was a lulu, kept people looking so hard for facts, and for others it was a revelation. Some were in a jam, especially since the names of the books are not capitalized, but the truth finally struck home to numbers of readers. To others, it was a real job. We want it to be a most fascinating few moments for you. Yes, there will be some really easy ones to spot. Others may require judges to help them, I will quickly admit it usually takes a minister to find one of the 17, and there will be loud lamentations when it is found. A little lady says she brews a cup of tea so she can concentrate better. See how well you can compete. Relax now, for there really are the names of 17 books of the Bible in these sentences. (One preacher found 16 books in 20 minutes, It took him three weeks to find the seventeenth one,)

Faith Lutheran Church

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Church website: faithlutheranmerrill.com

Pastor Donald Love

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Pastor's Office Hours

Mon. and Tues: Home

Wednesday: Faith

Thursday: St. John's

Church Office Hours

Tues. and Thurs. 9 a.m.-12 noon

Mon., Wed., and Fri. varies

Emergency Contacts

Terry Seidler 715-536-9742 (home)

715-203-5733 (cell)

ALTAR GUILD JULY SCHEDULE

July 1-14 Keith and Pat Wendt

July 15-28 Susan Pankow and Karen Olsen

July 29 – August 11 Jeri Raddatz and Sandy Laabs

July 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6 10:15 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion 11:15 a.m. Bible Study	7 6:30 p.m. Worship with Holy Communion	8 3:00 p.m. Trustees' Meeting	9 10:00 a.m. AbleLight	10	11	12
13 10:15 a.m. Worship 11:15 a.m. Bible Study	14 6:30 p.m. Worship 7:30 p.m. Elders' Meeting	15	16	17	18 6:00 p.m. Pickin' and Grinnin' at St. John's	19
20 10:15 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion 11:15 a.m. Bible Study 12:15 p.m. Stewardship and Evangelism Meeting	21 6:30 p.m. Worship with Holy Communion	22	23 10:00 a.m. AbleLight	24	25	26
27 10:15 a.m. Worship 11:30 a.m. Semi-Annual Meeting	28 6:30 p.m. Worship	29	30	31		

July 2025 Elder, Usher, Greeter, Scrip Schedule..

Sunday, July 6 10:15 a.m.

Elders Joe Heisinger, Kyle Young
 Ushers Amanda Heisinger, LeRoy Laabs
 Greeter Duane Grunenwald
 Scrip Becky Rajek
 Audio Bonnie Grueneberg

Monday, July 7 6:30 p.m.

Elders Mike Beilke, Jeff Laabs
 Ushers Ed Stiver
 Greeter Ed Stiver
 Scrip Deb Stogbauer
 Audio Rodney Dahlke

Sunday, July 13 10:15 a.m.

Elders Rodney Dahlke, Mark Porath
 Usher Bernice Porath, Carol Hein
 Greeter Carol Hein
 Scrip Bernice Porath
 Audio Bonnie Grueneberg

Monday, July 14 6:30 p.m.

Elders Jason Westfall, Keith Wendt
 Usher Chris Stogbauer
 Greeter Chris Stogbauer
 Scrip Debbie Stogbauer
 Audio Gene Mootz

Sunday, July 20 10:15 a.m.

Elders Mike Beilke, Jeff Laabs
 Ushers Brian and Lynn Klug
 Greeter Duane Grunewald
 Scrip Lynn Klug
 Audio Joe and Amanda Heisinger

Monday, July 21 6:30 p.m.

Elders Kyle Young, Joe Heisinger
 Usher Amanda Heisinger
 Greeter Amanda Heisinger
 Scrip Debbie Stogbauer
 Audio Lee Pfaff

Sunday, July 27 10:15 a.m.

Elders Rodney Dahlke, Mark Porath
 Ushers LeRoy Laabs, Beth Bartelt
 Greeter Beth Bartelt
 Scrip Cindy Krenz
 Audio Bonnie Grueneberg

Monday, July 28 6:30 p.m.

Elders Jason Westfall, Lee Pfaff
 Usher Chris Stogbauer
 Greeter Chris Stogbauer
 Scrip Deb Stogbauer
 Audio Gene Mootz

Sunday, August 3 10:15 a.m.

Elders Lee Pfaff, Joe Heisinger
 Ushers Amanda Heisinger, Bernice Porath
 Greeter Duane Grunewald
 Scrip Becky Rajek
 Audio Bonnie Grueneberg

Monday, August 4 6:30 p.m.

Elders Jason Westfall, Keith Wendt
 Ushers Ed Stiver
 Greeter Ed Stiver
 Scrip Deb Stogbauer
 Audio Rodney Dahlke

HOLY COMMUNION

Sunday, July 6 10:15 a.m.
 Monday, July 7 6:30 p.m.
 Sunday, July 20 10:15 a.m.
 Monday, July 21 6:30 p.m.
 Sunday, August 3 10:15 a.m.
 Monday, August 4 6:30 p.m.

ELDERS

Rodney Dahlke, chairman
 Mike Beilke, secretary
 Joe Heisinger, Jeff Laabs, Lee Pfaff,
 Mark Porath, Jason Westfall,
 Keith Wendt, Kyle Young



Faith Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes
Monday, June 16, 2025

Present: Pastor Love, Terry Seidler (President), Mike Baumann (Vice-President), Lillie McCulloch (Secretary), Barry Krenz (Trustees), Cindy Braatz (Treasurer), Bonnie Grueneberg (Evangelism), Rod Dahlke (Elders), Becky (Education).

Vice-President, Mike Baumann called the meeting to order. Pastor opened with a prayer and devotion. Meeting minutes from February were reviewed. A motion for approval was made, seconded, and passed.

Treasurer – The balance reports for April and May were reviewed, the ending balance for May was \$ 19,038.25. All expenses related to the new building have been paid for.

Trustees – Barry is still waiting to hear from Church Mutual about the security/alert systems. General maintenance work is being completed as needed. The storage racking in the addition is up and organization is coming along well. Two plots have been sold at the Scott Cemetery. Sharon, our organist, is looking to donate a piano to the church. It was decided that the church does not need or have room for another piano at this time, though we are grateful for the offer.

President – There is not currently a dual parish meeting scheduled for August. Terry will reach out to Steve Emmerich to coordinate a meeting, aiming to schedule for August 12th.

Board of Education – VBS had a great turnout. Baccalaureate Sunday will be coming up, Becky is checking with Sharon to determine if there are any graduates this year.

Elders – Things are going well, the elders are prepared to handle everything during Pastor's upcoming vacation.

Stewardship/Evangelism - We received a thank you card from Evelyn the confirmand. We have \$875 in gift cards to send to the two seminaries, but have been unable to determine who specifically to send them to. If this information cannot be found prior to the National Youth Gathering, they will be hand-delivered to the St. Louis seminary. There is also a food pantry at the seminary in St. Louis so there will be collections 2 Sundays prior for these items. There is also a servant event in Kentucky that they will help with on the way down that is collecting these same items, so donations will be split between the two.

Pastor – New members Nada Pfingsten, Tracy & Myron Hollatz recently joined our congregation. We had 6 confirmands this year, four of them from Faith; Darby Bonnell, Evelyn Reinhardt, Koi and Khloe Olson. Vacation Bible School was a great success thanks to a lot of great help. The adult class during VBS was full and the total attendance was approximately 90 people. Pastor is investigating the digital organ option as a backup in case Sharon were to have an emergency - it is very complicated. For \$39 per service we can send the information needed to a different company/service that will put everything into a file so we can easily play it during the service. The dual-parish outdoor worship service will be August 10th at 10am at St. John's. Pastor will be on vacation June 16th through July 1st. Rev. Neely Owen will be filling in and seminarian Caleb Gustafson will be the guest speaker during this time.

Old Business - No old business to discuss.

New Business - No new business to discuss.

The next regular council meeting is scheduled for August 11th, 2025 at 7:30pm.

The semi-annual meeting will be Sunday, July 27th at 11:30 am following the church service.

The dual-parish meeting is *tentatively* scheduled for August 12th.

A motion for adjournment was made, seconded, and passed. The meeting closed with a prayer from Pastor Love.

Respectfully submitted,
Lillie McCulloch
Council Secretary

St. John's Lutheran Church

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Pastor's Office Hours

Mon. & Tues. Home

Wednesday Faith

Thursday St. John's

Friday Off (Family Day)

Elders

Bob Burish 715-573-7078

Mark Czech 715-409-9174

Mike Schultz 715-539-0995

Don Gille 715-573-8197

Christian Day Care

Patti Beilke 715-539-8120

Elder of the Month

Jeremy Fromm 715-574-2003

Setting the Lord's Table

Diane Hinz

July 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6 8:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion	7	8 6:00 p.m. Council Meeting 7:00 p.m. Elders' Meeting	9	10	11	12
13 8:30 a.m. Worship	14	15	16	17	18 6:00 p.m. Pickin' and Grinnin'	19
20 8:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 8:30 a.m. Worship	28	29	30	31		





Week of July 6, 2025

John 15:5

I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

Week of July 13, 2025

Psalms 119:11

I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.

Week of July 20, 2025

1 Corinthians 15:58

Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

Week of July 27, 2025

Deuteronomy 6:6-7

And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.

Thrivent Choice
Dollars



Thrivent Choice Dollars to Faith from SUSAN PANKOW. Choice dollars are gifted to further support the work of the church. For more information, contact Thrivent at 1-800-847-4836.



In memory of **LANA STOGBAUER**, gift to the Special Purpose Fund from Gerhard and Sally Hannemann

In memory of **LANA STOGBAUER**, gift to the Scott Cemetery Fund from Bruce and Barb Laatsch

In memory of **MABEL MARQUARDT**, gift to the Office Equipment Fund from Bob and Bernice Porath

In memory of **MABEL MARQUARDT**, gift to the New Building Addition Fund from Ed and Connie Stiver

In memory **MABEL MARQUARDT**, gifts to the Special Purpose Fund from Elvira Saeger, Susan Pankow, Lee and Diane Pfaff, and Phyllis Buch

In memory of **JOHN SLADEK**, gift to the Scott Cemetery Fund from Barry and Cindy Krenz

In memory of **RALPH BUCH**, gift to the New Building Addition Fund from Bruce and Barb Laatsch

In memory of **RANDY BRAATZ**, gift to the New Building Addition Fund from Bruce and Barb Laatsch

Special Gifts

In celebration of **DOROTHY JAEGER's** 100th Birthday, gifts to the Special Purpose Fund from Gernard and Sally Hannemann, and Phyllis Buch


A gift to the Special Purpose Fund from **LeROY and SANDY LAABS**, in honor of their 62nd wedding anniversary



The Hand of God

July

Daily Reading Plan



- Day 1: Isaiah 66:2
- Day 2: Psalm 19:1
- Day 3: Psalm 95:4-5
- Day 4: Isaiah 48:13
- Day 5: Job 12:10
- Day 6: Job 36:32
- Day 7: Isaiah 40:12
- Day 8: Isaiah 41:19-20
- Day 9: Psalm 145:16
- Day 10: Habakkuk 3:4
- Day 11: 1 Chronicles 29:12
- Day 12: Psalm 118:15-16
- Day 13: Daniel 4:35
- Day 14: Psalm 144:7-8
- Day 15: Isaiah 64:8
- Day 16: Jeremiah 18:6
- Day 17: Psalm 138:7
- Day 18: Psalm 31:15
- Day 19: Psalm 98:1
- Day 20: Isaiah 43:13
- Day 21: Psalm 121:5
- Day 22: Isaiah 41:1
- Day 23: Nehemiah 1:10
- Day 24: Isaiah 41:10,13
- Day 25: Psalm 16:8
- Day 26: Psalm 18:35
- Day 27: Psalm 89:21
- Day 28: Isaiah 42:6
- Day 29: John 10:29
- Day 30: Psalm 138:10
- Day 31: 1 Peter 5:6

So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. Isaiah 41:10

VBS
2025 ...





... Celebrate the Savior

FAIITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
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