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First Lutheran Church  
811 South Avenue W.  
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# First Edition

*“Growing God’s Family by Serving”*



First Evangelical Lutheran Church ~ LCMC  
Clear Lake, Wisconsin

Office Hours 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.; Monday-Friday

Phone: 715-263-2846

Pastor’s Office Hours 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.; Monday-Thursday

Parsonage: 715-263-2848

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**July 2026**

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## Making Friends

Making friends is becoming a lost art. At least that's what they've said on the news. Our technology is helpful but it's pulling us further apart. One would think things would be different. Having the ability to contact people wherever they are with cell phones should bring us together – hardly. The average person spends 5-8 hours a day on their phones. And that isn't usually with people. Games, social media, and doom scrolling videos take up some 90% of time with phones.

It's so bad among our youth we are facing a mental health crisis. Anxiety and depression are at an all time high among the general population but especially teenagers. Suicides are sadly at their highest levels ever recorded as well. Scary stuff. Many researchers are tracing the trouble to a lack of social interaction. Real physical relationships are what the doctor has ordered. And it's even better when those connections are with different age groups. It's all about making friends.

Did you know your church relationships could add as much as seven years on to your life! More research says connections at church are special. It's something you can't get anywhere else. You connect on a deeper level and face the ultimate questions of life together. Why am I here? What am I supposed to be doing? What happens when I die? Where is everything headed? Important questions indeed. Chances are if you are reading this you are already someone who understands some of this even if you can't put it in so many words.

Let's get to the recommendations. Get to church. Make some friends. Grow in love toward God and your neighbor. And that won't happen without putting the phone down more. You need flesh and blood not plastic and metal. Even better, greet new faces at church. Make it a goal to get to know names. Come to fellowship. Come to Wednesday night Faith, Fellowship and Fun. Just make a connection with someone. Do an experiment. The results will surprise you – make friends.

In Christ,  
Pastor Bryan



## Help Needed

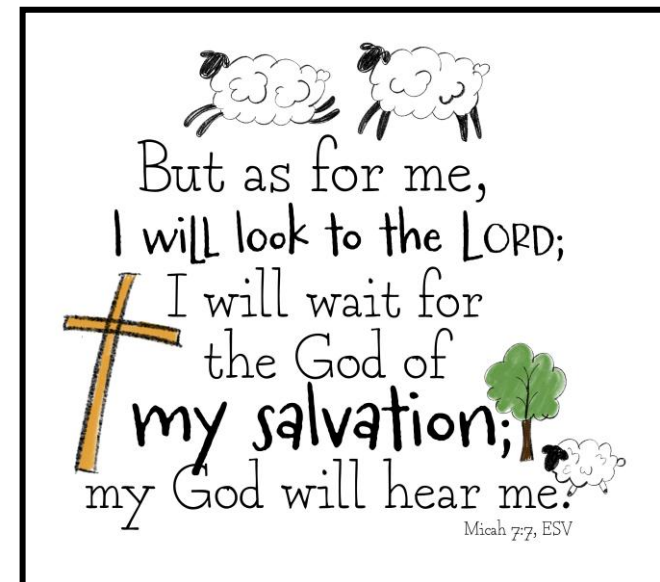
Many hands make for light work.

The Property Committee has identified several projects that volunteers are invited to tackle sometime over the summer.

Please notify the office if you can help today. Further questions can be directed to Property Committee leaders Bill McIntire at 715-607-1925 or Kevin Kamm at 715-222-1493.



- Touch up painting bumps and scratches where needed throughout the building
- Paint wall in youth room behind TV
- Check and replace all light bulbs in building as needed except high light fixtures
- Finish staining the ball pit
- Trim all outside landscape bushes (removing dead bushes)
- Spray for sidewalk and landscape weeds as they come in Summer





# JULY

## Worship Assistants

**ALTAR GUILD:** Jackie Goodmanson & Nancy Luehman

**GREETERS:** Jennifer (Coco) Morse & Lacey Kamm

### **READERS**

5 Don Dipprey  
 12 Aaron Johnson  
 19 Bill McIntire  
 26 Linda McIntire

### **COUNTERS**

5 & 12 Becky Schramski & TBD  
 19 & 26 Becky Schramski & Penny O'Connell

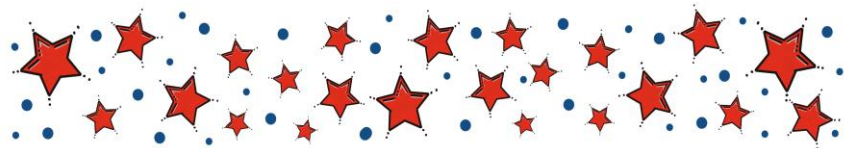
**COMMUNION ASSISTANT:** Becky Schramski

### **USHERS**

5 & 12 Ken Iverson  
 19 & 26 Kevin Kamm

### **FELLOWSHIP SERVERS**

5 Gloria Hedquist and Brian & Kathy Wick  
 12 Duke & Janet Krueger  
 19 Tracy Olson, Taylor Cardinal & Jordan Olson  
 26 Matt & Angie Steffen




# JULY

## BIRTHDAYS

- |                           |                      |
|---------------------------|----------------------|
| 3: Karen Booth            | 21: Janet Monson     |
| 4: Todd Lillie            | Dylan LaBeree        |
| 5: Amanda Greenlee        | 22: Betty Jo Warner  |
| Clara Flandrick           | Lucille Twining      |
| 7: Griffin Colbeth        | Seth Brihn           |
| 8: Hallie Tomesh          | Daxton Seaman        |
| Quinn Smith               | 23: Carol Clark      |
| Hailey Curtis             | Mark Weber           |
| 9: Jennifer Johnson       | Elaine Solum         |
| Jessica Gilbertson        | 24: Kyle Christensen |
| 10: Diane Beckman         | Judy Witthoft        |
| Abigail Roth              | Kinley Witthoft      |
| 11: Derry Monson          | Lauren LaBeree       |
| Terry Monson              | 26: Dennis Eckwall   |
| 12: Kathy Wick            | Melisa Utecht        |
| Andrew Ninke              | 27: Charles Warner   |
| 13: Ryder LaBlanc         | Alyssa Anderson      |
| Maverick Sempf            | 28: Devin Alvermann  |
| 14: Gloria Hedquist       | Calvin Rosen         |
| Tammy Magnuson            | 29: Andrew Champion  |
| Melissa (Hallman) Bergman | 30: Tim Wyss         |
| 16: Gail Kobernick        | Jack Peper           |
| 18: Pastor Bryan Anderson | Evelyn Strobach      |
| Kolton Goodmanson         |                      |
| Graham Gorres             |                      |



# PUZZLE



## JOYFUL PSALMS

Psalm 146, 147, 148, 149 and 150 are happy songs of praise. They all begin and end with the same sentence.

Put the words below in alphabetical order in the boxes. Then read down the second column to discover the special sentence from Psalms!



FEAST  
KHAKI  
MOUTH  
ESSAY  
LLAMA  
ORBIT  
CARRY  
UDDER  
BRUSH  
ITEMS  
APPLE  
LEARN  
CIDER





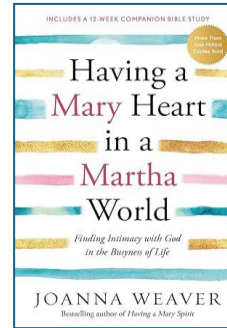

Answer: Praise the Lord!

## NEWS & NOTES



We keep the following in our prayers and acts of love: Cyndy Witthoft (Sister of Deann Wagner). *If you want to be included on the public prayer list, please notify the church office.*

**WEDDING:** Molly Petersen & Miles Troff (June 20<sup>th</sup>)



**WOMEN'S BOOK STUDY.** A sign-up sheet is available at church for the next book, Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World by Joanna Weaver. The book study will begin in September. Join us for a summer get together with some faith, fellowship, and devotion time on Saturday, July 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 AM in the church fellowship hall. Any questions please see Laura Boche-Case.

## FINANCES

### Giving:

Total offering for May \$18,326.30 (\$21,874.25 needed monthly)  
May year to date offering \$86,456.25 (\$109,371.25 YTD Budget)

## MEMORIAL GIFTS

### Memorials Given to the Memorial Garden Fund

#### In Memory of

Helen Bong, Joanne Hemauer  
Tim Malchow, Ron Broussard

#### Given by

Gene & Sharon Kuhl  
Gene & Sharon Kuhl

## HONORARIUM

A donation was given to the Memorial Garden Fund by Gene & Sharon Kuhl in honor of Brian & Kathy Wick's 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary.