

The VISITOR

Volume 53 August 2023 No. 8

Emanuel Lutheran Church
& Christian Preschool
701 S. First Street
Milbank, SD 57252



Pastor Chris Davis

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Preschool: elcpreschool@itcmilbank.com

Emanuel Website: www.elcmilbank.org

www.facebook.com/emanuelmilbank

Worship Schedule

Sunday 9:00 am Service

Holy Communion 1st, 3rd, 5th Weeks

Sun. School/Bible Study 10:15 AM

Midweek Wednesday 2:00 pm

Sunday livestreamed on YouTube

Pastor's Post

The Gospel, the Light, and Tearing Down the Tower of Babel

A Sunday School teacher told her students that their homework would be to memorize Isaiah 9:2. They were then to think about how that verse reminded them of Jesus. When the kids came back the next Sunday the teacher asked for volunteers to recite the verse. No answers were forthcoming. After several long minutes, the teacher asked if anyone could at least fill in the last part of the first half of the verse. Prompting them, she said, "The people walking in darkness have _____." Again, there were no volunteers. Finally, the teacher said she would give a candy bar to anyone who could finish the verse. Motivated by chocolate one boy raised his hand and said, "The people walking in darkness...use less electricity." After the giggles died down, another student said, "The people walking in darkness...Stubbed their toes on the coffee table." A little girl then volunteered, "The people walking in darkness...are usually burglars." Finally, one student offered confidently, "The people walking in darkness...could really use a flashlight." Just as the teacher was feeling fit to be tied, one of the students blurted out, "The people walking in darkness...have seen a great light." "Thank you!" said the teacher, as she handed the little girl the candy.

How would you have filled in the blanks? What would you have said? Isaiah 9:2, reminds us, "The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone." How many of you could have completed the verse as the teacher asked the children to do? And even if you did finish the verse, do you know what Light God has caused to shine in the darkness of our fallen lives? How is this verse about Jesus? What does this verse mean for you and your life?

Sometimes I wonder if we still do not get a little glimpse today of what things were like following the account of the Tower of Babel in Genesis 11. Sin continues to confuse our ability to understand God's will and communicate with each other. So often we – like the Sunday School children mentioned above – do not know what God's Word says. And even if we remember words from an assignment, that does not guarantee we understand what those words mean. In Genesis 11, we are told that God confused the language of the people living on earth after the flood. That was done so that people would still realize their need for the Lord. God then dispersed the people out over the earth and began building His nation anew. Out of all the peoples He used one man – Abraham – to set apart a nation of people for Himself. From that

one nation, God would bring all people back to Him. He would unite them around His Word with the message of the Gospel.

That is what Pentecost is all about. A reversal, if you will, of Babel. The only thing that will unite us as a people is God's Word and the Gospel of Jesus Christ. He is the Light of the World (John 8:12). If we do not know God's Word and do not understand what it means for Jesus to be the Light of the World.... the Light shining in the darkness from Isaiah 9:2, we can never really understand each other; we can never really communicate with each other. Without the Word of God and the language of the Gospel we face the same issues they did after Babel.

When I think about the divisiveness in the world today, it reminds me of Babel. When I think about the nature of politics in our country today it reminds me of Babel. When I think about people advocating for abortion and running down those who make movies designed to shine a spotlight on child sex trafficking, I think of Babel. When I hear people claim gender is fluid and sexuality is whatever we want it to be, I think of Babel. When kids are taught that the world is billions of years old and that they are descended from apes, I think of Babel. When people claim Scripture is bigoted or hateful, and that there are many ways to God, I think of Babel.

There is only one language that can truly unite us as a people. There is only one Light that brings us out of the darkness of this fallen world. There is only One who reveals God's love for the world and helps us see what is important in life. The same temptations that gave rise to the building of the Tower of Babel in Genesis 11 exist today. Our fallen impulse is to look for answers and understanding apart from God's Word. I pray that you will have been able to fill in the blank from Isaiah 9:2 mentioned above. I pray you are in God's Word every day and are instructing your children about the Light of the World.... Jesus Christ, our Lord. He is the Answer. He is the Light! He is the Way, the Truth, and Life! God's Word is what keeps us from building our own Towers of Babel. The Gospel is what reveals God's love and helps us truly communicate with and understand each other. Yes, in Jesus Christ, Babel is torn down. In Jesus Christ, the people walking in darkness have _____! Amen!

In Christ, Pastor Davis

Offical Acts

Funeral

Syd Johnson

Miranda Koepke

Baptism

Kate Lyn Staehling

Frankie Lyn Seehafer

Mission Sewing

Mission Sewing will meet on August 3rd at 9:00 AM. If you have a couple of hours to help and you can cut blocks, sew tops and/or bindings, we can use you! This can also be done at home. We also have a lunch on meeting days.

LOE

The Ladies of Emanuel will meet on Tuesday, August 8th, at 1 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Pastor Davis will give the lesson - "Be Assured" (page 18 in the Summer Quarterly). Wanda Bohn and Donna Zubke will serve lunch. All women in the congregation are invited to attend the Bible Study. Our Focus for August will be a contribution to the local Backpack program. Serving coffee on Sunday, August 6, will be Joyce Kasuske and Phyllis Meister, with the offering going to our Zone Delegate Fund.

READINGS FOR AUGUST 2023

Date	Festival	1 st Reading	Psalm	Epistle	Gospel
Aug. 6	Tenth S. a. Pentecost	Isaiah 55:1-5	Psalm 136:1-9 (23-26)	Rom. 9:1-5 (6-13)	Matt. 14:13-21
Aug. 13	Eleventh S. a. Pentecost	Job 38:4-18	Psalm 18:1-6 (7-16)	Rom. 10:5-17	Matt. 14:22-33
Aug. 20	Twelfth S. a. Pentecost	Isaiah 56:1, 6-8	Psalm 67	Rom. 11:1-2a, 13-15, 28-32	Matt. 15:21-28
Aug. 27	Thirteenth S. a. Pentecost	Isaiah 51:1-6	Aug. 6 (Prop. 13)	Rom. 11:33-12:8	Matt. 16:13-20

Members of Emanuel

As many of you know, the boiler at Emanuel is in desperate need of replacement. Currently we have donations of \$92,000 towards our total need of \$140,000. Please give if able! We should have the quoted actual price sometime this month.



POTHOLDERS!

A member of the congregation used donated yarn to create beautiful potholders that are now available for purchase! They are on display in the library and can be yours for a free will donation. **All proceeds are going to the boiler fund.** Envelopes are available to put your donation in and can be left in the slot of the office door.



Relief for Human Need Worldwide

OGT IS ON TRACK

Linnea Schwandt, coordinator for OGT's South Dakota Collection Center in Milbank shared many blessings they have received from supporters. "We recently received \$254.00 total from two separate lemonade stands that five

children, with help of their grandmas, set up on different days in Milbank. That is a lot of lemonade sold! Also, five women traveled over three hours from Immanuel Lutheran of Wecota brought quilts and laundry supplies and volunteered for the day. These women have been coming every year for many years. We've become friends as we joyfully work together sorting and packing all kinds of items. We have fun as we serve the Lord by caring for others. GOD is good. All the time God is good."

COME VISIT! Mercy Meal packing in August will be August 2nd at 9:15 AM.

Tuesday 3-5pm Wednesday and Saturdays 10 am to noon.

Linnea and Joyce

SPECIAL MISSION ENVELOPES

For August, the Special Mission envelope contributions will go towards:

Together In Mission (TIM)

Together In Mission invites congregations, groups and organizations to partner with LCMS missionaries serving around the world. By partnering with missionaries in their global ministry each LCMS member has the opportunity to journey with them and share God's Word with all the nations.

You have the opportunity to pray for missionaries, encourage them through communication, send a short-term team to work alongside them and help financially support your missionary. Your gifts help sustain your missionary's ministry and covers costs such as airfare, visas, insurance, travel, housing and living expenses.

A Together In Mission commitment, in the form of an annual pledge of support fulfilled as the Lord allows, sustains a strong partnership with our missionaries for reaching the whole world with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

June 2023 Treasurer Report

June 2023 Income:	\$ 32,835.39	YTD 2023 Income:	\$ 190,117.44
June 2023 Expense:	\$ 31,440.46	YTD 2023 Expense:	\$ 219,944.74
Difference:	\$ 1,394.93	Difference:	-\$ 29,827.30

Stewardship Newsletter August 2023-Define Your Life by How You Give

Winston Churchill reportedly said that "we make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give." According to Churchill, our lives are defined not by what we have gotten, but by what we give away.

Our Lord's life is defined in this way. He gave completely of Himself for us. He became man for us. He taught the truth of God's Word. He healed those with many and various diseases. He died the death that we deserved for our sins. He gave of Himself in order to save us from sin, death and hell. And so it is that by giving completely of Himself, He got for Himself us, making us citizens of His eternal kingdom by grace.

As it was for Jesus, so it also is for us. We get more from giving than we do from simply getting. For giving softens our hearts and frees us from the grip which the worries of this world and making a living has on us. For when we are singularly focused on making a living, we are singularly focused on what we get. That mindset begins to bleed into all areas of our lives — our relationships with friends and family, with neighbors and coworkers, and with the Lord. It shifts our focus from asking the question, "How can I be a friend, family member, neighbor and servant to others," to asking the question, "What have they done for me lately?" We become more selfish instead of selfless.

But when we give, we do not have less, we do not become less; rather, we have more and become more. When we give, we join in the bond of friendship and family, the bond of service to those around us out of love for them. And love is the fulfillment of the Law. It is the nature of God Himself, for God is Love. Thus, we are participating in the divine nature. As Jesus said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35).

Preschool News, by Karen Tillma

We have two new teachers aides starting on the 1st. Maria Fonder and Rebecca Welberg. Open House is scheduled for August 9th from 4 PM to 7 PM. Preschool officially begins on August 16th!

We want to officially thank all the volunteers that cleaned the preschool area including the playground. The weeds pulled, wasp nest cleared, bench builder, carpet cleaner, among all the other things to clean the preschool for opening day!

Youth Happenings - Grades 5 - 12

CONFIRMATION MEETING FOR 2023-2024

SCHOOL YEAR IS: August 3rd at 5:30 PM.

Students and Parents should plan on attending. Please call the office if you cannot attend the confirmation meeting. There will be Youth Board members attending to try and work out the next events.

Peach sales \$45/lug arriving mid-late August. Call the office at 605-432-9555 or sign up at the church outside the sanctuary. There are still some peaches available!

Higher Things Confirmation Retreat-www.higherthings.org

When: August 11 - 12, 2023

Where: Our Redeemer Lutheran Church
Custer, SD

Who: Confirmation Youth

Cost: \$40 per person

Contact: Pastor David Warner

(605) 673-4371

pastorwarner@outlook.com OR

Tana McKenna

888-482-6630 ext.4

retreats@higherthings.org

Time: Friday, 4 pm - Saturday, 2 pm

Meals: Friday supper;

Saturday breakfast, lunch and snacks

What to Bring: toiletries, especially deodorant

changes of clothes

basic hygiene items

sleeping bags

pillows

RSVP: via online registration at the

Higher Things website by July 31, 2023

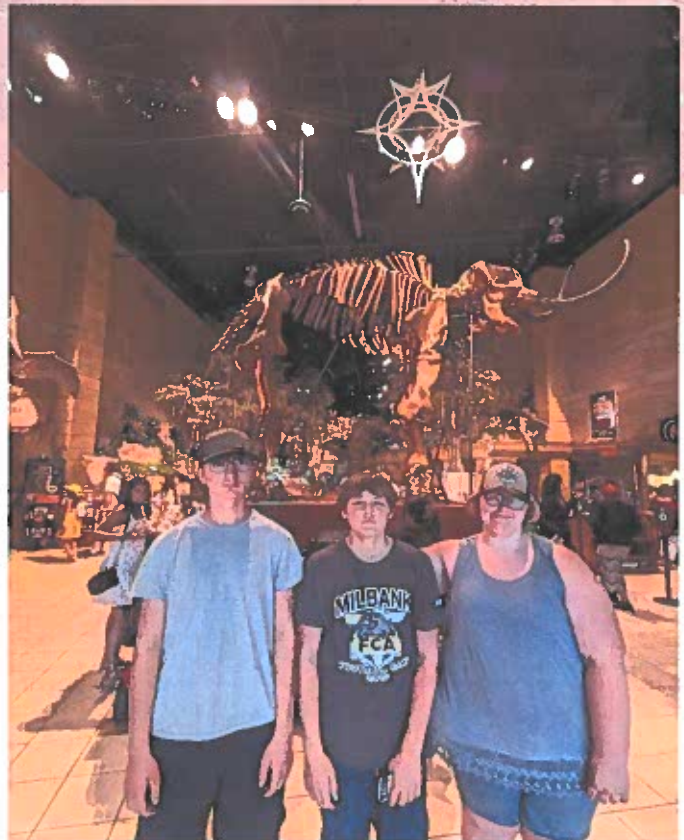
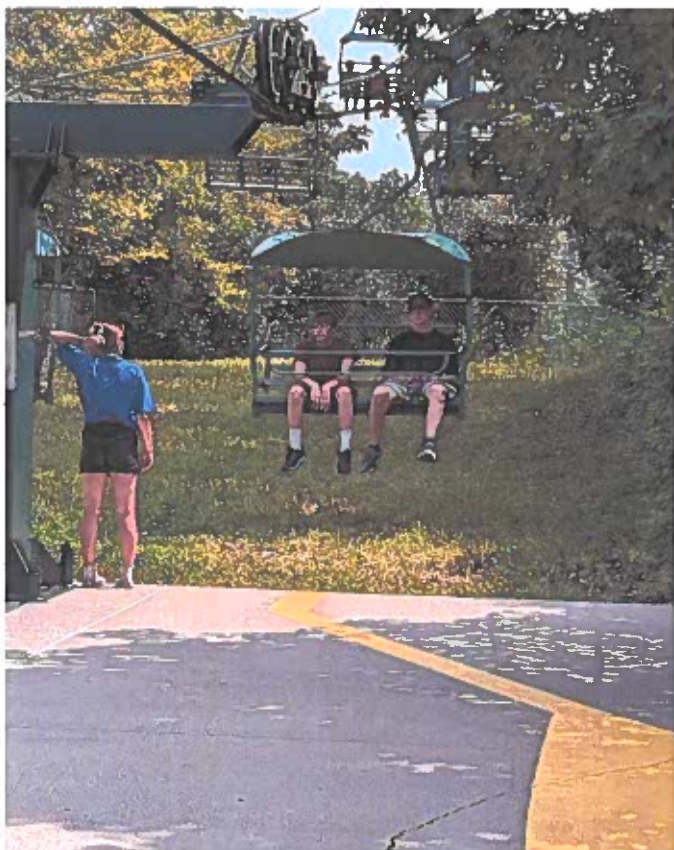
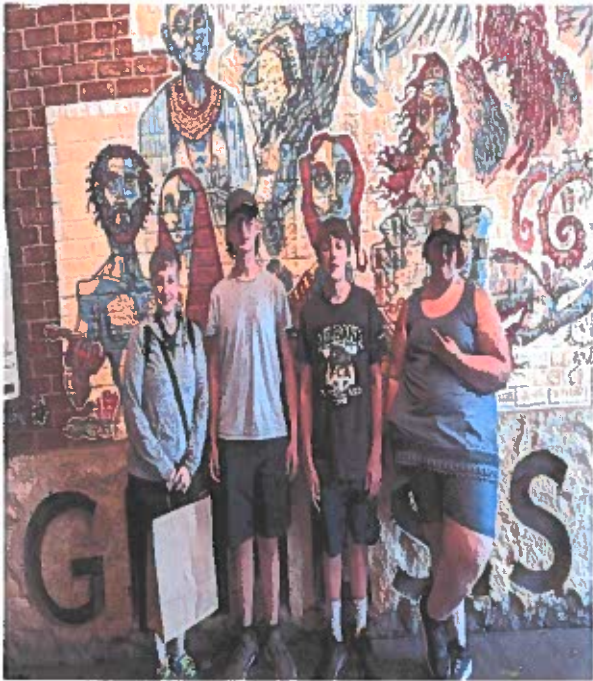
Save the date for Minneboji 2024 - June 16 – 22

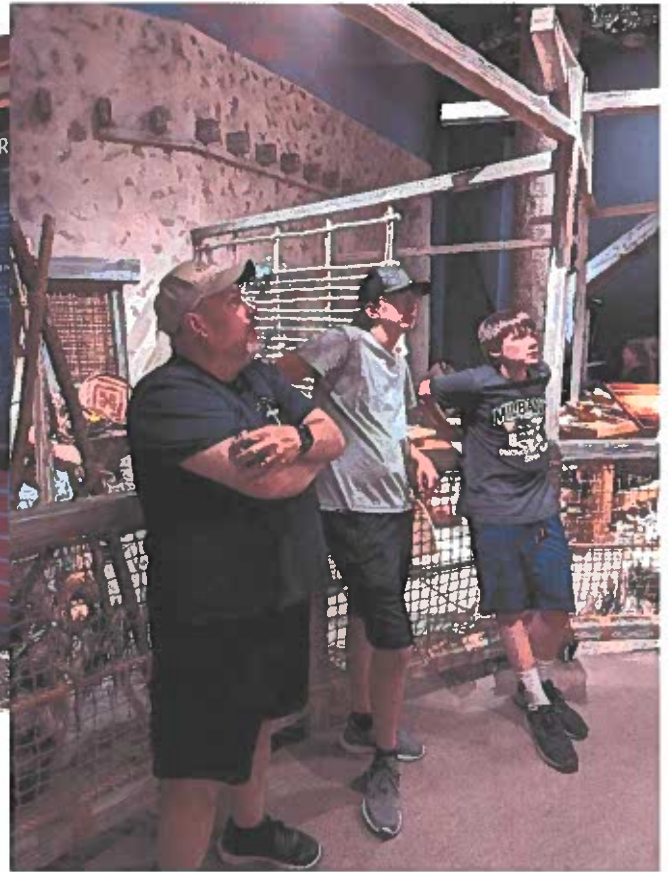
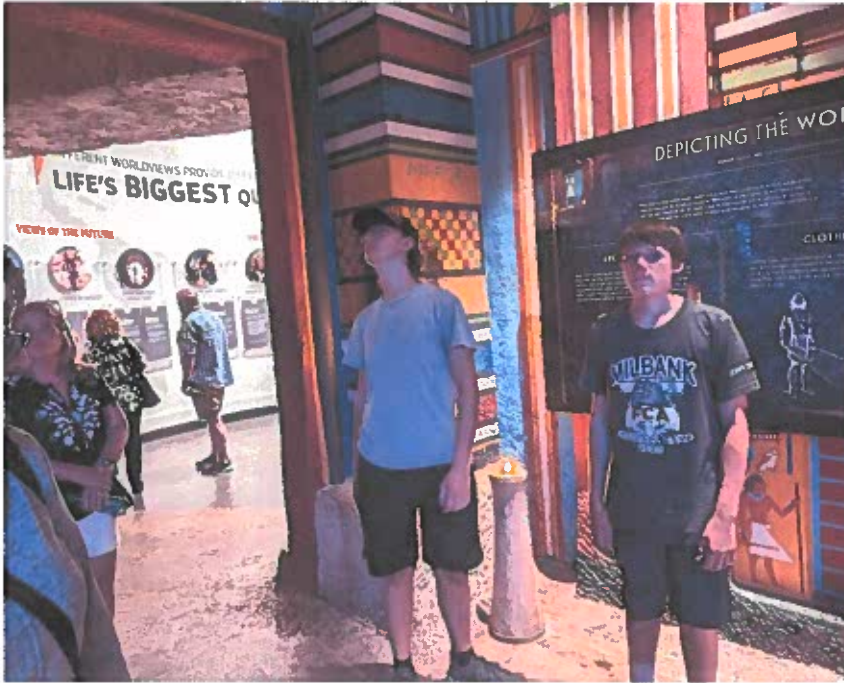
Also, incoming 6th-8th graders should still be signing up to Acolyte on the signup genius website. As you can see we only have 1 week covered for August. We are changing the signup to 2 acolytes per Sunday if possible, per Pastor and students choice.

**That means that every six weeks you should sign up for a Sunday.
THANK YOU.**

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040844ADAC22A3FF2-acolyte>

The confirmation trip to the Creation Museum and the Ark is going on while this newsletter is getting prepared. The following are some pictures of the ongoing trip. Confirmands are Evan Henderson, Peyton Bauer, and Shyenne Giossi. Pastor Davis and wife Karrie are the chaperones!





SOUND/RADIO BROADCAST FOR AUGUST

August 6-9 AM Harlan Monson
 August 13-9 AM Dave Schamber
 August 20-9 AM Larry Underwood
 August 27-9 AM Tracy Pinkert

ACOLYTES FOR AUGUST

August 6-9 AM
 August 13-9 AM
 August 20-9 AM
 August 27-9 AM Karlie Nies

BYD GROUP for August is GROUP 5, Elder—Dewey Athey

Please refer to the sign-up sheets outside of the sanctuary as there are several open spots at this time for Usher, Greeter, and Communion Set-up. Thank you!!!! You can call the office to volunteer at any time. 605-432-9555

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Dexter, Ryan D.	1-Aug
Jackson, Jacob C.	1-Aug
VanHout, Kristie S.	1-Aug
Anderson, Nicholas A.	2-Aug
Davis, Ward	2-Aug
Dragt, DeeAnn K.	2-Aug
Schell, Kelly	2-Aug

VanHout, Kaia S.	2-Aug
Fraasch, Jason	3-Aug
Hilbrands, Kelly L.	3-Aug
Dikstaal, Carolea H.	4-Aug
Karges, Michelle	4-Aug
Nicholson, Morgan A.	4-Aug
Reil, Deanna L.	4-Aug

Madsen, Janelle M.	5-Aug
Zubke, MaKenna R.	5-Aug
Thorkelson, Marlene	6-Aug
Hofhenke, Arvid	7-Aug
Polkinghorne, Barb	7-Aug
Reil, Tanya	7-Aug
Rethke, Mark P.	7-Aug

Dexter, Jenna A.	8-Aug
Gulley, Douglas (Doug)	8-Aug
Morton, Todd W.	8-Aug
Mueller, Grant T.	8-Aug
Bolton, Pat	9-Aug
Moser, Bradyn P.	9-Aug
Hunt, Cydney J.	10-Aug
Mead, Penny M.	10-Aug
Weyh, Sydnee M.	10-Aug
Campbell, Gerald	11-Aug
Cummins, Diane K.	11-Aug
Dexter, Douglas L.	11-Aug
Haigh, Jessica L.	11-Aug
Morton, Sheila A.	11-Aug
Pies, Arlon	11-Aug
Thiele, Debra A.	11-Aug
Weinkauf, Derek D.	11-Aug
Heffron, JoEllen	12-Aug

Kolb, Linda	12-Aug
Berkner, Corley M.	13-Aug
Dauwen, Diann E.	13-Aug
Leddy, Kadon R.	13-Aug
Lee, Sophia P.	14-Aug
Koch, Jacob M.	15-Aug
Schell, Amber M.	16-Aug
Bolin, Julie	18-Aug
Campbell, Koda	18-Aug
Seezs, Dallas J.	18-Aug
Staehling, Christina L.	18-Aug
Steltz, Andrew R.	18-Aug
Wilde, Vivian J.	18-Aug
Mueller, Steve	20-Aug
DiNatale, Karmen A.	21-Aug
Bohn, Donald	23-Aug
Lee, Mark A.	23-Aug
Schweer, Kaden	23-Aug

Jackson, Pam	24-Aug
Reyelts, Deloria	24-Aug
Tesch, Emmett D.	24-Aug
Zubke, Natasha M.	25-Aug
Lingwall, Tim	26-Aug
Riley, Michael J.	26-Aug
Gesswein, John L.	28-Aug
Karels, Karissa L.	28-Aug
Dexter, Devon J.	29-Aug
Neuschwander, Gaylen	29-Aug
Pinkert, Bea	29-Aug
Radil, Joshua L.	29-Aug
Seehafer, Rick R.	29-Aug
Karges, Michael R.	30-Aug
Henderson, Karen	31-Aug
VanHout, Kobe	31-Aug
Wendland, Michael	31-Aug
Wieber, Jeremy A.	31-Aug

AUGUST WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Hanson, Dean A. and Beverly A.	4-Aug
Weyh, John and Misty	4-Aug
Schwandt, Jackson R. and Breanna L.	6-Aug
Fischer, David P. and Dana	7-Aug
Jibbens, Randy and Debra J.	8-Aug
Madsen, Janelle M. and Rusty	9-Aug

Schmieg, Jada C. and Brandon J.	11-Aug
Mielitz, Richard R. and Tammy	12-Aug
Street, Geoff and Kris	23-Aug
Tietjen, Larry L. and Jeanne K.	23-Aug
Krause, Jason L. and Rita J.	28-Aug

In preparation for Lisa starting her Deaconess Internship we are looking for people who are willing to volunteer in the office during weekday afternoons. We have a volunteer for Wednesday and Thursday afternoons but are looking for the other days as well. We would ask this person to answer phones and take messages. Other duties could include folding, copying, or data entry into the computer. If you were just willing to answer the phone as you read your favorite book that would be acceptable as well. The hours would be from 12 or 1 PM to 3 or 4 PM. Please leave a message at the office regarding your availability!

Lisa is back to normal Monday through Friday hours (9-3 but often here until 6 PM) most of the month. EXCEPT-every three weeks drive Eric to chemo and help him at home. For that week I will have hours posted on the door. Please leave me a message/note. If you have something to drop off like offerings or checks, please utilize the locked box on my office door. That is only opened by a couple people on counting money days. Pastor Davis generally opens the church up by 6 AM Monday through Thursday if you need to drop something off.

August 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
COMING UP: 9/10 RALLY SUNDAY!! 1st day of Sunday School!		1	2	3	4	5
			9:15 AM Mercy Meals at OGT 2:00 PM—Midweek Worship 7:00 PM Book Study	9:00 AM Mission Sewing 1:00 PM Bible Study 3:30 PM Communion at St. Williams 5:30 PM Confirmation Meeting for student/parents Youth Board Mtg	-	
6 9:00 AM—Service of the Word w/ Holy Communion 10:15 AM—Adult Bible class	7 6:00-7:30 PM New Member Class	8 1:00 PM—LOE 4:30 PM—Board of Ed 6:00 PM—Evangelism 7:00 PM—Trustee Mtg 7:00 PM—Elder Board	9 2:00 PM—Midweek Worship w/ Holy Communion 5:00 PM 3's Open House 6:00 PM 4's Open House 7:00 PM Book Study	10 1:00 PM Bible Study	11	12
13 9:00 AM—Service of the Word 10:15 AM—Adult Bible class	14 6:00-7:30 PM New Member Class	15	16 PRESCHOOL STARTS 2:00 PM—Midweek Worship 7:00 PM Book Study	17 1:00 PM Bible Study	18	19
20 DOOR OFFERING FOR TIM 9:00 AM—Service of the Word w/ Holy Communion 10:15 AM—Adult Bible class	21 <i>Pastor and Lisa at Seminary through 8/25</i>	22	23	24	25	26
27 9:00 AM—Service of the Word 10:15 AM—Adult Bible class	28 6:00-7:30 PM New Member Class	29	30 2:00 PM—Midweek Worship 7:00 PM Book Study	31 1:00 PM Bible Study	AA Meets at Emanuel every: Wednesday at 8 PM-basement Thursday at 6:30 PM Fellowship Hall	