

Ascension Lutheran CHURCH

July 2023



Church along the Interstate in Nebraska

On the Agenda for July

July Pastors

- 2 - Rev. James Garnett, Pastor Emeritus
- 9 - Rev. Keith Enko, Pastor Emeritus
- 16 - Rev. Gary Nagy, Pastor Emeritus
- 23 - Rev. Gary Nagy, Pastor Emeritus
- 30 - Rev. Doug DeWitt, Pastor Emeritus

July Events

- 9-16 - Youth on a Mission Trip - UKANDU

July Worship

- Sunday Mornings** 8:00 & 10:45 AM
- Bible Study** 9:30 AM
- Regency** 9:45 AM

- Monday Evenings** 6:00 PM

July Missional Outreach

- Regency** 7/6; 7/20 12:30 PM
- HHR** 7/12; 7/26 10:15 AM

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Special prayer

Requests

For the coming marriage, July 15, of Michele Corser's son, Daniel, and his fiancée, Lizeth Sanchez Delgado

For the upcoming surgery of Jean Shaver

For a Called Pastor to come to Ascension

message from Stewardship

Bobbie Scroggins

YOU THINK YOU ARE SO SMART

KNOWLEDGEABLE and experienced, the district attorney makes his case. Calling key witnesses to the stand, he presents the evidence. After discrediting the testimonies of witnesses for the defense by skillfully cross-examining them, he concludes with an airtight summary and stirring challenge for the jury. The announced verdict is no surprise. “Guilty,” states the foreman, and justice is done.

Romans 1:22-23: “Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools ²³and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like a mortal human being and birds and animals and reptiles.”



What is your IQ score? What did you get on the SAT or ACT? Do you think you could be a

recurring contestant on Jeopardy Or, at a party where the host breaks out the Trivia game, are you the one people want on their team?

Pick one of these: book smart, like Einstein; super talent like an Olympic gold medal winner; or wisdom like an ancient philosopher. To get through this tough world, it's best to have all of the above, but if we are to have the most of anything, wisdom is the best.

When Paul says that men exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images of birds, animals and reptiles, he means to deliberately state man's wickedness in the terms used in the Genesis narrative of Adam's fall. When we worship the creature instead of the Creator, we lose sight of our own identity as those who are higher than the animals – made in the image of God.

Some say knowledge is power, but knowing facts gets you only so far if you don't know what to do with them. A smart person can think he knows all the answers, but that's called foolishness; by wisdom, we can make good choices.

Psalm 22:27-31: “²⁷All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the LORD, and all the families of the nations will bow down before him, ²⁸for dominion belongs to the LORD and he rules over the nations. ²⁹All the rich of the earth will feast and worship; all who go down to the dust will kneel before him - those who cannot keep themselves alive. ³⁰Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord. ³¹They will proclaim his righteousness, declaring to a people yet unborn: He has done it!”

Unborn generations are depending on our faithfulness today. As we teach our children about the Lord, so they will teach their children's children. If we fail to tell our children about the Lord, we may well be breaking the chain of God's influence in generations to come. We must view our children and all the young people we meet as God's future leaders. If we are faithful in opportunities today, we may well be affecting the future.

message from Stewardship (Continued)

Bobbie Scroggins

If we want our children to serve the Lord, they must hear about Him from us. It is not enough to rely on the church or those with more knowledge to provide all their Christian education. We must reinforce the lessons of the Bible in our homes.



1 Corinthians 1:30: *"It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption."*

Proverbs 11:12: *"When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom."*

Proverbs 13:10: *"Where there is strife, there is pride, but wisdom is found in those who take advice."*

Proverbs 29:3: *A man who loves wisdom brings joy to his father, but a companion of prostitutes squanders his wealth."*

Isaiah 11:2: *"The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him - the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the LORD."*

Romans 11:33: *"Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable His judgments, and His paths beyond tracing out!"*

"The first step to knowledge is to know that we are ignorant." – Cecil

"The most difficult thing in life is to know yourself." –Thales

"Knowledge is power." –Bacon

"The desire to knowledge, the thirst of riches increases ever with the acquisition of it." –Sterne

"The profoundly wise do not declaim against superficial knowledge in others as much as the profoundly ignorant." –Colton

"The shortest and surest way of arriving at real knowledge is to unlearn the lessons we have been taught, to mount the first principles, and take nobody's word about them." – Bolingbroke

"Common sense in an uncommon degree is what the world calls wisdom." – Colridge

People in St. Paul's day thought they were so smart because they worshipped idols, but St. Paul told them they were fools. Paul

explains what it means to live in complete submission to Christ. Use spiritual gifts to serve others.

Romans 12:3: *For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you."*

Romans 13:1: *"Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God."*



message from **Stewardship** (Continued)

Bobbie Scroggins

Romans 14:1: “Accept the one whose faith is weak, without quarreling over disputable matters.”

Romans 15:5: “May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other.”

As you read Romans, re-examine your commitment to Christ and reconfirm your relationship with other believers in Christ’s body.

Romans 5:1: “Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Wisdom is knowing God, and by this wisdom, we know about our salvation in Christ. And just think, to have this wisdom, all we need to do is ask for it, and God gives it quite abundantly.

Lord, make us wise for salvation for we know from this wisdom only good will flow into our lives. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

TO THE ONLY
WISE GOD BE
glory
FOREVERMORE
THROUGH
Jesus Christ!
ROMANS 16:27, ESV

word of **THANKS**

Pastor Emeritus Bernard Ansoerge would like to thank the LWML for remembering him with the tree planted on Father’s Day. The tree is located on the east side of the driveway on the creek/CDC side.

The ceremony was attended by members of Ascension between the 8:00 and 10:45 AM services. A special plaque with the words shown was presented. The ceremony ended with a vocal rendition of “Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow.”



message from OUR DCM

Carla Jo Peebles

By the time you read this, VBS for Summer 2023 will be a thing of the past. I want to thank Jennifer Hartwig and Kelly Aschenbrenner for spearheading this year's programming. The decorations were outstanding! I also want to thank all of the volunteers who came nightly to make it possible, and the considerable number of youth who served as aids and helpers. We had over 30 children in attendance!

We passed our bi-annual licensing visit with flying colors and were able to officially add transportation to repertoire of services provided. The state will come for their annual inspection next spring, but we won't be up for relicensing until the spring of 2025.

Our summer program at the CDC is going full steam, as well. We have a new Toddler 1 teacher. Her name is Cynthia Gurley. If you are over in our building please stop by, introduce yourself, and welcome her into our "family." This summer each week has a different theme. We have had community helpers – Police, Hems, military, librarians; Sports – Lee High school cheerleaders, Soccer shots, Martial arts, and the "Big green Bus.; Garden – Nadine and Bob Hartwig; and for animal week, so far, we have had the Huntsville rescue dogs, and Hampton Farms will be visiting us on Friday.



We have been able to fit in water days and going to the splash pad. We have also had visits from various people from Child Care Central who are reading to the children on a regular basis. You may have noticed we are utilizing several rooms over at church this summer. We are able to do this if we register our trips across the parking lot as "field trips" and fill out the necessary forms that go along with that.



THANK
YOU
FOR
VOLUNTEERS

Thank you to those of you who gave up your regular meeting space so the kids can use it.

CDC will be closed July 4. Be safe!



CDC WORKDAY

We are going to be closed July 31 through August 4. This will allow for **WORK DAYS**. There are a lot of things that have gone by the wayside since the era of Covid that we need to catch up on. Harold and Harvey have a list of items we want accomplished. Please help us with this! There is something for everyone – cleaning, painting, weeding, etc. On August 3 and 4, we will be having our yearly professional development. We will begin our regular school year on August 7.

in the congregation

| | | | |
|------------------|-------|-------------------|-------|
| Oana Burhans | 7/03 | Abi Mwakabumbila | 07/18 |
| Alexander Arthur | 07/07 | Wesley Juron | 07/19 |
| Todd Ballentine | 07/09 | Todd Orf | 07/20 |
| Brenda Booze | 07/09 | William Arthur | 07/21 |
| Brandon Strain | 07/10 | Jimmy Damron | 07/21 |
| Ilse Crevoiserat | 07/11 | Paul Hunze | 07/21 |
| Genevieve Grott | 07/11 | Georgiana Hartwig | 07/25 |
| Jim Sims | 07/13 | Andrea Charnock | 07/26 |
| Vanda Beamer | 07/17 | Brian Levenhagen | 07/31 |
| Amber Doumar | 07/17 | | |



Birthday Blessings



Ken & Kelly Aschenbrenner

July 16 (23 years)

Mark & Sandy Williams

July 21 (36 years)

Brian & Sheila Levenhagen

July 22 (35 years)

message from THE ELDER

YOU HAVE A ROLE TO PLAY

"For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully." (Romans 12:3-8)

is



Ken Aschenbrenner just finished teaching a year-long Sunday School class on the Gospel of John.

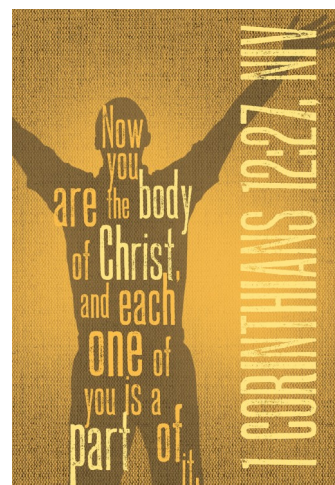
Ken combines a wealth of knowledge with a teaching style that not only conveys that knowledge but does so with a little humor, sharing some past experiences, quoting various leaders of the past and present church, pulling lines from some old movies, and generally making the class enjoyable for those attending. As I sat through that class listening to Ken for the past year, I realized how much I still need to learn.

When I write these articles, I do so with a sense of humility. I often think there are more knowledgeable people, like Ken, who are more qualified than I am, that should be writing these articles instead of me. Then I think, God has put me in this position and has instructed all of us, including me, to be prepared to give a defense of what we believe, to be His royal priests, His ambassadors, His representatives to a fallen world. Therefore, I, to the best of my ability, try to do just that, so I speak from my heart, and I talk about things that I think are important to you. Hopefully, I do so in a way that is faithful to the Word of God and to the doctrines of the Lutheran church.

This is what God calls all of us to do. As Christians, we are called

by God not only to witness, to share what we believe by our words and actions, but also to be contributing members to His body, the church. In the passage from Romans, prophesying (preaching), serving, teaching, exhorting (encouraging others), giving, leading, and showing mercy are identified as ways that we can contribute to the welfare of His church. Other passages in the Bible add to this list the utterance of wisdom, strong faith, discernment, and the apostolic gifts of speaking in tongues, interpreting tongues, performing miracles and miraculous healing.

Every Christian has something to contribute to



the body of Christ, to the church. There are many needs in our church that are going unfilled. Boards are lacking members. Sunday

Message from **THE ELDER** (Continued)

School teachers are needed. Additional workers could assist in the maintenance of the church grounds. The choir could use additional voices. People with the talent to play musical instruments can contribute positively to the worship services. Volunteers are always a benefit to the child development center. The mission outreach to Regency and HHR could use additional individuals. The Rose of Sharon social outreach needs more help, more servers. The list goes on and on.

Financial support is needed to support the church's budget. World missions and other worthwhile charities can always use whatever we can contribute. People around the world are hurting and, while we may not be able to directly assist them, we can give financial support to groups doing just that.

Members of the congregation have a variety of needs. Handymen, who know how to perform a variety of necessary tasks, can assist these members with some of their needs. Others just need to hear a compassionate voice, an individual willing to listen and provide emotional and spiritual support. Others need help with rides to and from doctor appointments, grocery store trips, etc. Others are struggling financially and/or physically and need a helping hand.



Everyone, even those that are homebound, can be prayer warriors. In the arsenal of Christian weapons, prayer is the most powerful. The fervent prayers of Christians can have a major impact on the lives of others (Recommended viewing: War Room movie). Every Sunday there is a long list in the bulletin of members, friends, coworkers, and relatives that are hurting. These people need your prayers.



Remember, we are all poor, miserable sinners. We have all sinned against God in so many ways. We have done many, many things we should not have done. We have also remained silent,

unmoving, when we should have spoken, when we should have done something. For all our sins, we deserve God's wrath, God's judgment, God's righteous punishment in this life and the next. We deserve eternal damnation. That is how awful our sins are, how much God abhors all sins, including the ones we have so freely committed.

Thanks be to God that He has not left us in this miserable state. By sending His Son, and our Lord and Savior, into the world, to become one of us, to live a perfect, sinless life, to suffer and die a horrible death on the cross, God has provided a path of reconciliation between Himself and us. By exchanging His perfect righteousness, the requirement for entrance into Heaven, for our loathsome, sinful lives, God has promised eternal life to all who believe and trust in Him. This is an incredible, wonderful gift, one that we certainly do not deserve.

message from **THE ELDER** (Continued)

Our response to this undeserved act of love is to reflect that love to others. We show that love by our words and actions. To a world that is spiritually dead, we can provide a lifeline, we can share the Good News of salvation with them. We can share our compassion, our kindness, with those that are hurting, with those that are lost, with those that desperately need our help. We can, by our words and actions, try to follow Jesus' example and be a light, a beacon of hope, to a world walking in darkness.

We can also contribute to the wellbeing of our local church and to the invisible church worldwide. The ways previously listed are just some of the ways we can positively impact the body of Christ, both locally and globally.

As the Bible states, the harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. The body of Christ, His church, needs you. You have a role to play.



Hear the word of the LORD,
O nations, and declare
it in the coastlands
far away ...

Jeremiah 31:10, NRSV

in the COMMUNITY

Grace Lutheran Church



Grace Lutheran Church is hosting a LERT Training Class on August 12, 2023. The LERT training is required by the LCMS for anyone who wants to help respond to any type of disaster. Participants who complete the LERT training can participate in helping with any disaster event. Rev. Ed Brashier, Southern District Disaster Response Person, will lead the training.

A Basic Lutheran Early Response Team (LERT) training class will be held at **Grace Lutheran Church, 3321 Memorial Parkway SW, Huntsville, AL 35801** from 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM on Saturday, August 12, 2023. Participants will be introduced to the LCMS Disaster Response program, learn the basic nature of disasters, the opportunities to respond to personal needs and how Lutherans can support families, congregations and the public as the hands and feet of Jesus during a disaster.

Lunch and snacks are provided as part of the LERT registration cost which will be payable to Grace Lutheran Church. The information about the August 12 training can be found at the following web link: **Basic LERT training, Grace Lutheran Church, Huntsville AL, 8/12/2023 | LCMS Disaster Response**

There are two steps involved in the registration process. Step 1 is to create a LERT Volunteer Profile and once that is created, Step 2 is to then register for the August 12 LERT training.

https://www.lcms-lert.org/need/detail/?need_id=818042

Additional Details

- ◇ Volunteers should be between the ages of 14 and 100
- ◇ It is not outdoors
- ◇ It is wheelchair accessible
- ◇ Snacks and lunch will be provided
- ◇ Cost is \$35 per person



Just for

KIDS

"A Time to Plant..."

The spring of the year is time to plant gardens or tend to other plants. The list below contains the names of plants that grew in Bible times. How many do you recognize? Circle the names from the list. They may be found → ← ↓ ↑ ↘. There will be 13 letters uncircled. Write them in the spaces below.

| | | | | |
|--------------------|-------------|----------------|----------------|-----------|
| myrrh | aloes | cassia | mint | dill |
| lentil | apple trees | crocus | barley | cucumbers |
| balsam trees | melons | leeks | onions | garlic |
| oak trees | wheat | figs | mustard | grain |
| pomegranates | olive trees | beans | millet | cane |
| almonds | cinnamon | pistachio nuts | rose of Sharon | |
| lily of the valley | | | | |

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

Who is the "Master Gardener"?

_____, _____.

Plant a Tree!



You will need:

- ✂ seeds from a grapefruit, orange, lemon or tangerine
- ✂ a flower pot
- ✂ soil

How to:

Soak the seeds in water overnight.

Fill the flower pot with soil.

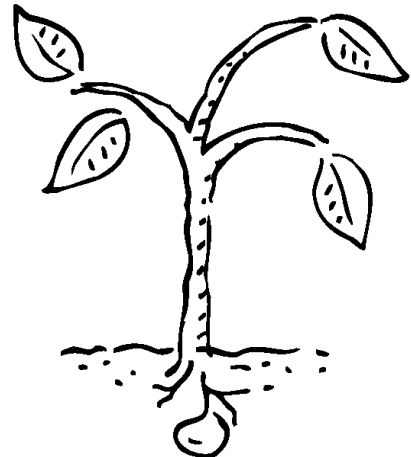
Plant 3 or 4 seeds about half an inch deep.

Keep soil moist. Water once or twice a week.

Keep pot in a warm, bright place.

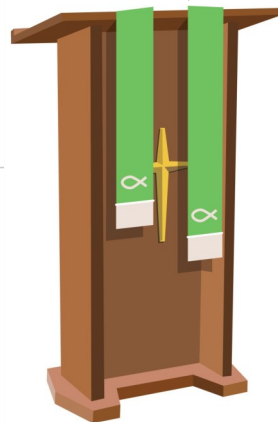
The seedlings will sprout in about 8 weeks.

Leave only the strongest plant in the pot. It will grow into a little tree with dark, shiny leaves.



message from OUR JULY CALENDAR

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|--|---------------------------------------|---|--|-----|---|
| | | | | | | 1 |
| 2 8:00 & 10:45 AM - Worship with Communion 9:30 AM - Bible Study 9:45 AM - Regency Outreach | 3 6:00 PM - Worship | 4 CLOSED FOR HOLIDAY | 5 | 6 12:30 PM - Missional Outreach Regency | 7 | 8 |
| 9 8:00 & 10:45 AM - Worship with Communion 9:30 AM - Bible Study 9:45 AM - Regency Outreach | 10 6:00 PM - Worship6:00 PM - Worship | 11 7:00 PM - Board of Directors | 12 10:15 AM - Missional Outreach HHR | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 16 8:00 & 10:45 AM - Worship with Communion 9:30 AM - Bible Study 9:45 AM - Regency Outreach | 17 6:00 PM - Worship | 18 6:00 PM - Board of Elders | 19 | 20 12:30 PM - Missional Outreach Regency | 21 | 22 8:30 AM - Men's Prayer Breakfast |
| 23 8:00 & 10:45 AM - Worship with Communion 9:30 AM - Bible Study 9:45 AM - Regency Outreach | 24 6:00 PM - Worship | 25 | 26 10:15 AM - Missional Outreach HHR | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| 30 8:00 & 10:45 AM - Worship with Communion 9:30 AM - Bible Study 9:45 AM - Regency Outreach | 31 6:00 PM - Worship | | | | | |



| July Schedule |
|------------------|
| 2 - Rev. Garnett |
| 9 - Rev. Enko |
| 16 - Rev. Nagy |
| 23 - Rev. Nagy |
| 30 - Rev. DeWitt |