



# **GOOD NEWS OF ETERNAL HOPE**

## **“PROVIDING HOPE FOR ETERNITY”**

A monthly publication of Eternal Hope Lutheran Church – August 2025 Volume 52, Number 8

### **Start Your Morning Off The Right Way!**

In last month's newsletter I wrote to you about ending your day in prayer. And this past Sunday we focused on the Lord's Prayer. Jesus taught His disciples (all of us that have been called to serve Him through the Holy Spirit.) the perfect Prayer. This month let's talk about the beginning of your day.

For many Christians, starting a good habit like daily prayer may feel hard to do. Sometimes we may not even know where to start. (And that's even Jesus' disciples asked Him to teach them how to pray!) We know the Lord's Prayer (always a great prayer to say at any time and any place), but we may not know other prayers. And for some, making up our own prayers can be intimidating.

But not only did Martin Luther teach us how to pray as we end our day (Luther's Evening Prayer), but he also suggested a way to begin the day. His morning prayer is as follows:

*I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen. (Small Catechism, pg. 30)*

Even though I learned this prayer when I was around ten-years old, it is still one of my favorite prayers to help me begin my day. This prayer helps us focus the new day on Christ who has called us, and continues to guide us every day.

First off, the Morning Prayer reminds us that even when we are asleep, the Lord is watching over us and protecting us. We survived the night because our bodies are a gift from God who continues to sustain us each and every day of our life. What a great way to start our day by recognizing all we have is truly a gift from God.

Secondly, in this prayer we ask that God would keep us from "sin and every evil" during this upcoming day. What a wonderful prayer for us to ask from our God who is so gracious in forgiving us when we do sin (John 2:1).

And finally, we end with one of the most powerful phrases. We commend to God "our body and soul, and all things." It is very powerful for us to admit that we are commending our lives to God. To "commend" strikes an image of us literally falling into the arms of our Savior in complete trust knowing that He and He alone can, and will, preserve us from all adversities in this life.

Believe it or not, prayer is the most important and powerful habit you can do. Through prayer, God will not only protect and watch over you, but He will also guide your steps throughout the day (look at Psalms 32:8 and Proverbs 3:5-6 as example of this).

Summer is a great way to get back into a regular and consistent prayer life. Beginning a habit of prayer does not have to be overwhelming. Just take a few seconds every morning and pray the Lord's Prayer followed by the Morning Prayer. Commit to prayer for one week. By the end of the week, you will probably have it memorized! The Lord longs to hear from you. He longs to answer your prayers and guide you in your walk with Him. There truly is no greater way than to start your day with prayer!

In Christ,

Pastor Hillyer

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**Sunday School:**

#### **Council Officers**

<b>President</b>	Joel Shaffer
<b>V. President</b>	Dan Bye
<b>Secretary</b>	Edy Vavrichek
<b>Treasurer</b>	Troy Bierbaum

#### **Elders**

Ken Grimm	Howard Holliday
Tim Meer	

#### **Education & Youth**

Kari Falnes	Jen Pelton
Lisa Strandquist	Lori Lexvold

#### **OutReach**

JoLayne Baird

#### **Stewardship**

Mark Shaffer	Kathy Marcella
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#### **Properties**

Ryan Kreger

***Eternal Hope Lutheran Church***  
***Sunday Worship***  
**9:00 AM**

**PRAYERS:** - If you have any prayer requests, please let Pastor, or the church office know.

**Our thoughts and prayers go out to the families of:**

- Tonja
- Rick – Ellen Sederlin's brother-in-law
- Redd Honsey
- Martin & Carol
- Bob Anderson, brother of LaVeta Payette
- Julie – friend of Karla diagnosed with a brain tumor
- Tom – brother of Scott Montgomery - stomach cancer.
- Terry Simmons – Becky Sikorski's father - diagnosed with aggressive prostate cancer.

**August Birthdays:** 4<sup>th</sup> Doug Bykonen, 6<sup>th</sup> Merle Steinhorst, 8<sup>th</sup> Maureen Berndt, Kathy Marcella, 9<sup>th</sup> Mark Holliday, Ann Knutson, 12<sup>th</sup> Lily Meer, 13<sup>th</sup> Wyatt Shomion, 14<sup>th</sup> Alexander Zolnosky, 21<sup>st</sup> James Allen, 25<sup>th</sup> Karla Tretter, Edward Olson, 28<sup>th</sup> Gabby Barrett, 30<sup>th</sup> Norene Houser,



22<sup>nd</sup> Julie and Scott Montgomery, 26<sup>th</sup> Dan and Johanna Allen, 31<sup>st</sup> Lori and Troy Bierbaum

**UPCOMING ACTIVITIES and OTHER OPPORTUNITIES**

**VBS** Please join us August 11-15th from 5:30-7:30 PM for our EPIC Australian Adventure! We will be changing our schedule to have dinner in the middle of VBS instead of snack time to allow for an earlier end to the evening. We are also changing to a Monday-Friday schedule this year. Online signup is available via the church website.

**OUTDOOR PROPERTY WORKDAY** Monday August 4<sup>th</sup>. 9am if interested talk to Mark

**LOWELL SHAFFER GOLF CLASSIC IS AUGUST 10TH!** Tee time is 11:30am at Centerbrook Golf Course. 5500 Lilac Dr. N, Brooklyn Center, MN. Congregation wide potluck follows golf at the course clubhouse. Hot dogs and chips will be provided, please bring a dish to share. Questions can be directed to Howard Holliday.

**MEN'S OUTING** August 19<sup>th</sup> 6:30 Willy McCoys Champlin. Sign-up sheet in the Narthex.

**RALLY DAY** is September 7. More information will be shared at a later date.

**CLEANING THE GRANDSTAND AND FOOD BUILDING AT THE STATE FAIR** has been a great fundraiser for our Church. It started out as a fundraiser for the Sr. Youth but now includes the General Fund and paying down our Mortgage. You can designate which of the three funds you would like your money to go to. This year we will clean for 13 nights from Wednesday August 20th through Monday September 1st. We are trying to get 8 volunteers per night for a total of 104 shifts. Please let Troy Bierbaum know if you are willing to volunteer this year and how many shifts you can work, 763-807-9206 or [bierbaum7@msn.com](mailto:bierbaum7@msn.com). You must be 16 years old to volunteer. A sign-up sheet will also be posted outside of the DCE office bulletin board.

**MUSIC NOTES:**

Preparations for Fall and Vacation Bible School have begun. We again look forward to the enthusiasm that will be shared by the attendees and volunteers. Thank you in advance to Jeni Pelton for leading us at VBS.



At this writing I don't have a definite start for Voice Choir and Handchime Group, but please watch the bulletin, emails and or texts for scheduling.

If you have a child(ren) that are interested in playing handchimes, please let me know.

As always, new and previous members are more than welcome to join us. Please let me know your interest.

On Tuesday, August 5, 10:00 a.m., the Accordion Fun Club will be practicing for our next payout in the Narthex. Anyone is welcome to come and listen – no charge. If you happen to have a guitar or an accordion, you could join us. We have easy reading music.

A VBS Bible Verse: Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. John 14:6

## Go and Bear Fruit

Fruit trees are one of the many wonders of God's creation. To see the beauty of the tree and its fruit, to enjoy its taste, and to realize that it all came from a tiny seed is beyond our comprehension. An apple seed is planted in the ground, and, with water and sun as nourishment, miraculously a seedling surfaces that develops into a fruit tree. After a period of time, the apple tree fulfills its mission by bearing apples.

We, as Christians, are like that apple tree. We, too, have been fed and nourished by God so we can bear fruit. *"You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide..."* (John 15:16). Jesus tells us *"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"* (John 15:5). The life and power of any plant is found in its vine. The vine uses the branches to produce its fruit. The branch is simply a growth of the vine, produced by it and appointed to bear fruit. The branch exists only because the vine makes it possible.

Fruit characterizes the life of the Christian steward. When we stay connected to Jesus, we are told that we *"will bear much fruit."* Christ has given us the task of ministering to the needs of others and spreading the Gospel. As we stay connected to Him through His Word and Sacraments, we discover God's perfect will for us, and we are empowered to please Him by bearing fruit (Colossians 1:9-10). God has created us to bear fruit (Ephesians 2:10), but only through Christ is it possible for us to do so.

*"If we live by the Spirit,"* Paul exhorted, *"let us also keep in step with the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another"* (Galatians 5:25-26). As children of God, we have this fruit because His Spirit lives in us, not as a result of our own efforts. We do cease to bear fruit when we give in to our sinful natures, becoming, in Paul's words, *"Conceited, provoking one another."* We are to *"Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness"* (Ephesians 5:11a), but are to *"Walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord"* (Ephesians 5:8b-10).

Go and bear fruit!

### ETERNAL HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH SUMMARIZED FINANCIAL REPORTING June 30, 2025

Cash Available:		Cash available belongs to:	
Checking account	\$36,631	General fund	\$ 27,618
Savings account	\$17,132	OSOM fund	\$ 22,765
		Other special funds	\$ 3,380
TOTAL	\$53,763	TOTAL	\$ 53,763
General Fund Activity			
Balance at Beginning of Year		\$ 36,168	
Plus Members' giving		\$ 99,243	
Less spending		<u>\$ (107,793)</u>	
Balance available at June 30, 2025		<u>\$ 27,618</u>	
Budgeted Spending		\$ 116,321	
OSOM (Property Improvement Fund)			
Balance at Beginning of year		\$ 27,322	
Plus Members' giving		\$ 2,638	
Less spending		<u>\$ (7,194)</u>	
Balance available at June 30, 2025		<u>\$ 22,765</u>	

Detailed financial reports are posted monthly on the bulletin board near the coat racks. If you would like a more in depth explanation of anything related to Eternal Hope Lutheran's finances, questions can be directed to: Troy Bierbaum 763-807-9206 or [bierbaum7@msn.com](mailto:bierbaum7@msn.com)