First Lutheran Church 420 North Washington Street Papillion, NE 68046



July 2025

In God We Trust

Mission statement: Sharing and living a changeless Gospel with a changing world. (John 8:58, Heb. 13:8)

- Faithful to the Word of God in both proclamation and teaching. (Matt. 28: 19-20, 2nd Tim. 2:15, Heb. 4:12)
- Intentional in caring for God's people both locally and throughout the world. (Luke 10:25-37, 1st John 4:21, James 2:14-17)
- Responding to God's Call to be salt and light where He has placed us. (Matt. 5:13-16)
- Supporting the Mission of God (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) through our time, talent, and treasure. (2nd Cor. 9:6-15)
- Training God's people for lives of joyful service. (Eph. 4:11-13)

thechurch@1st-lutheran.org www.1st-lutheran.org www.facebook.com/FirstLutheranPapillion 402-339-3668

Mission of the Month: Missionary Erin Mackenzie

Butterfly Article July 2025

"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." 1 Thes. 5:16-18 (ESV)

It's probably not the best idea to write a newsletter article when I have had a bad week, or a bad month, but here goes: "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." 1 Thes. 5:16-18 (ESV)

You're kidding, right? Always? All? As in everything, at all times? But what about when disappointment happens? When loss occurs? What about when things don't go the way I think they should? What about...what about....?

"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." 1 Thes. 5:16-18 (ESV)

And this is supposed to be God's will for me-even when I have had a terrible, horrible, no good, very bad week? Really? REALLY????? "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." 1 Thes. 5:16-18 (ESV)

"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." 1 Thes. 5:16-18 (ESV)

Prayer, praise, and an attitude of gratitude even in the face of disappointment, disruptions, even losses are good medicine for the soul (I'm writing this for myself!), because those prescriptions root us in God's gracious actions in Christ Jesus, and God's promise for us. They don't deny problems, they just tell where to go with them from the start.

So I will, rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for me!

Just some thoughts in the wake of a terrible, horrible, no good, very bad few weeks, and a gracious God who is above it all.

God's peace, Pastor Ziegler



Elders

July 5 - Eric Grelson

July 6 - Joe Griffith (8), Matt McMullen (10:30)

July 12 - Kyle Baardson

July 13 - Doug Krause (8), Aaron Caughey (10:30)

July 19 - Dave Platt

July 20 - Lucas Smith (8), Derek Ohlin (10:30)

July 26 - Zack Irvine

July 27 - Brian Harmon (8), Joel Ristvedt (10:30)

Sunday Readers

	8:00 a.m.	10:30 a.m.		
July 6:	Katie Prelerson	Stefanie Williamson		
July 13:	Doug Krause	Michael Schweitzer		
July 20:	Maxine Igou	Alice Clemenger		
July 27:	Ashley Nemec	Wayne Stricklett		

Sunday Greeters

July 6:	Joe & Karen Griffith	Kurt & Heidi Brink
July 13:	Kurt & Mary Ann Fanslau	John & Patsy Freeman
July 20:		Alice Clemenger
July 27:	David & Cynthia Musick	Wayne & Jo Stricklett

Altar Guild

July 6 - Josie Washburn

July 13 - Mindy Irvine

July 20 - Hilarie Price

July 27 - Karen Baardson & Shelley Harmon



I love the whooshing sound that deadlines make as they go flying by. Deadline for the August Butterfly is:

Thursday, July 24

Acolytes

Saturday	July 5	5:30 pm	Eli & Alex Baardson
Sunday	July 6	8:00 am	Parker Troelstrup & Rose Deluna
		10:30 am	Morgan Hansen & Rachel McMullen
Saturday	July 12	5:30 pm	Parker Quintana & Josie Krenzer
Sunday	July 13	8:00 am	Jackson & Sophia Ward
		10:30 am	Rachel Wineinger & Andy Brink
Saturday	July 19	5:30 pm	Charlotte Glover & Melody Jones
Sunday	July 20	8:00 am	Olivia Bohl & Ellen Graham
		10:30 am	Georgianna Getzfred & Greyson Liggett
Saturday	July 26	5:30 pm	Chloe Peterson & Daniel Karl
Sunday	July 27	8:00 am	Izzy & Johnny Garcia
		10:30 am	Lucius & June Ziegler

If you are unable to acolyte on the date scheduled, please find a replacement and notify the church office at 402-339-3668 or the church@1st-lutheran.org. If all else fails, call Stephanie Sobotka at 402-715-4869 or email her at the sobotkas@yahoo.com.

Attention Thrivent Members: Thrivent Choice Dollars can be pledged to First Lutheran Church. Contact Thrivent Financial by phone at 1-800-847-4836 or online at *Thrivent.com/thriventchoice* to choose where to pledge your Choice Dollars. This month First Lutheran has been blessed with \$193.



Communication is very important at First Lutheran Church. Please help out with new addresses, emails, or phone numbers by sharing with the church office by calling 402-339-3668, emailing the church@1st-lutheran.org, or writing the new information on the attendance pad in the pew during service.

Bart Bosshamer 1302 S 101st St Apt 305 Omaha, NE 68124 Jake & Jen Thomas Madison, Brooklynn & Vivianne 53703 260th St Glenwood, IA 51534

Rev. Karl & Mary Ziegler 7664 S 162nd St Omaha, NE 68136

Ashley Nemec 11513 Maass Rd Apt 309 Bellevue, NE 68123 Thomas & Katherine Reynolds
Thomas & Kammy
11549 S 123rd Ave
Papillion, NE 68046

Happy Birthday

TO OUR YOUNG AT HEART

Dennis Stodola - July 1
Hilarie Price - July 1
Allan Schur - July 1
Michael Salak - July 1
DaLonna Heinrich - July 3
Red Timmerman - July 4
David Klauschie - July 4
Deb Ricke - July 6
Ellen Griger - July 6
Les Naser - July 7
Kirk Nicholson - July 7
Jackie Roth - July 8

Olivia Mueller - July 13
Patricia Koch - July 13
Jeanne Buskevicius - July 14
Rae Woltman - July 15
Mike Smith - July 16
Don Woltman - July 17
Mary Murphy - July 18
Gerald Mann - July 22
Lyle Henkensiefken - July 23
Shirley Schuessler - July 24
Walt Lahs - July 26
Mike Benson - July 27
Dwayne Bolling - July 30

Silver Eagles: If you are interested in joining us and not getting called, please let us know. There are no membership requirements, except the age thing about 50 or older. There is nothing to join, just come when you can. Our next get together will be on Monday, July 21st at 11:30 for a potluck with watermelon for dessert. This month the group is collecting for two organizations; for NeighborGood they are collecting boxed mixes (cake, brownies, muffins, cornbread, etc.), and for the Lutheran Thrift Shop they are collecting peanut butter, jelly or water/Gatorade.

For information or transportation, please call Charlene Marchand at 402-339-2178 or the Hansen's at 402- 658-8472

PAPILLION & SPRINGFIELD

Bring the family, the neighbors, your friends, the kids' ball teams to the game!

First Lutheran Church



First Lutheran Church is helping to sponsor the Papillion & Springfield Community night at Werner Park, and that means free tickets to share with your friends and family!

Tickets are available in the church narthex or in the office during office hours.



Parking will be \$5.00

SUN JUL 13TH 2:05PM FIRST PITCH - 1PM GATES





9:00 AM - 10:00 PM

STAND LOCATION:



First Lutheran Church Youth Ministry



"When life gives you lemons, make lemonade" What about when God gives you lemons? Just what are these 'lemons' anyway? A bitter fruit that not too many folks enjoy on its own, a struggle to eat if ever given just a lemon. But God often gives lemons, doesn't He? Joseph is given a dream prophecy of greatness, but he then is betrayed by his brothers, sold as a slave, and still later wrongly accused and imprisoned. Quite the bowl of lemons. Or David who is anointed king and defeats a giant yet then must flee for His life and live in exile from a mad ruler. Quite the lemon fest. On their own, lemons are

bitter, unwanted. Trials and struggles and unwelcome, and yet, God uses them nonetheless. Because lemons are not the end goal. It's something much better. God adds the sweetness of His grace like sugar to the lemons and pours out His presence like water in the midst of bitter sufferings. And what happens next? Joseph rises to second in command and saves his family. David becomes a great ruler after God's own heart. And what of us? When we suffer the bitterness of our present experiences, we too have the promise of God's grace and presence. He takes our lemons and makes something much, much better than we can even imagine.

This Month's Events 6/27 - 7/4 = FUNDRAISER: Firework Stand

The last fundraiser involves operating a firework stand in La Vista. Sign up to work a few shifts on the Sign Up Genius link

7/6 = Summer Sunday Sundaes Continue from 6:00 - 7:30 PM

Gather each week for ice cream and the sweet words of the book of James. Meet at the Laib's (Youth Room if inclement weather)

7/9 = FELLOWSHIP: Water Games from 6:00 - 7:30 PM

Beat the heat and play some fun games with water. Meet in the South Lot across from church. Be sure to wear clothes that can get wet!

7/13 = SERVE: Neighbor Flowers from 9:30-10:30 AM

Join the next intergenerational service project by crafting paper flowers to give to shut-ins and neighbors.

7/15 = FELLOWSHIP: Superman Movie at 12:30 PM

Enjoy the latest superhero movie together! Meet at Marcus Twin Cinema in Bellevue. Tickets are \$8. To reserve a seat with our group, RSVP by July 13.

7/17 - 7/24 = LCMS YOUTH GATHERING

The trip to New Orleans is finally here! Meet at the church by 6:00 AM on Thursday to begin this awesome experience!

7/30 = SERVE: Release Ministry Care Closet from 2:00-4:00 PM

Sort donations and serve foster care families. Meet at the Care Closet (4815 S 107th Ave, Omaha, NE 68127)







"Together as one body, we will learn God's Word and its impact in us as we grow in our Lutheran faith. We will serve God through loving our neighbors. We will share Christ's love across generations." – Youth Ministry Purpose Statement

Pictures from Last Month



Birthday Kit Family Service Project



Smash Night



Serve Diaper Bank



Firework Stand

Celebrate Independence
Day with a bang while
supporting the NYG Trip.

National Youth Gathering

July 17-24, 2025 New Orleans, LA



Upcoming Events...

Youth-led Services August 2-3

Mini Golf Aug. 6th from 6:00-7:30 PM

Rally Sunday Aug. 10th at 9:15 AM

Back-to-School Pizza Party Aug. 13th from 6:00-8:00 PM

Confirmation Orientation Aug. 27th at 6:00 PM

Regular HSM Youth Nights Sept. 3rd from 6:00-7:30 PM

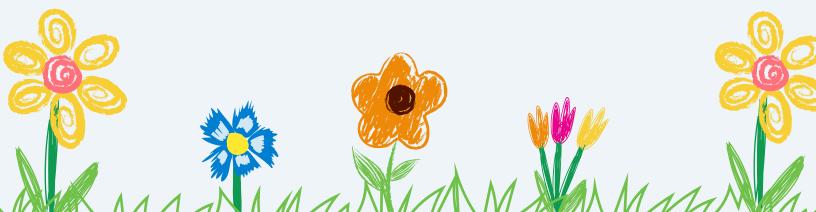




Family Service Project Neighbor Flowers

July 13 from 9:30 - 10:30 Fellowship Hall

Families of all ages are invited to craft and 'plant' paper flowers to share with shut-ins, nursing homes, and neighbors.



150 Blessings

Celebrate 150 years of ministry through acts of service, gratitude, and love in our community.



July 2025: Blessing with Beauty



Join us this July as we bless others with the beauty of kindness.

Get involved through meaningful activities at church and at home!

BLESS THE COMMUNITY...

CHURCH EVENTS:

- 1. Neighbor Flowers: Join the Family Service Day (July 13) to craft paper flowers to bless shut-ins and neighbors
- 2. Stormchaser Community Day: Invite a friend or neighbor to the baseball game on July 13. Tickets are *free!*

INDIVIDUAL & FAMILY IDEAS:

- 1. Visit a nursing home or send cards to residents
- 2. Plant flowers for a neighbor
- 3. Pray with someone who is lonely
- 4. Send care packages to folks who are homebound

Join us as we continue to intentionally bless our community, just as we have been for the last 150 years!

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.

SERVING THE LORD IN

Latin America & the Caribbean: missionaryMAC





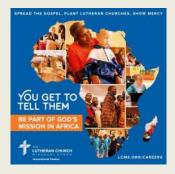
News from Volunteer Coordinator Erin Mackenzie | missionaryMAC.blogspot.com | **f** erin.mackenzie5



(If you received a hard copy of this and would like to help me be green and save on postage, please email erin.mackenzie@lcms.org.)

Hi, Priorities!

OIM's organization chart is peppered with open opportunities to Spread the Gospel, Plant Lutheran Churches, and Show Mercy. Peep (or apply for!) the following high-priority roles for the LCMS's growing recruitment unit:



In Africa...

Volunteer Coordinator **Business Manager** Teacher Theological Educator Nurse **IT Specialist**

People to seek solutions in...

> Belize Taiwan Kenya





People to tell the story in...

The DR Belize Taiwan Kenya



"Sí, quiero."

There are memes upon memes about a phrase heard at the end of many a conversation with Dominicans: "si Dios quiere" (Lord willing). Many feature empty promises that the speaker will do something like go to the gym "si Dios quiere"; others hint at taking a luxury vacation or falling in love "si Dios quiere" while a stereotypically bearded, elderly God says "No quiero." "Si Dios quiere" can also be a convenient way to turn down an invitation without actually saying no; I'm not innocent of having tried that tack!

Indeed, the verbiage of religiosity runs deep in this place, and in much of Latin America. Bible verses, inspirational phrases, and even somewhat harshsounding reminders are ubiquitous on storefronts, concrete pylons, bridges, vehicles, and more. Experience, however, teaches that too often, such blatant expressions of faith—verbal, graffitied, or otherwise—are just that: expressions. James 4:15 gently prompts,

Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that.

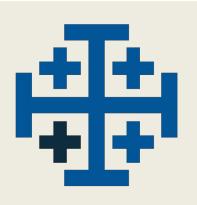
The preceding verses allude to the fact that we have no control over the future or foreknowledge of it. Instead, we each submit to God's perfect plan for our lives. It is all too true that each step I take from this **Making** moment forward is only because God wills it.

First Timothy is clear that He desires all to be

toward that end until He calls me elsewhere.

saved; "si Dios quiere," I'll be His vessel





Praises and Petitions

- 1. Thanksgiving for the first board of directors at Misión Los Andes in Panama City, Panama, installed 5/25.
- Thanksgiving for the installation of the Rev.
 Josué Ventura at Iglesia
 Luterana Pan de Vida
 (Santo Domingo, DR) on 6/8.
- 3. For all affected by a tornado that passed through parts of St. Louis on 5/16.
- 4. For the Weber family, as they mourn the loss of baby Abigail Alora, born into her Savior's arms on 6/3.
- 5. For the Maita family, as they await visas in order to proceed with a transition from the DR to PR.

Sister Churches in Christ

I wasn't terribly broken up about ceding my usual role in the DR seminary's annual theological symposium to my associate, who helped make this year's event run more smoothly than ever from a logistical



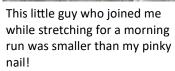
standpoint. I was, however, deeply regretful to have missed a Divine Service the Saturday after graduation celebrating the LCMS's nascent altar & pulpit fellowship with her sister church in Bolivia (ICEL). A spiral-bound service folder and professional altar arrangements marked the gravity of the occasion. Whilst I manned a volunteer team in Belize, Lutherans from 14 countries packed the pews at Iglesia Luterana el Buen Pastor in Palmar Arriba. Bolivian seminary student Edwin bore the processional cross, the Rev. Ted Krey (LAC Regional Director) presided, the Rev. Limberth Fernández Coronado (ICEL President)

preached, and the Rev. Dr. Jonathan Shaw (Director of LCMS Church Relations) celebrated the Lord's Supper. Mere weeks later, on June 8, six ICEL pastors were colloquized. Rejoice with us at the eternal implications of these milestones in Latin American church





thyme, among others).





Quote of the Month

"Sometimes you win, sometimes you learn."

-John Maxwell, author

To support the LCMS through me, you may give a tax-deductible gift...

- **online**, securely from any device: lcms.org/givenow/mackenzie;
- by **phone:** 1-888-930-4438 (donor care rep) or text *LCMSMACKENZIE* to 41-444;
- by sending a check (with "Mackenzie/Latin America" on the memo line) to:
 - ⇒ LCMS, PO Box 66861, St. Louis, MO 63166-6861; or
 - ⇒ Mission Central, 40718 Highway E 16, Mapleton, IA 51034.



Faith Lutheran Academy July Prayer Calendar

2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
Together	we pray	Lord, bless the work ahead.	Strengthen the fundraising subcommittee	Inspire generosity in every donor.	May freedom support Christian education.	Guide the education subcommittee vision.
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Help shape a strong curriculum.	Bless the communications team's outreach.	Let the vision be clear.	Grant business planning clear direction.	Provide tools for wise decisions.	Keep Christ at our center.	Unify our efforts and goals.
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Raise awareness in our community.	Prepare hearts to serve students.	Inspire joyful support from volunteers.	Open doors for future families.	Grow faith through each challenge.	Encourage leaders with Your peace.	Remove obstacles in Your time.
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Provide a place to grow.	Help us teach with love.	Guide all meetings and discussions.	Multiply efforts for lasting impact.	Build a school that blesses.	Give clarity in our choices.	Strengthen communication and trust.
27	28	29	30	31		
Prepare the way, O Lord.	Stir passion for Christian learning.	Let excellence honor Your name.	Provide workers for the harvest.	We trust You with tomorrow.		



Steering Committee Meeting

July 10th

Search for Board of Directors

One lay delegate from each association congregation

Site Exploration

Developing questions and requirements for possible school locations

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
July 2025		1 Youth Firework Stand	2 Youth Firework Stand	3 Youth Firework Stand	4 Independence Day Church Office Closed	5	
2025					Youth Firework Stand	5:30 pm - Worship	
6 Fourth Sunday after Pentecost 8:00 & 10:30 – Communion Worship 9:15 – Adult Bible Class	7	8	9	10	11	12	
6 – Youth Summer Sunday Sundaes		7 – Board of Elders	6 – Youth Water Games			5:30 pm - Worship	
13 Fifth Sunday after Pentecost 8:00 & 10:30 – Communion Worship	14	15	16	17	18	19	
9:15 – Adult Bible Class/ Family Service Project	4:30 – Stephen Center Meal	12:30 – Youth Superman Movie		National Youth Gathering Group Departs			
Papillion & Springfield Community Day at Werner Park 1 – Gates Open 2 – First Pitch	7 – Men's Bible Study 7 – Young Adult Bible Study			7 – Zoom Bible Study		5:30 pm - Worship	
6 – Youth Summer Sunday Sundaes	21	22	23	24	25	26	
20 Sixth Sunday after Pentecost 8:00 & 10:30 – Communion Worship 9:15 – Adult Bible Class	11:30 – Silver Eagles	22	23	BUTTERFLY Deadline	25	Fellowship Hall Rental 11-3 pm	
Fellowship Hall Rental 2-5 pm				National Youth Gathering Group Returns		5:30 pm - Worship	
				7 – Zoom Bible Study	Elders: 5:30 pm – Er		
27 Seventh Sunday after Pentecost 8:00 & 10:30 – Communion Worship 9:15 – Adult Bible Class 9:15 – Children's Ministry Meeting	28	29	30	31	Baardson (12), Dave Platt (19), Zack Irvine (26) 8:00 am – Joe Griffith (6), Doug Krause (13), Lucas Smith (20), Brian Harmon (27) 10:30 am – Matt McMullen (6), Aaron Caughey (13), Derek Ohlin (20), Joel Ristvedt (27) Altar Guild: Josie Washburn (6), Mindy Irvine (13), Hilarie Price (20), Karen		
6 – Youth Summer Sunday Sundaes	7 – Men's Bible Study 7 – Young Adult Bible Study		2-4 – Youth Serve at Care Closet	7 – Zoom Bible Study			
					Baardson & Shelley Harmon (27) Mission of the Month: Missionary Erin Mackenzie		