

NEWS AND NOTES for July 3 & 6, 2025



Building on the Cornerstone Campaign

\$2.5 Million Matching Goal:

Gifts Received: \$ 2,754,420

Extra Large Prints of the Bible We now have extra-large prints of each book of the bible that are now available in the church library.

Volunteers needed to help with Sunday Morning Fellowship. Join our Sunday morning Fellowship crew and help spread smiles one cup at a time! No barista experience required, just a willingness to brew, chat and share a smile with others. Deaconess Shirley will show you the ropes. Sign up for a Sunday (or two 😊) in the church office or call to pick a date.

Little Lambs Bible Time Join our weekly Bible fun for kids & caregivers this summer. Designed for children ages 3 to 6. Older siblings are welcome too. Gather with us each week for stories, songs, and activities that teach God's love in a fun and engaging way. Tuesdays 10am to 11am starting June 24 to August 19. For more information or to register, call the church office, 989.642.8188.

Below are the General Fund Income and Expense numbers, as well as others, for the prior months and the current fiscal year to date. We hope that these numbers provide a clear picture of our operating status.

	April 2025	May 2025	2024-25 Fiscal Year-to-Date
General Fund Income	\$ 137,447.71	\$ 96,000.03	\$ 1,549,032.93
General Fund Expenses	\$ 104,766.91	\$ 149,936.26	\$ 1,443,232.34
Gain or (Deficit)	\$ 32,680.80	\$ (53,936.23)	\$ 105,800.59
Building on the Cornerstone Fund	\$ 9,305.00	\$ 11,295.00	\$ 1,150,389.00
Missions (Goal: \$35,000)	\$ 7,312.00	\$ 1,682.00	\$ 38,399.00

Church Attendance Last Week: 244 (52-192); Communion: 190

Summer Church Office Hours Monday - Thursday 9:00am - 3:00pm, Friday 9:00am to 1:00pm

God's Helping Hands will now be open the 1st Wednesday of the month from 3:30pm-5:30pm with Adult Clothing Room, Household Goods, and Baby Room (the food room will not be open during this time). All the rooms are open the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of the month from 9:00am - 11:00am (summer hours). Thank you to the students at St. Peter for having a cleaning supplies drive.

Mite Box - Mary Martha now has a mite box located in the Gathering Space on the table under the bulletin board. We collect loose change (called mites) for the LWML (Lutheran Women's Missionary League). Based on the Biblical account of the widow's mite (Luke 21:1-4), they are offerings used for the purpose of reaching out to others with the Good News of Jesus Christ. It's amazing the impact that these mites can have when collected throughout churches, districts, and the entire nation. Mite box contributions amount to millions of dollars that fund district and national mission grants. Thank you for your generous support!

Vacation Bible School - Thank you to all our volunteers for your incredible dedication and hard work in making this year's VBS a huge success. We served 74 children from our church and community. The kids learned five inspiring Bible stories that reveal how Jesus calls, leads, teaches, saves, and sends us. All rejoice that Jesus is "the way, the truth and the life". (John 14:6) Your time, talent and excitement truly made a difference in the lives of these children, creating a joyful and memorable experience for everyone involved. We couldn't have done it without you! *Deaconess Shirley*

Dying Well in Christ: A Forum on the Church's Care at Life's End, is a conference for pastors and the people of God who seek to learn more about and help foster a faithful practice of merciful care at life's end within the body of Christ. Join other faithful Lutherans July 7-9, 2025 on the campus of Concordia Seminary in St. Louis Missouri. Use this link to learn more and register: <https://www.csl.edu/dying-well-forum/>

You Can Teach Laypeople Theology... Issues, Etc. is a radio talk show and podcast produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL and hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken. You can listen to recent in-depth interviews about: A Lutheran View of Natural Law, The Problem of Male Friendship, Christian Endurance, Did Martin Luther Remove Books from the Bible? and more. You can listen at your convenience at issuesetc.org, Amazon Alexa, Google Home, Apple HomePod, TuneIn, the LPR mobile app and a podcast provider.

The Lutheran Hour is broadcast Sundays on WSAM 1400AM Saginaw at 8:30am and XM 131 at 10:30am. It can also be heard on-line at www.lhm.org. Next Sunday, July 13th, Guest Speaker *Rev. Dr. Daniel Paavola's* sermon is titled, "Fearless and Endless Growing". God's Word grows like a perfect garden, bearing fruit in every season.

Community News: *See flyers on the bulletin board in the gathering space*

Ushers for next week: Thursday: *Leonard Krueger, Mike Wardin* **Sunday:** *Mike Stavely, Dan Sherry*

Videographer for next week: *Scott Neumeyer*

A LifeQuote from Lutherans for Life of Michigan

“As you walk the path of life with your neighbor, learn and celebrate the depth and breadth of the infinite worth of their life—whether they are preborn, homeless, destitute, dying, friend, or foe. Learn, through the trials set before you and the sacrifices you make to improve the life of your neighbor, the awesome worth of life. Life is sacred. Every life matters.”

- *Rev. Robert Mohns, Lutheran Church—Canada*

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Isaiah 66:10–14

Galatians 6:1–10, 14–18

Luke 10:1–20

The Lord Grants Peace and Life to His Church

The Lord restores Jerusalem, His Church, because she is the mother of His children, whom He comforts “*as one whom his mother comforts*” (Is. 66:13). We are “*satisfied from her consoling breast*” with the pure milk of the Word, and we “*drink deeply with delight from her glorious abundance*” (Is. 66:11). The messengers of Christ bestow such gifts upon His Church. For He sends them out “*as lambs in the midst of wolves*” (Luke 10:3), bearing in their bodies the sacrifice of His cross, by which “*the kingdom of God has come near*” (Luke 10:9, 11). Wherever He enters in with this Gospel, Satan is cast out and falls “*like lightning from heaven*” (Luke 10:18). Thus, we do not “*boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ*” (Gal. 6:14). Rejoicing in this Gospel, we “*bear one another’s burdens*” in love, according to “*the law of Christ*” (Gal. 6:2).