

NEWS AND NOTES for September 13 & 14, 2025

The Speckhard Family Dinners Meagan and I are so grateful for the wonderful reception this congregation has given us. We would love to get to know each and every one of you better. To help us do that, we are inviting you to sign up for a time to have dinner with us sometime over the next year. The sign-up sheet is in the church office on Laura's desk. Feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns!



Building on the Cornerstone Campaign

\$2.5 Million Matching Goal:

Gifts Received: \$ 2,774,616

Help us reach 30: Our church choir is growing, and we'd love for you to be a part of it. We're working toward a goal of 30 voices strong, and we are only a few singers away from reaching that goal. Right now, we are especially looking for additional sopranos to join the choir, so if you or someone you know sings in that range, we'd be thrilled to welcome you. Join us on Thursday nights at 7:00 p.m. as we prepare beautiful music and share the joy of singing together as we sing our great Redeemer's praise. (Hymn 528)

GriefShare is beginning September 7th. This is a grief support group for people grieving the death of a loved one. Please join us: Sundays, September 7 through November 30 from 12:30 pm to 2:00 pm. At GriefShare you'll watch a weekly video with counsel and insights from respected grief experts and relatable personal stories—followed by a time of sharing and support. Led by Deaconess Shirley, session topics include what's normal in grief; how to handle difficult emotions; and what to do with regrets, questions, and worries. For more information, contact Deaconess Shirley. Visit www.griefshare.org/groups/247822 or call the church office to register.

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.

	July 2025	August 2025	2025-26 Fiscal Year-to-Date
General Fund Income	\$ 184,973.51	\$ 234,837.51	\$ 249,265.51
General Fund Expenses	\$ 141,844.34	\$ 162,714.37	\$ 177,449.23
Gain or (Deficit)	\$ 43,129.17	\$ 72,123.14	\$ 71,816.28
Building on the Cornerstone Fund	\$ 9,315.00	\$ 21,329.73	\$ 23,831.73
Missions (Goal: \$35,000)	\$ 1,469.00	\$ 1,887.00	\$ 2,233.00

Church Attendance Last Week: 314 (109-205); Communion: 218

Sympathies to *Mrs. Alex Frisco* and family upon the death of *Alex's* grandmother.

Church Newsletter There was a typo made on the church calendar on November 22nd there is divine service @ 5pm.

Lutheranism 101 will be taught by Pastor Morris begins this Sunday. We will meet in classroom 3 (first classroom on the left) from 11:00-11:45 which is after the fellowship time. This class is for those wishing to join St. Peter as well as for those wanting to refresh their confirmation instruction. The class will meet for 10 weeks.

Sunday Morning Bible Study has begun. Sundays 11 am until 11:45 am. Pastor Speckhard will teach the Parables of Jesus in the Fellowship Hall, while the Enduring Faith classes meet in the church classrooms. Lessons explore God's faithfulness, provision, and promises across biblical history. There are three classes: adult, youth (5th-12th grade), and children (3 years through 4th grade).

Ladies Morning Bible Study We will be starting back up on September 15th from 9:30-10:30am in the church conference. We will be deciding on a study during our first meeting. Please remember to use the west entrance.

Ladies Aid Meeting will be meeting on September 16th at Woody's Place in Merrill at 12:00pm for their first meeting this fall.

Lutheran World Relief Kits On Tuesday afternoon, I was going through the checkout at Walmart with crayons, rulers, combs and clippers to fill out some school and personal care kits. As I stuck my card in the reader, the lady behind me handed the cashier a \$20 bill. I said, 'Wait, let me pay for my items.' The cashier told me the customer behind me was giving me \$20 toward my purchase. I turned to the lady and told her thank you and that these things were going into kits for Lutheran World Relief to be distributed around the world. She reached to her neck and pulled out her necklace with a Star of David pendant. She said her parents were Holocaust survivors. The only words that I could utter were 'Thank you' and 'God bless you' She responded with, 'God *has* blessed me'. Incredible. Humbling. Thankful. As His hands and feet, we currently have 50 personal care kits and 118 school kits assembled, boxed and ready to go. Items for this year will be taken for another couple of weeks. Items are collected all year and stored for the next year.

LouAnn Krueger 989.274.9720

Personal Care Kits –

- Light-weight, dark-color bath-size towel (approx. 52" x 27")
- 2 or 3 bath-size bars of soap, equaling 8 to 9 ounces
- Adult-size toothbrush in original packaging
- Large-tooth, sturdy comb
- Metal nail clippers

Fabric Kits –

- Two spools of 250-300 yards of matching general-purpose thread and **two** pieces of cotton or cotton-blend fabrics in sizes below:
- 2 ¼ yards of 60" OR 3 yards of 44" wide OR 4 yards of 36" wide

School Kits –

- 70-sheet notebooks (4 for each kit)
- Box of 16 or 24 crayons
- Blunt-tip scissors
- Pencil sharpener
- 30-centimeter ruler
- Ball point pens
- #2 pencils

BOOK OF PROVERBS BIBLE STUDY... The Word of the Lord Endures Forever is a daily 15-minute verse-by-verse Bible study produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL and hosted by LCMS Pastor Will Weedon. Pastor Weedon recently started a study on the Book of Proverbs. You can listen at your convenience at thewordendures.org, Amazon Alexa, Google Home, Apple HomePod, Tune In, 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, September 21st, Lutheran Hour Speaker *Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler's* sermon is titled, "Someone Worth Having". We lost God's name along the way, but God found it and gave us the Name by which we can know him: Jesus – "God saves".

Immanuel Lutheran Church in Wheeler, MI will be celebrating 125 years of sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ to the people of mid-Michigan. To celebrate this milestone, they would like to invite anyone to join them at a special service, Sunday, September 21 at 3:00pm after which will be followed by a special dinner. If anyone is interested in attending, please contact the church at 989-842-3459 or Immanuel.Wheeler@gmail.com to reserve a place at the dinner by September 14th. Please put "anniversary dinner" in the subject line.

St. Peter Karl & Betty Mueller Memorial Golf Scramble is scheduled for September 28 at Valley View Farms Golf Course. Registration begins at 11:00am with a shot-gun start at 12:00pm. Dinner and prizes will immediately follow. The price is \$70/person. To sign up, call Valley View Farms at 989-781-1248. They always appreciate donations of door prizes. Hole sponsor cost is \$100. To donate, call *Mike Wardin*, 989-860-9791. Proceeds to benefit furnishing the new outdoor church pavilion.

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

Ushers for next week: Saturday: *Carl Neuenfeldt Jr, Josh McQueen* **Sunday:** *Matt Wardin, Mark Chapin*

Videographer for next week: *Landon Sherry*

A LifeQuote from Lutherans for Life of Michigan

"If we expect to be the one to change hearts by sowing seeds of judgment rather than love, we are changing the mission we have been sent to fulfill. Please use your Gospel-motivated voice For Life in love and may God bless your efforts!"

- *Virginia Flo, Lutherans For Life*

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Ezekiel 34:11–24

1 Timothy 1:(5–11) 12–17

Luke 15:1–10

Jesus Christ Is the Great Shepherd of His Sheep

"The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners" (1 Tim. 1:15). As He had mercy on Paul, in order to *"display his perfect patience"* (1 Tim. 1:16), so also does He seek out His sheep *"from all places where they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness"* (Ezek. 34:12). To deliver His flock, He *"will seek the lost, ... bring back the strayed, ... bind up the injured, and ... strengthen the weak"* (Ezek. 34:16), and *"they shall no longer be a prey"* (Ezek. 34:22). He sets over them one great Good Shepherd, the Son of David, who *"shall feed them and be their shepherd"* (Ezek. 34:23).

For Christ Jesus is the one man who, *"having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them,"* would *"leave the ninety-nine in the open country, and go after the one that is lost, until he finds it"* (Luke 15:4). When He finds the lost one and brings it home rejoicing, *"the angels of God"* and all the company of heaven rejoice with Him, with great joy (Luke 15:7, 10).