

## NEWS AND NOTES for August 14 & 17, 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: \$ 2,767,743

**Service Opportunity Gathering** We invite you to stay after Divine Service on Sunday, August 24th for a Service Opportunity Gathering. Join us in the Fellowship Hall to learn about the various groups within our church and discover meaningful ways to serve both our church and our community. This is a wonderful chance to connect, ask questions, and find the perfect fit for your gifts and passions. The various groups/organizations will have tables set up highlighting what they do and welcoming you to join. There are opportunities for individuals and families. We hope to see you there as we prayerfully discern how we can work together in mission and service.

**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](http://www.griefshare.org/groups/247822) or call the church office to register.

**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.

**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.

	June 2025	July 2025	2024-25 Fiscal Year-to-Date
General Fund Income	\$ 141,917.29	\$ 184,973.51	\$ 1,733,882.73
General Fund Expenses	\$ 148,450.73	\$ 141,844.34	\$ 1,586,224.59
<b>Gain or (Deficit)</b>	<b>\$ (6,533.44)</b>	<b>\$ 43,129.17</b>	<b>\$ 147,658.14</b>
Building on the Cornerstone Fund	\$ 13,022.00	\$ 9,315.00	\$ 1,159,704.00
Missions (Goal: \$35,000)	\$ 1,632.00	\$ 1,469.00	\$ 39,868.00

**Church Attendance Last Week: 251 (63-188); Communion: 176**

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

**Sunday Morning Bible Study** begins September 7 from 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).

**Lutheran World Relief Kits** Thank you, faithful LWR givers! So far, we have 57 school kits and 26 personal care kits. Keep the items coming. High demand items: notebooks, pencil sharpeners, crayons, Bath towels, bars of soap, combs, and toothbrushes. For the sewers out there, if you have sewing kits, please drop them off too. Donations can be dropped off at church in the cabinet labelled Lutheran World Relief across from the bathrooms on the north side of the sanctuary.  
*LouAnn Krueger 989.274.9720*

#### **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

#### **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

#### **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

**St. Peter Fantasy Football League** Calling all skill levels of fantasy football managers! Join the St. Peter Fantasy Football League on Yahoo and enjoy fellowship with others as you manage your way to the top of the league! If you are interested, please contact Caleb Abraham at 989.225.6239. Sign up deadline is Monday, August 18.

**The Light Of God's Word In A World Of Darkness...** Issues, Etc. is a radio talk show and podcast produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL and hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken. Recent teachings include: Biblical Manhood, Loving Your LGBTQ Neighbor Without Compromise, The Death of Mainline Protestantism, Gen Z Women & the Church and more. You can listen at your convenience at [issuesetc.org](http://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](http://www.lhm.org). Next Sunday, August 24<sup>th</sup>, Guest Speaker *Dr. Oswald Hoffmann's* sermon is titled, "Gideon, the Farmer General". Archives August – Dr. Oswald Hoffmann recounts the story of Gideon, an unlikely military leader.

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

**Ushers for next week: Thursday:** *Matt Wardin, Mark Chapin* **Sunday:** *Gary Graf, Matt Stavely*

**Videographer for next week:** *Anthony Wolter*

### ***A LifeQuote from Lutherans for Life of Michigan***

"Never apologize for sharing God's Word. Never excuse holding or defending a godly position that clearly states how a life issue stands according to Scripture. Abortion is wrong, as is assisted suicide, and many other life issues happening in our world."

- *Volunteer Relations, Lutherans For Life*

### **TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

Jeremiah 23:16–29

Hebrews 11:17–31 (32–40); 12:1–3

Luke 12:49–53 (54–56)

### ***Christ's Suffering and Death Bring Division***

The Lord Jesus causes fear and trembling and division because His Word is "*like fire ... and like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces*" (Jer. 23:29). His Law puts us all to death, whereas only His Gospel can bring us to life. He has fulfilled that Word for us by His cross and in His resurrection from the dead. He undergoes such a distressing baptism, accomplished by His death, in order to open the way for us through our Holy Baptism into His cross and resurrection. So, then, if we are able "*to interpret the appearance of earth and sky*" (Luke 12:56), let us mark this sign of His cross — recognizing that this world is subject to death, but knowing that Christ Jesus also has conquered death and obtained life everlasting for us. Let us fix our eyes on "*Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith,*" and "*run with endurance the race that is set before us*" (Heb. 12:1–2).