

NEWS AND NOTES for July 31 & August 3, 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: \$ 2,763,735

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 until 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.

	May 2025	June 2025	2024-25 Fiscal Year-to-Date
General Fund Income	\$ 96,000.03	\$ 141,917.29	\$ 1,733,730.70
General Fund Expenses	\$ 149,936.26	\$ 148,450.73	\$ 1,586,245.90
Gain or (Deficit)	\$ (53,936.23)	\$ (6,533.44)	\$ 147,484.80
Building on the Cornerstone Fund	\$ 11,295.00	\$ 13,022.00	\$ 1,159,704.00
Missions (Goal: \$35,000)	\$ 1,682.00	\$ 1,632.00	\$ 39,868.00

Church Attendance Last Week: 243 (59-184); Communion: 182

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

Sympathies to:

- *Lee Breternitz and family* upon the death of *Lee's* brother, **Keith Kienitz**.
- *Barb McNally, Brenda Wale, and family* upon the death of their sister, **Sandra Schultz**.
- *Gary Hahn and family* upon the death of *his* brother, **Dan Hahn**.

Church Newsletter Articles Please have your articles for the September – November issue to the church office by Aug 15th.

Lutheran World Relief Kits We are off to another great start. 8 personal care kits are assembled and packed. Please consider donating bath size towels and bath size bar soap. 20 school kits are assembled. Please consider donating 1 subject spiral notebook, crayons, and rulers. It takes 4 notebooks each kit. Thank you for the donations given already. 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

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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, August 10th, Speaker Emeritus of The Lutheran Hour *Rev. Dr. Ken Klaus'* sermon is titled, "Writing Him Off". After Jesus claimed the Old Testament was written about Him, the people of His hometown wrote Him off.

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

Ushers for next week: Thursday: *Carl Neuenfeldt Jr., Josh McQueen* **Sunday:** *Kurt Cicinelli, Dan Sherry*

Videographer for next week: *Sheila Bauer*

A LifeQuote from Lutherans for Life of Michigan

"God isn't a page in your book, you're part of His. And He's delighted to have you in the family."

- *Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler*

EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12–14; 2:18–26

Colossians 3:1–11

Luke 12:13–21

Faith in Christ Is Rich Toward God

To live for earthly things "*is vanity and a striving after wind,*" and work that is driven by such vanity "*is an unhappy business*" (Eccl. 1:13–14). The man who lives like that has nothing to show for "*all the toil and striving of heart with which he toils beneath the sun ... all his days are full of sorrow*" (Eccl. 2:22–23). So, too, your "*covetousness, which is idolatry*" (Col. 3:5), makes a god out of that which cannot give you life or happiness. For "*one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions*" (Luke 12:15). But "*Christ who is your life*" (Col. 3:4), in giving you Himself, gives you all the wealth of heaven. Instead of striving to lay up treasures for yourself, be "*rich toward God*" in Him (Luke 12:21).