

If you haven't noticed, ever since the State of Iowa legalized fireworks, the number of outlets that sell fireworks in both the Spencer Area and the Lakes Area seems nearly uncountable. Tents have popped up all over the place, and buildings and lots that were formerly vacant are now a home for retail activity. City councils have also been meeting to decide if their communities will allow citizens to use fireworks, and if so, what kinds of restrictions they will need to observe. It appears that these devices which, when lit, are designed to grab the attention of the viewer, have grabbed our attention in many other ways without even being set off!

Regardless of your personal views on fireworks legalization, most everyone agrees that a good fireworks show is quite compelling. Whether it is after a concert at the Clay County Fair, after a ball game at a stadium, or on the 4th of July, the vibrant light and booming explosions can hardly be ignored. And when they are set off on Independence Day, fireworks function as a bold reminder of how the Lord has blessed us with freedom and independence.

Whenever we have a different kind of celebration in the Church, the celebration of Holy Baptism, these words of Jesus from the Sermon on the Mount are read: *"Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your father in heaven."* -Matthew 5:16. One way of thinking of this charge of Jesus is that our lives of discipleship function in a similar fashion to fireworks on Independence Day; just as they are a bold sign of something bigger, by God's grace and the work of the Spirit, our lives in Christ also function as a bold message of something bigger, namely, the glory of God! As we are compelled to love and serve in Jesus' name, the eyes of the world can hardly turn away from the light of the Lord, and the ears of those who hear the Gospel can hardly tune out the good news of eternal life and salvation. So, as we celebrate freedom and independence this month, may the Lord guide and direct our lives to be bold reminders for the world of the freedom from sin and death we graciously receive through faith in Christ Jesus our Lord.

God Bless, *Pastor Dan*

MISSION MEMO

TD (Sherman) and I (Sarah) are helping lead the 10-week long Cru Summer Mission in Inner City Milwaukee WI. Over the summer, students will apply for and work jobs, or volunteer with various different inner-city ministries 30-40 hours per week. In the evenings they will engage in evangelism within the community, as well as participate in and eventually lead bible studies, community events, neighborhood outreaches, and prayer events!

After only one week in Milwaukee, the segregation, poverty, pain, and urgent need for the gospel in the city is so evident. At any given time of day, police sirens can be heard in the distance, and impoverished people can be found on almost every block. Our hearts are breaking more and more for these people every day. We are praying that though these people may not have earthly riches, they would inherit imperishable heavenly riches through hearing the gospel this summer!



Prayer Requests

- For students to take steps of boldness to share their faith
- For the people of Milwaukee to hear and be changed by the gospel
- Healing for the people of Milwaukee who are afflicted by racial, cultural, economical, and financial barriers

SPECIAL EVENTS

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

1 Becky Brockmann	16 Jenna Keene	20 Matthew Saboe	29 George Thiessen
3 Terry Thomsen	16 Kris Thiessen	24 Lee Bunge	30 Mary Ann Adolf
4 Terri Vander Gaast	18 Mindy Reiser	24 Hugh Pearson	31 Marshal Saboe
5 Barb Hartmann	18 Ty Schoelerman	25 Tammy Falline	31 Jordan Schmidt
6 Le Ann Jensen	19 Austin Schmidt	25 Kelsey Holtz	
6 Maggie Scharnberg	20 Eric Rud	25 Ashley Tessum	

JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

8 Ron and Lois Doran	12 Willie and Barb Hartmann	19 Geoff and Molly Juza
8 Kyle and Ashley Vogt	18 Rich and Judy Englert	21 Mark and Marie Stricker
9 Tom and Kathy Goeken		



Women of Hope MEETING MINUTES

Women of Hope Board Meeting – June 7, 2017

The WOH board meeting was held on June 7, 2017 at 5PM with 6 members present. President Kris Keene opened the meeting with devotions from Psalms 32:5.

Secretary's Report was approved M/S/C Cynthia/Marlene. One Love Basket thank you was received and read.

Treasurer's Report – General Fund \$2110.40 Love Fund \$1310.97 One bill was presented for the outside plants for \$32.50 to Nicki Berends. The board gave approval to Cynthia to pay the bills as they come in this summer and present them at the next meeting which is in September. One Love gift was approved. M/S/C Teresa/Tracy.

Mission Action - Last quilt date was May 31 with 12 women making 10 quilts. It was decided by the quilt ladies to continue through the summer months so they could take January and February off with uncertain weather conditions. The next quilt days will be June 28, July 26, and August 30.

Mission Communities - Plans continue for the Love Service on June 25. Camperships will be given out at the Love Service. No decision has been made as to where the Love Service Offering will go. We will ask for help after the June 18 church service to display the quilts for the Love Service on the 25th.

Mission Growth – The baby bottle campaign for the Cherish House will end on June 18. Final plans were made for Ladies Night Out on June 14 at the Lake Park home of Tracy and Todd Meyer. Plan to meet at the church at 5:30 to car pool. Come have an evening of fellowship and snacks.

Old business - 6 campership requests have been received. Approval was given to Cynthia to write the checks for \$10 per day of camp. 4 at \$50 and 2 at \$30.

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

The next board meeting will be held on **September 6 at 5:00 PM.**

Secretary, Sherri Steffen

Church Council Meeting - JUNE MINUTES

President Adolf called the meeting to order at 8:02 PM on June 14, 2017.

Members present: Kevin Adolf – President
John Jensen – Treasurer
Allen Boyles – Deacon

Lavonne Peters – Deacon
Carol Schmeling – Deacon
Todd Meyer - Trustee

Brian Kahl – Trustee
Brook Schueller – Board of Ed

Secretary's report reviewed. M/S/C by Meyer/Peters to approve report.

Treasurer's report reviewed. M/S/C by Peters/Schmeling to approve report as presented and pay current bills.

Trustees' report: Doug Bjorkland to paint soffits. M/S/C by Peters/Jensen.

Board of Education: Vacation Bible School, June 12-15, with 58 students.

Old Business: None

New Business: Cleaning up around the church – Change inside clean-up date
Parish Nurse

The next council meeting will be **Wednesday, July 12 at 8:00 p.m.**
Meeting adjourned.

Minutes by Brian Kahl

STEWARDSHIP KIT FOR JULY AND AUGUST

Supplies are being collected for the next months for school kits. Place donations in the basket in the narthex.

School Kit taken to Lutheran World Relief

*Please use new items in good condition.

- 4 70-sheet notebooks of wide-or college-ruled paper
- 1 30-centimeter ruler, or ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other
- 1 pencil sharpener
- 1 blunt scissors-safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well
- 5 unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers-secure together with a rubber band
- 5 black or blue ballpoint pens-no gel ink-secure together with a rubber band
- 1 box of 16 or 24 crayons
- 1 2 ½" eraser
- 1 sturdy drawstring backpack-style cloth bag-14" X 17" with shoulder straps

School Kit taken to Orphan Grain Train

- Student-sized backpack
- 2-3 spiral notebooks-any size
- 2 or more pencils
- 2 or more pens
- Package of construction paper
- Crayons
- Ruler
- Glue sticks
- Blunt scissors
- Washable markers
- Protractor

Coordinators: Shirley Adolf & Linda Harders

CALLING BAKERS!

The Everly/CCE All School Reunion, Everly Lions, and Everly Commercial Club needs your help. We need all good bakers to bake items for our food stand for Ragbrai. Also, we are asking if you have milk jugs to freeze water for us for ice. The bake goods and milk jugs are to be delivered to the Quick Spot of Everly on Saturday, July 22 between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Do not cut items and please bake items in throw away pans.

We thank you so very much for all your help! - The Committees

Any questions, contact Kathy Behrens at 712-260-3102.

Sowing Seeds of Stewardship

John W. Jenson

Recreation. Something we all enjoy. And depending on our stage of life, our definition of recreation might range from playing softball, to swimming, to horseback riding to simply reading a good book.

Is there such a thing as a stewardship of recreation? Some people might dismiss the thought. But they'd be wrong. Consider this: The God who made the universe rested on the seventh day, *"By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work. Then God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done."* (Genesis 2:2-3 NIV)

In receiving the Ten Commandments, the ancient Hebrews did something no other ancient society had ever done: they established a day of rest. Here's what God told his people, *"Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God. . . For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy."*

God is calling us to set aside a weekly day of restoration of prayer, study, and recreation (or re-creation).

For those of us in the Northern Hemisphere at least, probably no other month bids us to relax as the month of July does. But for some of us, our "relaxation" keeps us so busy that we welcome going back to work on Monday to "get some rest!" That's not what God had in mind for the Sabbath.

Backyard barbecues, days at the pool or the lake, a camping weekend or simply the lazy idleness of a mid-year Sunday afternoon invite us to slow down but at the same time keeps us so busy there's no time to relax.

And that usually means no time for God. Sometimes, our society induces in us a sense of guilt if we're not "doing something". But turning off the computer and the phone and spending quality time with those around us, or finding time for some reflection, is stewardship of our time which leads to the place where God dwells. It's a good example for our kids as well.

Summer time is vacation time but that doesn't mean a vacation from weekly worship. If you're away from Hope Lutheran, find a nearby church to attend. And find some time to read a devotional or a book. Want a book recommendation? Find some time to read the Bible!

July presents a wonderful time to "rest" from all the electronic screens and busyness that dominate our lives. July is also the month when we celebrate our freedom. When the Hebrew people first received the Ten Commandments, they too had just received their freedom from the Egyptians after a long journey in the wilderness. It's no coincidence that a people recently liberated were in need of a directive to rest and reflect. Over this 4th of July, take time to rest and to reflect on our freedom and all that God has done for us.

So, the next time you realize that you are so busy you haven't relaxed, or you feel guilty about a quiet, reflective time of doing "nothing", remember that recreation also means "re-creation" and that to be a truly creative person, to be a steward of our time, we must honor our need to rest, relax, be with others, read, play, AND WORSHIP.

"Sing to the LORD, all the earth; proclaim his salvation day after day. Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples." (1 Chronicles 16:23-24)

Praise the Lord and have a God filled fun summer!



JULY

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH

2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Ushers: Jeff Pearson, Jay Pearson, Mark Hansen, Irv Maaland, Josh Overbeck Communion: Allen Boyles & Lester Tessum			Altar: LaVonne Peters & Sue Adams Service Group #1			
9:00 Worship/Communion Greeter: Jeff Pearson & family Reader: Chris Tostenrud Organist: Cynthia Knapp Projection: Denny Harmon 10:00 Fellowship & Adult Study	10-2 Food Pantry		2:00-6:00 Food Pantry 7:00 WOW Bible Study			
9:00 Worship Greeter: Jay Pearson & family Reader: John Goeken Pianist: Connie Goeken Projection: Judy Englert 10:00 Fellowship & Adult Study	10-2 Food Pantry		2:00-6:00 Food Pantry 8:00 Council Meeting	2:15 Hartley Service		
9:00 Worship/Communion Greeter: Mark Hansen & family Reader: Judy Englert Organist: Cynthia Knapp Projection: Kara Taylor 10:00 Fellowship & Adult Study	10-2 Food Pantry		11:30 Martha Bible Study 2:00-6:00 Food Pantry 7:00 WOW Bible Study			
9:00 Worship Greeter: Irv Maaland & family Reader: Niki Berends Pianist: Sue Hartmann Projection: Teresa Hansen 10:00 Fellowship & Adult Study	10-2 Food Pantry	Tidings Material Due	9:00 Quilt Day 2:00-6:00 Food Pantry			
9:00 Worship Greeter: Josh Overbeck & family Reader: Rick Streuben Organist: Cynthia Knapp Projection: Kara Taylor 10:00 Fellowship & Adult Study	10-2 Food Pantry	Martha Bible Study - Women of Word Study -	Dream Center in Spencer. Fireside Room.	Hostess Marlene Schoelerman. Study by Judy Englert.		