

Pastor's Page

"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect." This verse emphasizes the importance of not being shaped by the prevailing culture and instead allowing God to transform one's thinking to discern His will. **Romans 12:2:**

We live in a time which does not see religion in a positive light. Some of that is our own fault, some of it is just the time and place. Such changes remind us of why the witness we live and give for the hope that is in us is important. As a people formed by the message of God's love and forgiveness for the sake of the whole world, our presence is not one among many, but one that lays claim to a message the world needs to hear. It is not a message that is normal to the world, which either sees the moral life as baseless or makes morality a zero sum game in which the winner takes all and we want to be on the right side of history. It is that second view that seems most common today and is one of the sources of our anger.

Another source of our negative world is the belief that this is all there is, there is no hope beyond this life. Christians have long believed and properly recognized that a hope that exists for this life only is no hope and no basis for living. Human beings know they are made for more than this life, even if they often claim that they do not. There is more, but these are two of the most important aspects of living in the present moment.

So how do we live in a "Negative World" as the writer Aaron Renn has put it? Recently in Touchstone magazine he presented some principles for living in this time of negativity toward the church, religion and the Gospel.

Here is the first of a few pastor's pages for the next couple of months.

1 Do not fall prey to *ressentiment* which is not exactly "*resentment*", but "a narrative of injury that seeks revenge though the [asserting of our own] will to power."

"Outrage against a grievance caused by others, then, becomes the source of authentic identity and authentic action. In this strange calculus, the more rage the better. In turn, rage, hatred, and the desire for revenge that emanate from injury become the source of meaning and purpose for those who see themselves as victims." (James Davison Hunter)

*"Christians must avoid falling prey to the logic of *ressentiment*. Rather than repaying evil for evil, we must overcome evil with good, loving our enemies and being joyful in the face of unmerited suffering. We must have a positive identity rooted in who we are rather than a negative one rooted in whom we are against – or worse yet, whom we hate."* ("Positively Christian: Principles for Living in the Negative World", by Aaron Renn, Touchstone; <https://www.touchstonemag.com/archives/article.php?id=38-04-031-f>)

Sounds easy, but if you pay attention, this is the source of much of our trouble today, as people claim that their "identity" and their "truth" are what matter most. Everyone has a story or an experience by which they lay claim to being oppressed or victimized. It is something that happens no matter where one lands in politics or culture these days.

The problem with identity politics is that it is a scorecard, a competition to gain the most points in being a victim. We find ourselves trying to prove that we have suffered more than someone or everyone else. It is a competition that is not satisfied easily, because in the end it is a rejection of the only way that we can be rescued from injustice, sin and our own failures to love.

A professor at Georgetown University, Joshue Mitchell, points out that this is an explicit rejection of the Gospel of Jesus. In his book, *American Awakening: Identity Politics and Other Afflictions of our Time* he wrote:

Identity politics is not satisfied with the Christian account that there will always be an imbalance of payments that only God can redress through His infinite mercy. Identity politics demands a complete accounting, so that the score can be settled once and for all – or, if it cannot be settled, then held over the head of transgressors like a guillotine, in perpetuity...

There is no end of this kind of moral scapegoating and accounting since we must always discover the source of the evil of the world, be awakened to the sources of the false reality that control us. One person helps us understand what it means to be awakened and why the word "woke" has become common in our time: "*Woke*" means *having woken up to the false reality that those in power have fabricated in order to control you. That's*

*another way to understand “cultural hegemony”. The key part is that woke people (left or right) believe that truth is *always* relative to power, and therefore there’s no point in trying to be neutral in pursuit of it. This is why one of their main objectives is to “seize the means of the production of knowledge.”*

It is hard not to get caught up in these battles, precisely because they take place at home, work, school and our politics today. It is a religious battle, but one side wants to claim that it is not related to God at all. We are forced to learn what it means to discern the spirits of this world at war with the Spirit of God. The first principle for living in our present time is to fight its spirit of resentment. Because it can and does poison relationships and hinder our spiritual growth.

Here are some ways of addressing this difficult spirit of our age:

1. The practice repentance and forgiveness: "get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you" (Ephesians 4:31-32).
2. Prayer: Praying for those who have caused pain, as Jesus encouraged (Matthew 5:44), can help soften the heart and enable one to extend forgiveness. Prayer also provides an outlet for expressing pain and releasing resentment to God, preventing anger and hurt from escalating into destructive bitterness.
3. Trust in God’s Justice and Mercy: Reminder that God is the ultimate judge and that judgment already has come wrapped in the mercy of Jesus Christ.
4. Cultivating Love and Humility: Love, especially loving one's enemies, is a direct antidote to resentment. Humility also plays a role, as pride can fuel resentment by magnifying offenses.
5. Renewing the Mind: Resentment can thrive on distorted perceptions and negative thought patterns.

Worship Notes for August

August 3 – 8th Sunday after Pentecost

Readings: Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23; Psalm 49:1-12; Colossians 3:1-11; Luke 12:13-21

Theme: Many people today wonder whether the old “Protestant work ethic” should be left behind. Work has lost its dignity, in part because the work we are given to do has often become disconnected from things that make work of value. We make things but do not know or see those who use it. We make things that are only throw away goods with throw away value. In many cases our work seems to produce nothing at all. In such a world, it may be good to connect with the kinds of working that give value to our lives, our communities and still know that our work is for this world and must be left to others who may not appreciate it. Faith allows us to see work in the context of what it might do for others and serve their need.

August 10 – 9th Sunday after Pentecost

Readings: Genesis 15:1-6; Psalm 33:12-22; Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16; Luke 12:32-40

Theme: “Whatever you hang your heart on, that is your God.” Those are words of Martin Luther and they fit well with our scripture readings for today. Jesus says: “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” We rarely stray far from whatever captures the love and allegiance of our hearts, so if it is to the God revealed in Jesus Christ, then we know that our faith will never be in vain. God’s gift of his kingdom never wears out.

August 17 – 10th Sunday after Pentecost

Readings: Jeremiah 23:23-29; Psalm 82; Hebrews 11:29—12:2; Luke 12:49-56

Theme: “Is not my word like fire, says the LORD, and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?” The answer is yes, that is your Word. Fire, hammer, lamp, sword, mirror, seed, living and active never returning empty and always accomplishing the task toward which God has set it. As followers of Martin Luther, God’s Word is that which gives life to our gathering together, whether in spoken form or in the form of visible words, like baptism and communion. Today we are grateful for that Word of God.

August 24 – 11th Sunday after Pentecost

Readings: Isaiah 58:9b-14; Psalm 103:1-8; Hebrews 12:18-29; Luke 13:10-17

Theme: Jesus never seems to be at a loss for seeing and revealing our hypocrisy. We are working so hard to see the failures of others that we struggle to see our own faults. Rules that we like are ok, but those we don't seem to be unimportant to us, but all the Law of God is important to us when we see someone else break it. Hypocrisy is one of the more common sins, but it is often the hardest to see from the inside and therefore hard to avoid. For the hypocrite, the sabbath is the hardest to observe, because we think of it as "going to church" rather than being in the presence of God and the people the Spirit has gathered in Christ.

August 31 – 12th Sunday after Pentecost

Readings: Proverbs 25:6-7a; Psalm 112; Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16; Luke 14:1, 7-14

Theme: Why do people sit at the back of the church? There are probably many reasons, but there are plenty of Biblical statements and parables that indicate that it is a part of humility to keep back. Yet even our holding back can become a sign of self-righteousness for those of us backbenchers who see others moving to the front and judge them as thinking more highly of themselves. The real issue is our hearts, not our seating arrangement. God's gracious invitation actually means that no matter where we sit in church, we are all there by God's grace and all are invited to come forward to taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

There will be a service of healing during our worship service on this day.

10th Graders Being Confirmed - Some Things to Do

Affirmation of Baptism will be on Sunday, October 26th.

If you are entering 10th grade and have been through confirmation instruction, then you will need to prepare for Affirmation of Baptism. Affirmation of Baptism will be this fall on Sunday, October 26th.

Here are some items you should tend to this month of August. Also watch for a letter later in August with more information.

First, add October 26th to your calendar, the time will be 10:30 a.m.

Second, I need you to provide the office with **height and weight** so that we can order the robes. We will need this information **by the end of August**, if you don't get it in by then we will order your gowns by guess. That will be o.k. if you haven't grown since last spring, but.... When we meet in September, you will need to bring \$ 40 (cash or check payable to the church) to cover the cost of your robe rental and carnation.

Third, there will be a **meeting of the students and parents on September 21st at 10:15 a.m.** Confirmands and at least one parent are required to attend.

****Add this to your calendar now.***

It is not far off, so you might want to give it some thought and make sure those dates are on your calendars. Please try and be at the meeting, it is very difficult to make sure that we are on the same page if you don't and it is too easy to miss something you might want to know. There will be more information at the meeting in September, since it always seems to work best in small doses.

Confirmation Students in Grades 7-9

The New Confirmation Year begins September 3rd with Parent/Student Meeting

Confirmation is a bit off yet, but just so you aren't surprised, **class begins on September 10th at 6:30 p.m.** We plan to have a meal again (6:00 p.m.). We will need adults and parents who might be willing to lead our small groups. We will need guides for the 7th grade small groups.

Our topic for the year is the New Testament story of Jesus and the first Christians.

Another thing to add to your early September calendar is the **Student/Parent meeting on September 3rd at 6:30 p.m.**

One parent is required to attend with their student. We will go over a few new things



Thanks to Chris Weymann for making the CTK Softball team a reality and leading us to the play-offs! It's been terrific fun, all due to Chris' hard work!

Linda and Bryon Hornick wish to thank everyone for the prayers and cards at her mother's passing.

Dave and Eileen Schauman would like to give their sincere thanks to everyone for their prayers, visits, and cards since Dave was injured. He is at home but is still struggling with complications due to the traumatic brain injury.

Miss Becca Nelson wishes to thank the Church for her scholarship to Bible Camp – and she can't wait to go back!

Carl Zeidler wishes to express his gratefulness and appreciation for the prayers and well wishes during his recent surgical procedure. He felt very strengthened as a result.

From Judy Traurig –
Thanks to everyone who supported me after my hip surgery. I appreciate all the cards and visitors – it made for a speedy recovery! And thanks so much for the wonderful prayer shawl!

The Church would like to thank Cindy Fahey for making the beautiful banners hanging in the Narthex!



We have new members! Josie and Aliyah Egge have joined the church! Josie enjoys being outside, and spending time with her family, and Aliyah likes playing dress-up, going swimming and riding her bike. Welcome to Christ the King Lutheran Church, Josie and Aliyah!



Sign up for **Subsplash Giving online** and set up a one time or recurring gift and giving will be easier than ever! Follow this link: <https://subsplash.com/u/christ-the-king-lutheran/give> or scan this QR code.

IN OUR Thoughts and Prayers

Carol Green recovering from pneumonia

Nancy Becker and Family on the loss of her sister, Betty Baumberger- Isenberg

Sheila Friske suffering with a foot condition delaying her knee surgery

Gayle O'Connor awaiting surgery for removal of cancerous kidney

Sam Jacobs and Family on the passing of his father, John Jacobs

Carl Zeidler recovering from heart surgery at home

Rick Jorgensen and Family on the passing of his mother, Joleen

Pat Novak's Mother, Bonnie, now in hospice

Dave Schauman is recovering at home from a traumatic brain injury

Char Klocke is now residing at Valley View Home in Lamberton

Dawn Bestick for recovery after receiving a kidney transplant

****There is a new Care List available in the office for those who would like to send cards****

An inspirational way to grow in your personal faith is in serving communion or reading the scriptures for our worship services. We Always have a need for more volunteers and pray that you would be led to use your gifts in this manners. Please sign up on the web site or the mobile app or call the office 507-354-4672 and Mary will sign you up! Thanks!



Caregiver Coffee Hour - The Caregiver Coffee Hour started in March and we have had a great response – so many folks out there caring for others and it's great to know that there is support available, even if it's just a shoulder to lean on! This group will meet the first and third Thursday of each month.

August dates are the 7th and the 21st at Christ the King Lutheran Church at 1:00pm. Coffee and snacks will be served.

If you are a caregiver to a loved one and would like to get out and socialize with others that are in the same type of situation, this is the group for you! If your loved one can't be left alone, you can bring them along, and we will have some activities that they can participate in as well, while you have some time to yourself to recharge.



Youth News

- Aug 14th – CashWise Brat Stand
- September 3 - Confirmation Meeting
- September 7 – Rally Sunday
- September 10 – Confirmation Classes begin
- September 14 – First Sunday School

Cashwise Brat Stand- Aug 14th The youth will be selling brats and hot dogs at the stand to raise money for Camp Scholarships and the Youth Gathering. If you are able to help out on one of these days, please let Geri know.

The Youth will be selling frozen, unbaked Cinnamon Rolls all this month – just let us know how many dozen you need. Free Will Donation! Thanks!

MISSION TRIP REPORT

We had 8 youth who went to Milwaukee, Wisconsin for a mission trip. While there, the girls helped with serving at St. Anne's Intergenerational setting for adults and youth with disabilities. The boys served at Feed America packing food to be distributed to people in need. The boys also worked with some gardening! We all took a trip to Lake Michigan and took in other fun sites and activities while we were there.

Following are the youth who attended: Jacie Behrends, Carter Dauer, Elianna DeGre, Hazel Doom, Kaylee Groebner, Brynlee Portner, Luke Simonson, and Leroy Staley. Geri Groebner and Tom Simonson served as the adult leaders on the trip.

We hope you enjoy the pictures!

Thank you to all who prayed for us during our mission trip!



*A great time was
had by all who
went on the
Mission Trip to
Milwaukee!*







The shelves are bare! Please consider a donation to the Little Pantry and thanks so much to everyone who has already donated! We continue to be a welcome service for those in need.



Pantry Items Needed

Macaroni and Cheese
Pasta, Tuna & Cream of Mushroom Soup
Pasta & Spaghetti Sauce
Canned vegetables
Canned fruit
Canned pasta such as Ravioli or Spaghetti Os
Boxed meals such as Tuna Helper, can of tuna
Cake Mixes
Pancake Mix & Syrup
Cereal
Baby Food
Toilet paper
Paper towels
Cleaning supplies
Personal Hygiene products
Diapers & Wipes

Stewardship Creed

*I believe in the gifts of God and feel gratitude for all I have been given,
These gifts are not mine to have, but mine to share.*

*When they are shared, my gifts will make a difference for others. And I believe the act of giving
is more important than the gift itself. I will make giving a priority.*

I will give to others because so much of what I have comes from others.

I will give of who I am, what I do, and what I have.

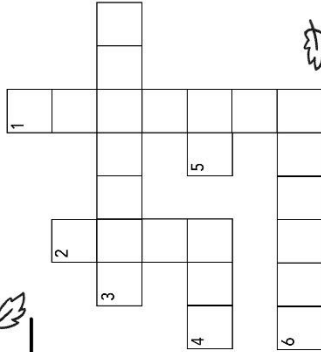
Enjoy the Convenience of Electronic Giving! It's Easy! You will no longer need to write out checks and prepare envelopes every week. Even when travel, illness or other circumstances prevent you from attending services. Automating your financial commitments means your contributions will be received on a steady, uninterrupted basis. Check with the office about using our new Subsplash Giving Platform for simple and easy giving.

Puzzle!

Use the words provided to complete the puzzle.
Then write the numbered words in the correct blanks
below to complete Psalm 67:6, NIV.

WORDS:

GOD, BLESSES, HARVEST,
YIELDS, US, LAND



ACROSS

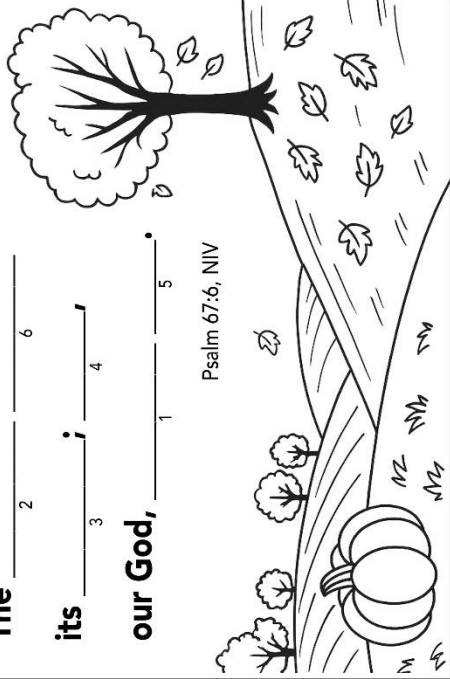
- Rhymes with farthest.
- Rhymes with nod.
- Rhymes with thus.
- Rhymes with fields.

DOWN

- Rhymes with messes.
- Rhymes with hand.

The _____ 2 _____ 6
its _____ 3 _____ 4
our God, _____ 1 _____ 5

Psalm 67:6, NIV



Answer: The land yields its harvest; God, our God, blesses us. Psalm 67:6, NIV

Puzzle!

Who made the following statements in the Bible?

- "Am I my brother's keeper?"
Samuel, John, Cain, Andrew
- "I have no silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you."
Peter, James, John, Paul
- "What is truth?"
Herod, Pilate, Simon Magus, Cornelius
- "Choose you this day whom you will serve ... but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD!"
Abraham, Jacob, Moses, Joshua
- "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."
Nathaniel, John, Peter, Paul
- "In a short time would you persuade me to be a Christian?"
Herod Agrippa, Pilate, Caiaphas, Annas
- "Do not urge me to leave you or to return from following you. For where you go I will go."
Rebekah, Rachel, Ruth, Rahab
- "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."
Paul, Peter, James, Barnabas

Answers: 1. Cain (Genesis 4:9); 2. Peter (Acts 3:6); 3. Pilate (John 18:38); 4. Joshua (Joshua 24:15); 5. Peter (Matthew 16:16); 6. Herod Agrippa (Acts 26:28); 7. Ruth (Ruth 1:16); 8. Paul (2 Timothy 4:7)





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 5:33pm Worship
3 9am Worship & FB Live	4 5:00pm Grief Support	5 9:00am Staff Mtg 10:00am Worship TV Public Access	6 5:00pm Worship TV Public Access	7 1:00 Caregivers	8	9 9:00am League of Women Voters 5:33pm Worship
10 9am Worship & FB Live	11 1:30pm Parkinson's 7:00pm Women of Today	12 9:00am Staff Mtg 10:00am Worship TV Public Access 4:30pm United Players	13 4:00 Oak Hills Worship 5:00pm Worship TV Public Access	14	15	16 5:33pm Worship
17 9:00am Worship & FB Live	18	19 9:00am Staff Mtg 10:00am Worship TV Public Access 6:15pm Finance Comm Mtg 6:30pm Church Council Mtg	20 4:00pm Oak Hills Worship 5:00pm Worship TV Public Access	21 1:00 Caregivers	22	23 5:33pm Worship
24 9am Worship & FB Live	25 6:30pm Adoption Mtg	26 9:00am Staff Mtg 10:00am Worship TV Public Access	27 5:00pm Worship TV Public Access	28	29	30 5:33pm Worship
31 9am Worship & FB Live						

From the 2024 Annual Report

Scholarship

Scholarship Committee Members: Anne-Lise Johnson, Nicole Jorgensen, Geri Groebner, Laura Gaylord, Amanda Zimanski, Kim Horning, and Dawn and Brian Kloos

We continue to be grateful to the congregation for your continued support of the Douglas G. Larsen Scholarship Fund through your offerings and by attending our fundraisers and donating items to our fundraisers. Because of your generosity, we were able to grant \$500 scholarships to Cohen Carpenter, Elyse Dreckman, Noah Engel, Jayda Goold, Dominick Kamrath, Lydia King, Joey Kotten, Kaden Larson, and Tallak Rakowski.

We are grateful that we can support our students in this way. We look forward to your continued support of the young people of our congregation and would welcome any new members to our committee. There are no monthly meetings, just an occasional activity! Our next event is the Palm Sunday Breakfast on April 13, 2025.

-Submitted by Geri Groebner

Youth Committee

The youth committee continues to meet on the first Monday of each month at 5 pm. Committee members include Lauren Buckentine, Anna Fleischmann, Allie Staley, Amy Johnson (church council representative) and Geri Groebner. The committee supports Geri in her role as education and youth coordinator as she continues to provide quality programming for the youth of our congregation. Please refer to her report about the different events, activities and educational programming that our youth were involved in. One highlight of the year was a small group of our high school youth attended the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans as it has been several years since CtK had a group attend.

This year, the youth committee has focused on sustaining youth education and programming, strengthening connections with junior high and high school youth and exploring ways to bridge the generations so our youth are an integral part of our congregation. Any congregational member is welcome to be a part of the committee and we are open to new ideas or volunteers.

-Submitted by Amy Johnson



As you plan your schedule this fall please consider making time for choir! Singing is good for your body and your soul! We welcome every level of ability in our group, from beginners to experienced singers. YOU are welcome to join us!

Choir meets from 6:45 – 7:45 on Wednesday evenings beginning September 10th; we sing in church the 1st and 4th Sundays of the month. Not sure it's for you? Talk to Anne-Lise (507/354-6102, 507/276-2099, kali@newulmtel.net) or someone you know in choir.

"As long as we live there is never enough singing" – Martin Luther



CtK's Helping Hands Fund

For June

Given - \$	831.00
Utilities - \$	480.12
Housing - \$	900.00
Car Repairs - \$.00
Gas Cards - \$	155.00
Groceries - \$	386.90
Misc - \$.00

Financial Report for June

Given - \$34,395.67

Budgeted - \$30,757.04

Given YTD - \$184,610.20

Budgeted YTD - \$175,337.26

Christ the King Council Members

President:

Kurt Johnson

Vice President:

Josh Walth

Secretary:

Amy Johnson

Treasurer:

Beth Zambino

Members:

Elmer Rettig

Bill Steinke

Pat Novak

Lauren Buckentine

Miriam Waldner

Ryan Meyer

Staff

Pastor

Timothy Anderson

Finance Manager:

Jen Kapolczynski

Administrative

Assistant:

Mary Lammers

Visitation Ministry Coordinator:

Helen Christenson

Youth Education & Youth Ministry Coordinator:

Geri Groebner

Custodian:

Cindy Fahey

Music

Coordinator:

Connie Jacobs

Choir Director:

Anne-Lise Johnson

CtK's Council Minutes

Minutes of the June Meeting

Mission Statement of our Congregation: "A Family of Christians welcoming all as we journey with God to teach, love, and serve others."

Highlights from past month - Softball team plays Sunday evenings and having a good time. Youth group met on June 11 with campfire and 6 youth.; Caregivers group will continue to meet in the summer. Grief Support group still meeting. The synod assembly occurred the beginning of June.

Pastor's Report:

- Will begin trying to see what is necessary to stream to website and app
- Working on a meeting with Adam Towles to work on sound issues; had to reschedule.
- Looking ahead to Adult Education for 2025-2026: Pastor Tim is planning for next Fall into the Winter for adult ed opportunities. Let him know if you have ideas
- Pastor Tim registered for Zoom Synod Assembly, but couldn't get the feed to work on Friday, June 6 and unable to attend on Saturday, June 7.

Youth Ministry Report:

- **July 20 -25** – Youth mission trip will be in Milwaukee, WI and there will be 11 attending
- **Aug 14** – CashWise Brat Stand dates

Youth Education Report:

- **June 16-19th** - Magnified VBS is occurring this week with 25 youth and 10 helpers
- Looking ahead to fall for educational programming.
-

Committees Reports:

- Property Committee – Bill shared highlights: upcoming carpet cleaning, ash tree removal with 6 being taken down and 6 more need removal; Bill will meet with River Creek to develop plan for re-planting and then approach congregation; will be getting an estimate on spraying for Asian beetles; paver patio and back sidewalk need replacement
- Constitutional Committee — Will have a meeting once the report is completed
- Gifts & Bequests Policy committee -- Will meet tomorrow night

***Christ the King
Lutheran Church***
1515 North Garden Street
New Ulm, MN 56073

Non-Profit Org.
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New Ulm, MN
56073
Permit No. 142

Return Service Requested



August 2025

***Worship
Services***

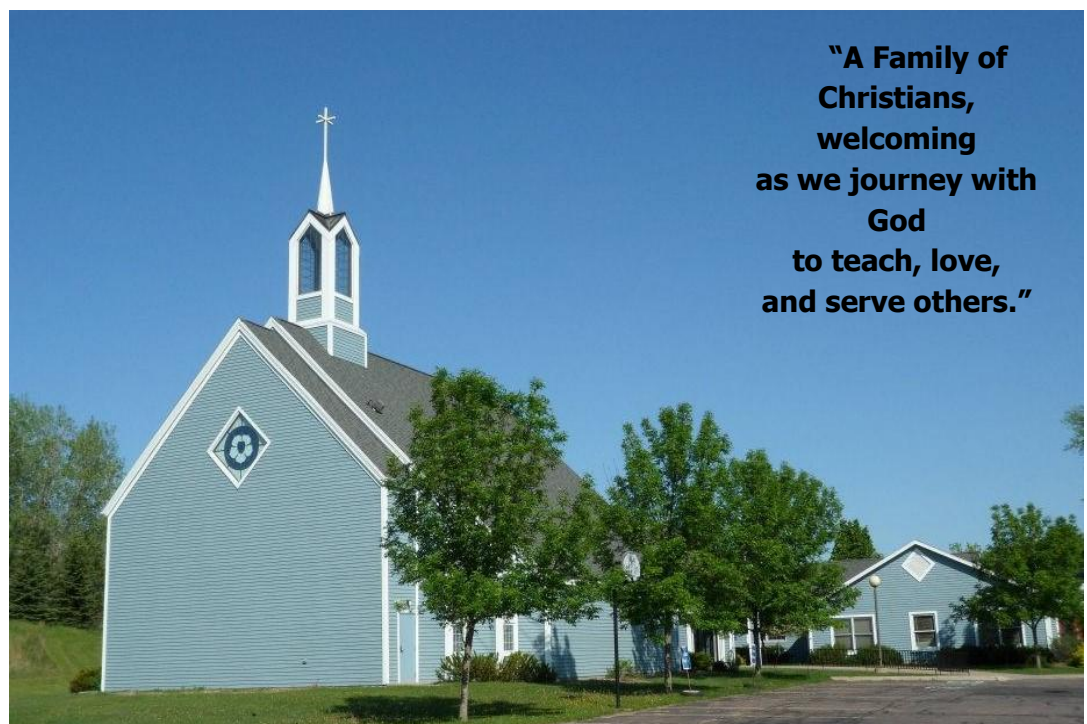
***Saturday
5:33pm***

***Sunday
9:00am***

***Streamed on
Facebook Live
and***

***Available on
Public Access
Television***

***Tuesdays 10am
Wednesdays
5pm***



**"A Family of
Christians,
welcoming
as we journey with
God
to teach, love,
and serve others."**