

General Announcements

Welcome to our guests. We are glad you have joined us in worshipping our Lord and Savior. We trust you will draw strength, peace, and hope as together we hear God's Word spoken here today. So that we may serve you better, we ask that you fill out a yellow attendance card located on the back of the pew, including your address and noting that you are a visitor.

**ETERNAL CANDLE** The eternal candle glows to the glory of God from Larry and Sharon Ripka.

**ALTAR FLOWERS** The flower bouquet that adorns the Altar is from Chuck and Bev Brokaw, in celebration of their anniversary.

**DOLLARS FOR MISSIONS** The current Dollar for Missions project is replacement of insulation in the chancel ceiling at Wittenberg Lutheran Center, Normal. 45-year-old insulation has fallen from its original place under the roof. It needs to be replaced, in what figures to be an expensive job calling for ingenious work involving a high ceiling. This DFM project is for \$10,000.

**WASP ALERT** It has been mentioned to the office that there are large wasps flying around the office doors. According to Kenny's Pest Control, they are called Cicada Killers– they are NOT human aggressive (although very alarming looking), and there is no chemical treatment to be used against them. There is not a nest to avoid or remove– they will burrow individually in the landscape after catching a cicada.

**STEWARDSHIP THOUGHTS** *Matthew 5:23 – “So if you are offering your gift at the altar. . .”* Jesus connects our generosity toward God's Kingdom to our love and forgiveness toward our brethren in the Kingdom. Both grow out of God's love toward us. We forgive as we have been forgiven, and we give as we have been given to. All our growth in sanctification is growing into our Heavenly Father's own actions through thankful imitation.

**BUILDING HEALTHY FAMILIES:** Whether it's your growing awareness of the number of hours in your day tinged with anxiety or depression, or a gnawing feeling in your gut about the distance you're feeling from your spouse, know that you don't have to wait for a crisis to seek support. It's often easier to prevent a problem from growing worse than to recover from one in full bloom. Pay attention to your mental, emotional, spiritual, and relational health. Talk to your pastor, a trusted Christian friend, or an LFS counselor, and remember (as the tee shirt says): It's okay to have Jesus and a therapist, too! **Lutheran Family Service** [www.LutheranFamilyService.org](http://www.LutheranFamilyService.org)

**CHRIST FOR YOU this week KFUO.org:** On Sharper Iron (weekdays at 8:00 a.m.), we are continuing our study of the Psalms. This week, we'll take a look at Psalms 50, 57, 67, 73, and 80. Tune in to Thy Strong Word (weekdays at 11 a.m.) as we begin a new study of the book of Galatians! Don't forget to join us for the Coffee Hour (weekdays at 9:00 a.m.)! This week is Bach week, and we have some special episodes lined up to celebrate! Find your favorite programs on demand at [kfu.org](http://kfu.org) or in the KFUO Radio app!

**FOOD PANTRY ASSISTANCE NEEDED** Target has recently become a very generous and beneficial donor of food to us. If anyone would be able to assist Greg on Monday, Wednesday, or Friday mornings, it would really help him out. All you have to do is: meet at church at 8:45am, ride with him to Target, load up the donations, bring it back to church and unload and inventory it. If you could help any of the days it would be greatly appreciated. You will not be contractually bound to his service if you volunteer once! Please call Debbie Girard at 309-235-8822 if you have any questions or would like to do a ride- a- long. Also, we are getting low on plastic grocery bags if you would like to donate.

**CAKE RECEPTION** The fellowship committee invites the congregation to welcome our vacancy pastor, Rev. Steven Anderson, with a cake reception following worship on Sunday, August 10th.

Saturday, July 26th, 2025  
Seventh Sunday after Pentecost  
Prayer and Preaching

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## *The Lord's Week*

### **Sunday, July 27th**

9:00am- Worship  
10:15am- Bible study/ Sunday school

### **Monday, July 28th**

11:00am- Band luncheon  
1:00pm- staff meeting

### **Tuesday, July 29th**

10:00am- Food Pantry  
6:30pm- Guitar Jam

### **Wednesday, July 30th**

9:00am- TOPS  
1:30pm- Activities Room

### **Saturday, August 2nd**

5:00pm- Worship w/ Communion  
(Pastor Astrowski)

### **Sunday, August 3rd**

9:00am- Worship w/ Communion  
(Pastor Hagan)  
10:15am- Bible study/ Sunday school

#### **Please Note:**

During the summer, the office is only open  
Monday-Thursday 8:30am-noon.

If you took home any of the free plants that came out of the courtyard, could you please return the buckets and containers they were in? The Trustees would like them back. Thank you!

## *Bible Study Opportunities*

**Pastors And Bishops: Divine Authority or Satanic Power** As our congregation prepares for the Holy Spirit to send us a new undershepherd it may be helpful for us to review the theology of the pastoral ministry. A biblical understanding will help us determine whether our pastors and bishops exercise divine authority or wield satanic power. Our primary text will be the Holy Scriptures, but we will also take a peek at our Lutheran Confessions to see how that Word is properly understood and applied.

### **Holy Land Geography, Customs & History**

In this class Clark Stojan, who has engaged in extensive study and made many trips to the Holy Land, leads us to explore the world of the Bible along with select events recorded in Scripture.

### **Serving the Lord this Week:**

**Organist:** Christine Engebrecht

**Greeters: (Sat.)** Chuck Brokaw

**Ushers: (Sat.)** Greg Burke, Todd Miller, Rick Newlon,  
& Larry Ripka

The church confesses to Christ, "You have the words of eternal life" (John 6:68). The church is encouraged to "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly ..." (Col. 3:16). Psalm 1 teaches us to meditate on God's Word day and night. It is our great opportunity and joy to read and study God's Word. One beneficial practice is to memorize the Scriptures and, in so doing, to meditate on it. The LCMS invites everyone to memorize a verse together each week.

Memory Verse Challenge:

### **Deuteronomy 6:6-7**

*And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.*



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## **Readings**

**P** The Old Testament reading is from Genesis, the eighteenth chapter.

Then the Lord said, “Because the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is great and their sin is very grave, I will go down to see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry that has come to me. And if not, I will know.” So the men turned from there and went toward Sodom, but Abraham still stood before the Lord. Then Abraham drew near and said, “Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked? Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city. Will you then sweep away the place and not spare it for the fifty righteous who are in it? Far be it from you to do such a thing, to put the righteous to death with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?” And the Lord said, “If I find at Sodom fifty righteous in the city, I will spare the whole place for their sake.” Abraham answered and said, “Behold, I have undertaken to speak to the Lord, I who am but dust and ashes. Suppose five of the fifty righteous are lacking. Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five?” And he said, “I will not destroy it if I find forty-five there.” Again he spoke to him and said, “Suppose forty are found there.” He answered, “For the sake of forty I will not do it.” Then he said, “Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak. Suppose thirty are found there.” He answered, “I will not do it, if I find thirty there.” He said, “Behold, I have undertaken to speak to the Lord. Suppose twenty are found there.” He answered, “For the sake of twenty I will not destroy it.” Then he said, “Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak again but this once. Suppose ten are found there.” He answered, “For the sake of ten I will not destroy it.” And the Lord went his way, when he had finished speaking to Abraham, and Abraham returned to his place. *Genesis 18:20–33*

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

**P** The Epistle reading is from Colossians, the second chapter.

Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving. See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ. For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority. In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead. And you, who were dead

in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him. Therefore let no one pass judgment on you in questions of food and drink, or with regard to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath. These are a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ. Let no one disqualify you, insisting on asceticism and worship of angels, going on in detail about visions, puffed up without reason by his sensuous mind, and not holding fast to the Head, from whom the whole body, nourished and knit together through its joints and ligaments, grows with a growth that is from God. *Colossians 2:6–19*

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**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the eleventh chapter.

Now Jesus was praying in a certain place, and when he finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.” And he said to them, “When you pray, say: “Father, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone who is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation.” And he said to them, “Which of you who has a friend will go to him at midnight and say to him, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves, for a friend of mine has arrived on a journey, and I have nothing to set before him’; and he will answer from within, ‘Do not bother me; the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed. I cannot get up and give you anything’? I tell you, though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, yet because of his impudence he will rise and give him whatever he needs. And I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent; or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!” *Luke 11:1–13*

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

ST. JOHN’S PRAYER CARD  
July 26th and 27th, 2025  
*Please remember the following in your prayers this week...*

Anniversaries

Chuck & Bev Brokaw (68)  
Dennis & Lois Kelly (52)  
Chris & Diana Caldwell (48)  
Steve & Cris Braddy (23)

Sister Congregation

Rev. Martin Eden  
Our Redeemer Lutheran  
Quincy, IL

Members

Nicholas Johanson  
Jennifer Johnson  
Carrie Johnson

Missionaries Serving

Rev. Dr. Gerald and Heidi Paul–  
Cayman Islands

Military Chaplains

MAJ Edward Wright  
MAJ Phillip Callahan

Ill & Hospitalized

Joan Britton  
Angie Fischer  
Cindy Hart  
Judy Kirklin  
Rick Mayerhofer  
Karen Schmidt

Prolonged Illness &  
Special Needs:

Bev Brokaw  
Chuck Brokaw  
Diana Castro  
Kodie Esparza  
Nic Fellows  
Steve Fors  
Duane Gosa  
Nancy Gosa  
Kathy Herron  
Jerry Hill  
Jane Hipple  
Carole Hodshire  
Chris Hoehn (Janet Newlon's  
nephew, aplastic anemia)  
Dale Johnson  
Merle Loete  
Reid McDonald  
Jean Morrical  
RaeJean Murphy  
Tom Nielsen  
Robin Passman  
Brenda Roggendorf  
Kathleen Schmidt  
David Sountris  
Alivia Voelkers  
Ken Weidenbach

Homebound:

Nancy Bonow  
Ann Bowman  
Don, Wanda, and Jason Cass  
Darlene Dopson  
Mary Ann Eckert  
Rick & Sylvia Fauser  
Angie Fischer  
Ron & Peg Heitzman  
Christopher Higgins  
Barbara Honert  
Ingrid Hodshire  
Lori Hopkins  
Mary McGee  
Nancy Smart  
Terry Tipsword  
Barbara Veskauf  
Cora Whipple