

STEEPLE ECHOES

A Monthly Newsletter
of

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MT. HOREB

A family in faith, reaching out to share God's love with all people.

JULY/AUGUST 2026



WE WELCOME ALL TO ELC!

Everyone. Without exception. Regardless of race, ethnicity, gender expression, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, faith traditions, physical or mental abilities, financial resources, family status, or personal struggles.

We are committed to being an anti-racist community.

By the power of the Holy Spirit, we will work to extend God's grace, love, justice, and dignity. You belong here; you are seen.

Your story and your life are valuable.

In Christ's love, we welcome, support, and love all children of God.



WORSHIP SCHEDULE AT ELC

Holy Communion Celebrated 1st & 3rd Sundays at all services.

SATURDAY: 5:00 pm- (in Chapel) Modified Traditional Worship

SUNDAY 9:00 am Blended Service

Pre-recorded online worship available:

www.elcmthoreb.org/home/worship/sermon-archive/

*******No Worship Service on Saturday, July 4th*******

ELC'S STAFF

Accompanists: Ruth Heinecke, Barb Underwood, Kathy O'Donnell

Agape Preschool Director: Amy Kellesvig

Bell Choir Director: Kristin Willcutt

Custodian: Jeremy Kahl

Maintenance: Karl Lasse

Music Team Leader: Barb and Chris Underwood

Office Manager: Nancy Voss

Organist/Senior Choir Director: Diane Dangerfield

Pastor: Karen Hofstad

Youth Director: Brenda Martin

Pastor's Reflections...

Those who carry us...

Those who need us to carry them...

"Then some people came, bringing to [Jesus] a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. And when they could not bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him; and after having dug through it, they let down the mat on which the paralytic lay. When Jesus saw their faith..." [Mark 2:1-12]

This story has been one of my favorites since my childhood. It's one I think of and refer to often in the midst of my ministry because it has an important message to share.

Four guys have a beloved friend who is in need of healing. When they hear that Jesus is in town, they go and get their friend—they grab his mat with him on it and take him through town to the house where Jesus is. When they get to the house, though, they can't even begin to get close to the doorway—the gathered crowd is huge and there is no way in. Do they get discouraged? Do they give up? No way! They are determined to get their friend to Jesus no matter what! What do they do? They carry him up on the roof, dig through the ceiling (remove the tiles), and then they lower him down into the room—right in the midst of the crowd where Jesus is. Talk about persistence (and ingenuity)! They will stop at nothing to get their friend the help he needs! When Jesus sees *their faith*, he heals their friend (and forgives his sins, too)—in other words, Jesus restores him to fullness of life... and gives him a fresh start! What a gift and blessing to have friends like that!

Every time I read this story, I find myself thinking of all those people in my life who have been there for me... and have "*carried me*" at critical times. **...I think of my family, teachers, and mentors** who saw my potential and nurtured my gifts, long before I saw them in myself.

...I think of the congregations I have been a part of—pastors, teachers, friends, and spiritual mentors—who have walked with me and offered me the blessing of encouragement and support, especially during the challenging times when faith or hope was hard to come by.

...I think of my friends and colleagues who stood by me and never gave up on me, even when I tried to push them away.

PASTOR'S REFLECTIONS Cont.

For all of these people, I am so very thankful—because *their faith* and support “carried me” through some difficult and challenging times. Through their acts of kindness... their words of coaching and confrontation, encouragement and support... their heartfelt prayers... they “*carried me*” to Jesus—in my times of need—and Jesus saw *their faith* (and Jesus saw *my faith*, too! – strengthened and renewed through *their faith*) ...

The truth is, we have all been that person “on the mat” at one time or another—that person in need of Jesus’ help—to get our feet back on the ground... to get ourselves / our lives together... to find peace or healing, strength or courage for the road ahead. We are, indeed, blessed if there have been people in our lives who have cared enough to “*carry us*” and “*bring us to Jesus*” in those times for the healing, forgiveness, and wholeness we needed.

But I think the opposite may be true as well—that we have all been one of the “four of them” who carried their friend(s) to Jesus, too. We saw their need... we cared enough... we prayed and took action... we wouldn’t take “no” for an answer—because we knew their best help would be found in and through Jesus!

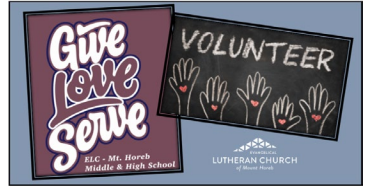
Dear friends, we can get so busy—rushing through our days... consumed by our schedules and “to do lists”—that we miss (or at least, overlook) the “gift” of the people in our lives. So, in the coming weeks, I encourage you to do two things: 1) Keep your eyes and ears (and hearts) open to the needs of those around you—those who need you to “*carry them*”: to walk with them through whatever they are dealing with... to offer words of support and encouragement or a shoulder to cry on or a loving hug for comfort... to bring them to Jesus in prayer (or maybe even invite them to come with you to church). And 2) take some time to think about all the people in your own life who have “*carried you*”: stood by you... encouraged you... prayed for you... and helped you to grow. Thank them for being there for you! And thank God for putting them in your life!

Blessings, Pastor Karen

CHILDREN & YOUTH NEWS

GIVE • LOVE • SERVE (Local Service Days) July 8 • July 22 • August 12

*Middle and high school youth are invited to participate in our local service days this summer! We have some amazing opportunities to serve our community, and **WE NEED YOUR HELP!***



Wednesday, July 8

- Morning activity: Details coming soon. Watch emails!
- **1:00 p.m.** – Meet at ELC to travel to the River Food Pantry. We will return around 4:45 p.m.
 - Volunteers for River Food Pantry must be 16 years of age or older.
 - Adults are welcome to participate.

Wednesday, July 22nd, 4 pm - 6 pm

- **4 pm - 6 pm** - Car wash to help support Pflag scholarships.

Wednesday, August 12

- **9:00 a.m.** – Youth will help set up supplies for assembling Lutheran World Relief (LWR) Baby Kits at ELC.
- **9:30 a.m.** – Baby kit assembly begins.
- **11:30 a.m.** – Depart for Second Harvest to serve in the afternoon. We will return around 4:15 p.m.

High school students can earn Silver Cord hours through these service opportunities. Please sign up for the times your child is able to help:
<https://forms.gle/tKJDiQnWBUsi2AKv7>. Invite your friends to join!

THANK YOU - ELC SUMMER CAMP: Many thanks to our leaders and helpers for our Day Camp last week. Thank you to our VBS leaders for volunteering to help, although with only 2 VBS children, we had to cancel our morning activities. All the children in our DAY CAMP program in the afternoon enjoyed time together, singing, playing games, and doing many crafts & projects. They learned how to “Wear Love”, focusing on Colossians 3:12-14. They loved the experience attending Sugar Creek on the last day of camp.

CHILDREN & YOUTH NEWS Cont.

“So, chosen by God for this new life of love, dress in the wardrobe God picked out for you: compassion, kindness, humility, quiet strength, discipline. Be even-tempered, content with second place, quick to forgive an offense. Forgive as quickly and completely as the Master forgave you. And regardless of what else you put on, wear love. It’s your basic, all-purpose garment. Never be without it.” —Colossians 3:12–14



MISSION TRIP TO KANSAS CITY, MO

6 youth and 4 adults will be traveling to Kansas City, MO on July 12th - July 18th to serve their community. We are working with Next Step Ministries (in Madison) who help us with housing and where we will be serving. Please pray for God to be present throughout the week. We will have a sendoff for the group on **Saturday, July 11th** at our 5 pm worship. Join us in **August** to hear about their adventures. Date yet to be determined.

Youth: Evelyn Dolfen, Kaylen Hastings, Claire Hurda, Sophie Sadler, Josie Sailor, Sarah Zelle

Adults: Brenda Martin, Teddi Sadler, Caitlynn Nemec, Peter Walton

CONFIRMATION TO BETHEL HORIZONS

(ADVENTURE COURSES) - Our Confirmation youth, 7th, 8th and 9th graders, will be participating in an adventure ropes course on **August 29th, 10 am - 3 pm**. We will meet at the ELC parking lot at 9:15 am. Guides are needed too. Looking forward to a great day experiencing the ropes courses together.

CONFIRMATION GUIDES NEEDED: Reaching out for our need of guides this fall. Please pray and consider this opportunity to help

UPCOMING DATES - SEPTEMBER:

Wednesday, Sept 9th, 7:00 – 8:00 pm Confirmation

Gathering at ELC (7th, 8th and 9th graders)

Wednesday, Sept 16th, 6:30 - 7:30 pm 7th/8th grade

Confirmation

Potluck

Sunday, Sept 20th, 10:15 - 11 am First Day of Sunday School

Celebration

Sunday, Sept 20th, 11:30 am - 1:30 pm 9th grade Confirmation Retreat

Brenda Martin, Youth Ministries Director

brenda.martin@elcmthoreb.org



CAR WASH FOR PFLAG

July 22nd, 4 pm - 6 pm
(ELC parking lot/ Agape drive up)
Bring your car, truck, or even a golf cart on July 22. Youth will be raising funds for PFLAG-Mt Horeb, as a part of our GIVE/LOVE/SERVE days. Free will donation.



AGAPE

Happy Summer from Agape!

Preschool becomes quieter over the summer months without the students, but the teachers and I will make a little noise as we clean and organize to get ready for the upcoming school year.

We are gearing up for our fun-filled summer camps and still have room for kiddo's ages 3 years to 5 years to join on the following dates from 8:30 am – 11:30 am:

Wednesday, July 15 – Summer Fun

August 4, 5, & 6 – Preschool Readiness

Adult caregivers may also attend the camps with children under 3 years of age. Please reach out if you are interested in enrolling a child for one or more of the camps.

Have a wonderful summer, making great memories!

Amy Kellesvig
Agape Director
agapekids@mhtc.net
608-437-7100



TREASURER'S REPORT

BALANCE SHEET	5/31/2026	4/30/2026	12/31/2025
General Fund	25,321	729	31,761
Building Capital Fund	25,562	24,783	20,564
Designated Funds	126,985	134,415	128,529
Mortgage	(70,111)	(70,499)	(72,288)
TOTAL	107,757	89,428	108,566
INCOME STATEMENT	May 2026	2026 YTD	
General Fund Income	39,461	150,500	
Transfer from Designated Fund	10,000	10,000	
General Fund Expenses			
Mission and Outreach	1,834	9,268	
Personnel	17,557	106,266	
Congregational Life	1,110	10,283	
Facilities and Administration	4,368	41,123	
Total General Fund Expenses	24,869	166,940	
Net General Fund Gain (Loss)	24,592	(6,440)	
Building Capital Fund	779	9,630	
Designated Funds	3,541	20,804	
Mortgage	388	2,177	
Total Other Income	4,708	32,611	
Other Expenses			
Building Capital Fund	0	4,632	
Designated Funds	970	12,348	
Transfer to General Fund	10,000	10,000	
Total Other Expenses	10,970	26,980	
Net Gain (Loss) from Other Expenses	(6,262)	5,631	
NET GAIN (LOSS)	18,330	(809)	

TREASURER’S REPORT Cont.

Above-average general fund giving of \$39,461 was set against below-average expenses of \$24,869 in May, resulting in a general fund balance of \$25,321. That balance includes the \$10,000 transferred at the beginning of the month when the balance had dropped to only \$729. Expenses so far this year have been \$166,940, 1% above budget, while income of \$150,500 has been 9% below the approved budget.

BUDGET TRACKING	2026	2026 vs Budget	2026 vs 2025
General Fund Income	150,500	(14,924)	9,917
General Fund Expenses			
Mission and Outreach	9,268	(1,109)	(1,351)
Personnel	106,266	(4,000)	(1,016)
Congregational Life	10,283	723	1,746
Facilities and Administration	41,123	6,232	(665)
Total General Fund Expenses	166,940	1,846	(1,286)

We continue to make progress paying down our mortgage, whose balance is now down to \$70,111. We received \$1,634 in donations to the mortgage fund from which we make our monthly payments; and we received \$779 for the building fund. Thank you!

Last month’s report indicated that April’s benevolence was for RIC, but I had my months mixed up. April’s benevolence was for the youth programs, and May’s collection of \$1,429 was for RIC, along with \$159 for Divine Savior. We also received \$178 for youth, \$40 for Neighbors Helping Neighbors, and \$101 in interest.

Respectfully submitted by Ben Brothers, June 6, 2026.

BENEVOLENCE

Helping people build stronger futures

What does it take to build a better future?

Sometimes it begins with a safe place to live, support during a difficult season or someone to walk alongside you through a crisis.

Other times, it starts with a small loan that allows a person to launch a business, support a family or pursue a dream.

Though they work in different ways, our Benevolence partners for the midsummer months share a common purpose: helping people move from hardship toward hope and opportunity.

In July, we will support Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan (LSS), an organization that has been serving neighbors in need for more than 140 years. Founded in 1882 as a home for orphaned children in Wittenberg, Wisconsin, LSS has grown into one of the Midwest's largest human service organizations, helping individuals and families find stability through mental health and addiction recovery services, affordable housing, foster care, disability services, support for older adults and more. Today, its work reaches communities across Wisconsin and Upper Michigan, providing a path toward safety, healing and independence for thousands of people each year.

In August, our focus will shift from stability to opportunity through Kiva, a nonprofit that connects people around the world through microloans. Since its founding in 2005, Kiva's community of lenders has funded more than \$2.4 billion in loans to approximately 5.6 million borrowers in more than 90 countries. In 2024 alone, Kiva helped fund more than \$109 million in loans to underbanked women and nearly \$19 million in loans supporting refugees rebuilding their lives. Borrowers historically repay about 96% of Kiva loans, allowing funds to be recycled and used again to help others.

Through our Benevolence giving, we help extend both compassion and opportunity to neighbors near and far.

BENEVOLENCE Cont.

You can contribute financially by:

- **Mail:** Send a check to ELC and note “Benevolence” in the memo.
- **Online:** Visit the ELC website and click “Give”.
- **Digitally:** Download the “GivePlus Church” mobile app, or text “Benevolence” to 608-400-0183 with the amount you wish to give.

On behalf of Benevolence,

Adam Mertz

adammertz2@gmail.com

2026 BENEVOLENCE MISSIONS

January: Divine Savior, our sister church in Puerto Rico \$4035

February: Compassion International \$1178

March: Pastor’s discretionary fund \$1703

April: ELC youth programming \$788

May: Reconciling in Christ (RIC) \$1430

June: Solstice House

July: Lutheran Social Services

August: Kiva

September: SABA, International

October: Neighbors Helping Neighbors

November: Accessible local health care: Our Lady of Hope and
Community Connections

December: Madison Area Jail Ministry

(Additionally, 10% of all funds donated each month go to Divine Savior)

COUNCIL

Summer is here!

Even though it is here this doesn't mean that the church isn't looking for volunteers and there are many ways you can do that.

The RIC committee is looking for volunteers to read the welcome statement at the beginning of the 9:00 service. A member of the RIC will be in the narthex after services in July taking sign-ups. If you would like to sign up to you can also e-mail Carl Sieg at carlsieg1@gmail.com.

We're also always looking for communion assistants, readers and ushers, and helpers with Sunday School and confirmation. You can find the links to the sign-ups on the ELC website.

Please reach out to a Council Member or the Church Office for more information.

Have a blessed day!

Kim Kelliher

Gratitude is on my heart and on my mind as I write this. There is so much to be grateful for at ELC! The very many ways that people help and give of themselves around here is just amazing and heartwarming – truly!! Thank you for all the things that are done at church and are done for our church family. Some things are more obvious while some things are less obvious and some things “just seem to happen.” To start naming the things people do and naming the people who do them would not only be an enormous list but would also risk leaving people out, which I do not want to do. I encourage you to notice something that you appreciate about our church. When you have the opportunity please thank someone for what they do for our church family. From the building and grounds to our youth activities to supporting worship (that includes a lot!) to communications (Steeple Echoes, church website, email updates, streaming our Sunday worship services) to service activities to quilting & circles to our ministry committees to our church staff – and that is just a start, not a comprehensive list. There are so many varied ways we share the gifts God has blessed us with and in so doing we share God's blessings with each other.

I am grateful for you being part of our church family and I am grateful for the ways that you share your gifts with our church community.

In God's love and with God's blessings,
Barb Underwood :)
Your August Church Council Member

July 2026

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Mt. Horeb

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2 9am Sewing Group 3-6:30 pm Farmer's Market @ ELC	3 Church Office Closed	4 No Worship <i>Independence Day</i>
9 am Worship Communion 5	6	7 9:30 Text Study Matthew	8 9:30-11 am Coffee Time GIVE/LOVE/SERVE Service Day 5-8pm Council Retreat	9 9am Sewing Group 3-6:30 pm Farmer's Market @ ELC	10	11 5:00 pm Worship/Chapel LSS Guest Mission Trip Send-Off
9 am Worship LSS Guest 12 <i>Benevolence Lutheran Social Services</i> Book Club following worship Mission Trip Kansas City July 12th-18th	13 6pm-Church Council Matthew Rm	14 9:30 Text Study Matthew	15 8:30-11:30 am Agape Camp Summer Fun	16 9am Sewing Group 3-6:30 pm Farmer's Market @ ELC Nancy Vacation Through the 26th	17	18 5:00 pm Worship/Chapel Communion
9 am Worship Communion 19	20	21 9:30 Text Study Study Matthew 3pm Worship & Music	22 GIVE/LOVE/SERVE Service Day 4-6pm Car Wash PFLAG	23 9am Sewing Group 3-6:30 pm Farmer's Market @ ELC	24	25 5:00 pm Worship/Chapel
9 am Worship Baptism 26 Forum Meeting Revised Constitution following worship	27	28 9:30 Text Study Matthew	29	30 9am Sewing Group 3-6:30 pm Farmer's Market @ ELC	31	

August 2026

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Mt. Horeb

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						5:00 pm 1 Worship/Chapel Communion
9 am Worship 2 Communion	3	4 9:30 Text Study Matthew 8:30-11:30 am Agape -Pre-School Readiness	5 9:30-11 am Coffee Time 8:30-11:30 am Agape -Pre-School Readiness	6 9am Sewing Group 3-6:30 pm Farmer's Market @ ELC 8:30-11:30 am Agape -Pre-School Readiness	7	5:00 pm 8 Worship/Chapel Forum Meeting Revised Constitution following worship
9 am Worship 9 Benevolence KIVA	10 6pm-Church Council Matthew Rm	11 9:30 Text Study Matthew 1pm Mutual Ministry 5:15-6:15 Community Supper MHCC	12 GIVE/LOVE/SERVE Service Day Baby Kits w/ Sarah Circle 9:30am Pm Second Harvest	13 9am Sewing Group 3-6:30 pm Farmer's Market @ ELC	14	5:00 pm 15 Worship/Chapel Communion
9 am Worship 16 Communion Forum Meeting Revised Constitution following worship	17	18 9:30 Text Study Study Matthew	19	20 9am Sewing Group 3-6:30 pm Farmer's Market @ ELC Steeple Echoes Submissions Due	21	5:00 pm 22 Worship/Chapel
9 am Worship 23 Special Congregational Meeting following worship	24	25 9:30 Text Study Matthew 9 am Steeple Echoes Assembly	26	27 9am Sewing Group 3-6:30 pm Farmer's Market @ ELC	28 12:30-5:30 pm Blood Drive ELC	5:00 pm 29 Worship/Chapel 10 am-3pm Confirmation/ Bethel Horizons
9 am Worship 30	31					

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Please mark your calendars. Council has set a date for **Sunday, August 23, 2026**, following worship to **approve the revised Constitution and approve the Call Committee**. Please plan on attending!

Call Committee volunteers are Jeff Hook, Adam Mertz, Sarah Sieg, Vicky Rosenbaum, Amy Kellesvig, Serena Vondra, Gary Hastings, Chris Coffin, and Cheryl Schlessner. Alternates are Andy Mullendore, and Rob Farnsworth. We predict the Call Committee to start meeting early September. If anyone else is interested in being an alternate, please contact dehirsch60@gmail.com

Potluck will follow this special meeting on the 23rd in Fellowship Hall

If your last name starts with:

A-I, please bring a hot dish or sandwiches

J-Q Appetizer or salad

R-Z Dessert

You are welcome to bring something else, just be sure you come to share fellowship!

Several copies of the revised 2026 Constitution along with copies of the 2013 Constitution, can be found in the Narthex. Additional copies of the Constitution are in binders in the Narthex for members to look through (NOT take home please).

Thank You!

Your Council Members

FORUM MEETINGS immediately following church services for the congregation to ask questions regarding the *revised 2026 Constitution* have been set for:

Sunday, July 26, 2026

Saturday, August 8, 2026

Sunday, August 16, 2026

We'll use the screens to avoid making copies of the Constitution. (Trying to keep our expenses down.)

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

Back-to-School sales will begin soon. We usually invite members to shop for school supplies and we work with what is donated. Let's try something new this year. Buying in bulk from Staples, our regular office supply store, will allow us to put together kits for about \$5.60 each. The church has a tax-exempt account there and earns credits for purchases as well.



If you would like to contribute to the fund school supplies for LWR fund, **You may mail or drop your contribution off at the church office. Please be sure to mark them for school kits.**

BABY KIT DONATIONS

Thank you to everyone who donated items for our Lutheran World Relief (LWR) Baby Kits. We are pleased to share that we have reached our goal of assembling **60 baby kits!** At this time, we are no longer collecting baby kit supplies or T-shirts for diapers. Thank you for your generous support and for helping make this ministry possible.

PROPERTY

Work continues on touch-up painting throughout the property, primary focusing on high use areas.

I met with our roofing contractor to address some water leaks and water diversion on the north side of the church. Some additional caulking was done and they are coming back with drain tile to move some water towards the west side down spouts.

I started working on some of my summer projects which includes: exterior window washing, floor scrubbing the tile in agape, painting the baseboards around the heating and finally general bush trimming and weeding.

Karl Lasse

PRAYER

list

PLEASE PRAY FOR, Warren Wilson, Mark Mostrom, Jan Lukken, Linda Palzkill (Dennis & Sylvia Lokken's sister) Cailyn Knuth (Jen Mullendore's niece) Steve Mueller, Jill Knuteson, Kathy Sies, Jennifer Hubert (Mary Meister's niece), Dani Sue Schroeder, Pauline Blum (Mary Meister's Aunt), Ruth Ann Nemet, Paul & Lois Kerscher (Amy Thompson's parents), Paul & Staci Baum, John Scheele & family (Char Smith's Brother in Law), Joyce Fargo, Alycen McKinney, Norm Hefty, Lincoln Kuhn, Ginger Quaderer (Diane Mueller's cousin), Makenzee Smith, Brock Howe, Jeannie U'Ren, Mike Olson, Carol Johnson

Our partner congregation IGLESIA EVANGÉLICA LUTERANA DIVINO SALVADOR (Divine Savior Lutheran Church) in Cataño, P.R

MEMORIALS

Jim Schmitz Brother

Lawrence Jenkins & Mary Thompson

John Anderson

Jo Ann Six

Hazel Rue Maloney

Jo Ann Six

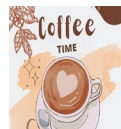
Dorothy Schwarz

Ann & Phil Dettwiler

Rinde Bliskey

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

ELC 'COFFEE TIME' 9:30 - 11 am - Join us for Coffee Time on the first Wednesday of each month in Fellowship Hall. Stop by for coffee and conversation on **July 1, Aug 5, Sept 2.**



CHURCH COUNCIL will meet on **Monday, July 13th & Monday, August 10th at 6 pm** in the Matthew room.

ELC SEWING GROUP The Sewing group meets Thursday for 9:00 a.m. to Noon in Fellowship Hall. High School students can earn Silver Cord hours.

BABY CAP MAKERS. We'll take a break for the summer and resume our meetings in late August. ruthheinecke@gmail.com or 608-444-4949.

MOUNT HOREB FARMER'S MARKET Thursdays, 3-6:30 pm on the ELC front lawn.

SARAH CIRCLE. We will assist with assembling Baby Kits for Lutheran World Relief on **Wednesday, August 12th at 9:30 am.**

There is no scheduled Bible study meeting for June, July or August. We plan to be back in session for monthly third **Tuesday meetings on September 15th at 7 pm.** Watch the next newsletter and your emails for other summer outings."-Connie

BLOOD DRIVE Friday, August 28th, 12:30-5:30pm @ ELC

July Book Discussion

Please join us as we discuss another book on **Sunday July 12th** after the worship service. The book of the month is **"Theo of Golden"** by **Allen Levi**. This is said to be a story of giving and receiving, of seeing and being seen, an unforgettable novel about the power of generosity, the importance of connection, and the quiet miracles that happen when we choose kindness and wonder.

All are welcome, even if you've read part or none of the book.



MEMBERSHIP NEWS Cont.

*The Church Office will be closed
Friday, July 3rd in observance of the
Independence Day Holiday Weekend*

*Nancy will be on vacation July 16th – July 26th.
Emails and phones will be monitored*



STEEPLE ECHOES ARTICLES DUE BY Noon on Thursday, August 20th
for the **SEPTEMBER** issue of the newsletter.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED on *Tuesday, August 25th at 9am* to assemble the newsletter. *Newcomers are welcome.* The assembly process usually takes about 2 hours. Please, come and enjoy the fellowship!



VOLUNTEER NEEDED TO SEND EMAILS - We are very thankful for Athena Eggers dedication of helping to send out our weekly church emails on Fridays. We are looking for someone to give Athena a break beginning in September and for most of the next school year. It is a great way to know what is going on at ELC. Contact Nancy or Brenda, if you are interested.



BLOOD DRIVE RESULTS –

Donors Check in	42
Total Blood Products	38
Red blood unit	32
Power red units	6

Allow me to personally thank you for your service. Your blood drive means more life, more love, more memories for the most vulnerable patients in our community—those suffering unexpected trauma and chronic illness every day. It was a pleasure to partner with you and we’re so happy to have you in our American Red Cross family.

Since donation is the only source of lifesaving blood for patients, we hope you’ll enjoy the pride of your efforts and join us again. The need for blood is ongoing and we can’t sustain patients in need without partners like you.

Thank you for all that you put into making your blood drive a success!

Diane Nichols
Donor Recruitment Account Manager
American Red Cross Blood Services

Summer Invitations:

Finding God in Everyday Moments



Summer often brings a change of pace. School schedules pause, vacations begin, gardens grow, and evenings stretch a little longer. While routines may change, God's presence does not. This summer, consider taking time to notice and enjoy the gifts God places all around us.

Try any of these simple invitations:

- Watch a sunrise or sunset and thank God for the beauty of creation.
- Read a favorite Bible story or Psalm while sitting outside.
- Take a walk and notice five things that remind you of God's goodness.
- Share a meal with family, friends, or neighbors and give thanks before eating.
- Plant flowers, tend a garden, or simply enjoy what God is growing.
- Listen to music that lifts your spirit and sing along.
- Spend a few minutes under the stars and remember God's promise to Abraham that his descendants would be as numerous as the stars.
- Take a picture of something beautiful and share where you see God at work.
- Perform a quiet act of kindness for someone without expecting anything in return.
- End each day with this simple question:
"Where did I notice God today?"

Wherever summer takes you, stop and "enjoy the power and the beauty of the day" – quote by Dr. Warren Wilson



Footsteps with God

Have you ever walked along the shore and noticed footprints in the sand? The poem *Footprints in the Sand* reminds us that God is always with us.

Unscramble each word and write it inside the footprints to see what Psalm 119:133 (NIV) says about our steps. (Hint: the bold letters show the first letter of each word.)



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rvoe



em.

Psalm 119:133 (NIV)

Answer: "Direct my footsteps according to your word; let no sin rule over me."

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS SCHEDULE JULY

	JULY 4th& 5th	JULY 11th & 12th	JULY 18th & 19th	JULY 25th & 26th
ACOLYTES	Sunday Gabe Sadler Parker Woolard	Sunday Willie Wyse Jackson Corrigan	Sunday Maria Van Ooyen Ilana Hartenberger	Sunday Chelsea Sailor Maria Van Ooyen
COMM ASSIST	Sunday Kim Kelliher Diane Bartz Linda Wahlgren	No Communion	Sunday Available Available Available	No Communion
READERS	Saturday No Worship Service Sunday Amy Sinner	Saturday Kate Hook Sunday Diane Bartz	Saturday Ann Baumgartner Sunday Available	Saturday Bonny Kellogg Sunday Available
USHERS	Sunday Carol & John Nielsen	Sunday Betsy Baguhn Mary Gullickson- Krantz	Sunday John Rosenbaum Matt Anderson	Sunday Jim Cook Jody Morey
ALTAR GUILD	July.-. Polly Field, Dawn Haag, Mary Knudson, DiAnne Stamn			
CNCL DUTIES	July – Kim Kelliher			



PLEASE BRING YOUR USED INK CARTRIDGES TO THE CHURCH OFFICE! Betsy Baguhn does a fabulous job of turning them in for ELC credit. This is a great way to help offset the cost of printing our bulletin and newsletter.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS SCHEDULE AUGUST

	AUGUST 1st & 2nd	AUGUST 8th & 9th	AUGUST 15th & 16th	AUGUST 22nd & 23rd	AUGUST 29th & 30th
ACOLYTES	Sunday Leah Zelle Natalie Hogseth	Sunday Hudson Kahl Oliver Kahl	Sunday John Henry Lee Hannah Schulenberg	Sunday Taylor Symons Ellie Woolard	Sunday Sarah Zelle Leah Aeschlimann
COMM ASSIST	Sunday Available Available Available	No Communion	Sunday Available Available Available	No Communion	No Communion
READERS	Saturday Available Sunday Amy Sinner	Saturday Bonnie Kellogg Sunday Available	Saturday Available Sunday Available	Saturday Ann Baumgartner Sunday Ben Brothers	Saturday Available. Sunday Available
USHERS	Sunday Mary & Wayne Knudson	Sunday Doug Nesheim Gerald Stamm	Sunday Betsy Baguhn Jody Morey	Sunday John & Carol Nielsen	Sunday John Rosenbaum Matt Anderson
ALTAR GUILD	August – Kerstin Edwards, Mary Lokken, Teresa Schult, Caylen Kahl, Diane Pladziewicz				
CNCL DUTIES	August – Barb Underwood				

WEEKLY EMAIL SIGN UP -Do you receive our weekly church updates and digital newsletters? At ELC of Mt Horeb, we are able to share important information to everyone quickly by email. If you aren't receiving our emails, we encourage you to sign up through our website. Go to elcmthoreb.org and click on the Email Signup image on the top right, add your name, email and phone number, then SUBMIT. We want to include everyone.



JULY BIRTHDAYS

1	Connie Curran	11	Gary Hellenbrand	22	Teresa Schult
	Ryan High		Adam Knudson		Bowen Wells
	Heather Johnson		Madeline Hodgson		
			Marilyn Wilson	23	Chris Underwood
2	Aiden Aeschlimann				Dan Van Galen
	Diane Pladziewicz	12	Ruth Heinecke		Betty Zimpel
	Diana Rothamer		Gabriel Kroll		
				24	Jody Chellevoid
3	Abbey Brummer	13	Brandon Anderson		Ellen Cook
	Lynn Festge		Kelly Hurda		Ryan Gaulke
	Todd Schroeder		Teri Kroll		
			Evan Kroll	25	Robert Davis, Jr.
4	Noah High				Michael Erickson
	Sonya Tetzlaff	14	Dalton Corrigan		Colby Johanning
			Hanna Stensby		Joseph Kroll
6	Eric Albrecht		Johnnie Denton		
	Diane Bartz			26	Julia Olson
	Elisabeth Hedges	15	Ron Fargo		Melanie Siltala
	Charlie Kahl		Leo Helwig		James Williams
	Riley Mortvedt				
	Kevin Sadowski	16	Diane Dangerfield		
	Blake Truman		Brenda Schmidt	27	Neil Densmore
	Nora Wienkes				Kaylen Hastings
		17	Mara Parks		Stacy Schloesser
7	Rita Hefty		Karl Zelle		Anne Woolard
	Eisleigh Skibba				
	Kirk Wienkes	18	Catherine Stange	28	Gary Doty
			Megan Van Orsdel		Vanessa Rameker
8	Hayden Anderson				
	Leah Mason	19	Kaden Stapelmann	29	Daniel Vogt
	Kevin Schneider		James Woolard		
	Ellen Walton		Ann Wyss	30	Justin Green
9	Dianne Hirsch	21	Dennis Johnson	31	Larry Kaletka
	David Losenegger		Jeremy Kahl		Mary Stamm
	Abby Nesheim		Nicole Lichte		Michelle Stange



August

BIRTHDAYS

1	Dave Baumgartner	9	Andy Kellesvig	20	Alex Mortvedt
	Kambri Eggers		Blake Stamn		
	Isla Vondra			21	Betsy Baguhn
	Matilda Woolard	11	Bailey Nesheim		Keli Syse
			Peggy Ziebarth		
				24	Paul Baum
3	Carol Losenegger	13	Vincent Syse		Gary Hamburg
4	Anne Iverson	15	Nicole Kahl	25	Shawn Cannon
	Sandra Roth		Brycen Kelliher		Avery Lutz
	Paula Van Ooyen				
		16	Shannon Hadac	26	Abby Marty
			Jenny Mason		Emma Sutter
6	Brittany Kahl		Natalie O'Connell		
	Claire Hurda		Anna Schloesser	27	Carter Ackerman
	Mark Mostrom		Lindsey Schulenberg		Calina Ackerman
	Alexander Olson		Savanna Smith		Geoff Johnson
					Sam Martin
7	Olivia Cook	17	Diane Fink		Zoe Thompson
	Terry Fischer		Kim Fisher		
	Courtney Fisher		Faye Lorenz	30	Hans Larson
	Sandy Glaeve		Brittany Walton		
				31	Conrad Richer
		18	Rebekah Baum		
8	Travis Klassy		Kody Haag		
	Emerson Kelssig		Nancy Shaker-Marty		
	Ruth Ann Nemet		Pastor Karen Hofstad		
	Cecilia Rosborough				
	Katie Zelle	19	Stephen Grundahl		
			Cole McKay		

If we've missed you or a member of your family, or if we've listed your birthday incorrectly, please contact the church office.



315 East Main St.
Mount Horeb, WI 53572

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members & friends of the congregation.

Pastor Karen Hofstad

Ministers: All Members of the Church

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