



# St. John Messenger

St. John Lutheran Church  
V. 28, No. 6

168 Mound St.

Berlin, WI 54923  
July, 2023

It's already July and you know what that means. Ok, other than hot steamy weather, I am talking about good old fashioned July 4th celebrations filled with barbecuing, lots of other homemade goodies, and time with friends and family. Add in a generous dose of July heat and humidity, some fireworks, and you have yourself a real Independence Day party. Our July 4th festivities are all about independence. Our yearly celebration reminds us of the intriguing story of our relatively young nation. The founding fathers declared independence from the countries that settled the American colonies so that those who would live in the new country would be free to live as they desired.

The way we live and celebrate today, a short 247 years later is deeply shaped and defined by their choices. We celebrate our freedom and independence knowing that there was much sacrifice and great cost in creating the nation in which we live. Over and over our nation's story reminds us that freedom does not come without costs, and the costs were, are and will always be many and great. Our celebration calls us to thank all that have served and sacrificed for the causes of freedom and independence. Freedom does not come without cost.

There is another familiar, yet often forgotten story that reminds us of the cost of freedom... the story of Jesus Christ.

Every week in worship we gather around the cross of Jesus Christ and celebrate God's victory over death. This is only possible because Christ choose to make the ultimate sacrifice for the sake all people. In being obedient to God's will and facing a most humiliating death on the cross, Jesus revealed God's power over death and the grave. In Christ's death and resurrection we are freed from the power of sin and death and are freed for new life and service in God's Kingdom, living in the promise of eternal life through faith.

End of the story? Not quite. As followers of Christ we are sent into the world to share the Gospel of Jesus with others. We are sent into the world to serve as Christ came to serve us. Yet we can only do this through Jesus' promise of the Holy Spirit who is present with us. That is the same Spirit that gives us peace during the storms of our life. That is the same Spirit that reveals God's will for our lives. In embracing God's desire, each of us is called to sacrifice of ourselves for the sake of God's Kingdom in the world. Embracing God's will is not without cost or challenge but the joys and freedoms of God's Kingdom are greater than any freedom of this world. Have a blessed 4<sup>th</sup> of July in Jesus' name!

*Pastor Munding*



## +In Our Prayers

Karen Rowen  
Harry Nimmer  
Vern Lichtenberg  
Sandy Gregor  
Duane Schmudlach  
Joan Parsons  
Brenda Podoll  
Sylvia Wells  
Cathy Steinke  
Amanda Martin

The Family of Nicole Schumacher  
Pastor Rogness and Family as they  
consider a Call to St. John

Laurie Siegmund  
Debra Schubert

Our Shut-In and Homebound members



**June 29, 2023**

Stanley Scheps  
Son of Gabrielle and Samuel Scheps  
Grandson of Stan and Josie Hartzke



July 5, 1986 - James & Mary Lou Yerk  
July 8, 2013 - Brad & Aimee Vergin  
July 13, 1996 - Josh & Amy Dament  
July 17, 2021 - Richard & Bridget Block  
July 18, 1981 - Mark & Bonnie Schumacher  
July 21, 2018 - Steven & Melanie Brooks  
July 22, 1984 - Gary & Mary Kracht  
July 22, 2017 - Ryan & Crystal Stauske  
July 28, 1979 - Jeff & Cathy Herbst  
July 30, 1994 - Doug & Kathy Wiese  
July 31, 1971 - Lawrence & Sandra Smoody



**New Members**

Brian and Kaye Wheeler

Joyce Miller

Linda Hertzberg



Make a joyful noise  
unto God, all ye lands.

Psalm 66:1, KJV



## **Church Picnic**

**Sunday, July 9th**

**At Riverside Park**

**North Shelter House**

**10:30 am church service**

**Picnic to follow**

*Bring a dish to pass.*

*Bring you own lawn chairs  
if you'd like*

**See you there!!**

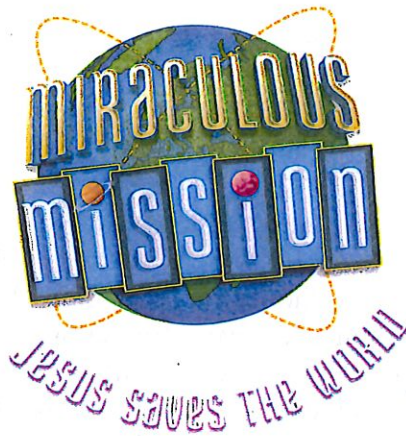
*Plates, napkins &  
silverware provided,  
along with  
beverages*



Thank You to all who sent cards, called, or in some way helped me celebrate my 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. I am so blessed to have a kind and loving church family. Your kind and thoughtful words and deeds are very much appreciated.

Thank You for your prayers.  
May God continue to bless you all.

June Richter



**Come join us Saturday, July 22<sup>nd</sup>  
for Vacation Bible School!**

**VBS will run from 9 AM to 3 PM**

**All kids age 3 to grade 6 are  
invited.**

**Sign up sheet is in the church  
narthex!**

**We still need some  
volunteers!**

**There is a sign-up for volunteers  
in the Narthex also.**

**Please see Pastor, Kelli,  
or Kayla Gilmour with questions.**



### **BREWERS POST GAME**

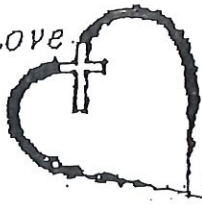


While the Brewers couldn't provide us with a win, we enjoyed the game, fellowship and good time on

the recent bus trip. Special Thanks to Josh Dament and Jerrod Lueck for assisting our driver with a mechanical issue!



Divine Love



Human Care

We know that when God answers prayer, sometimes the answer is "Wait." And, although it is true that many in the Bible died not "having received the promise," we still cling to the expectation that an answer will someday arrive in our "spiritual" mailbox. We certainly hope it will not take as long as some mail we've heard about. Here's an example:

A postcard mailed in 1940 and delivered one week in 2013 gives new meaning to the phrase "snail mail," but also to the post office promise that the mail- come wind, rain or snow- must get through - eventually.

The card, addressed to Florence Marion, was finally delivered to her great-grandson, Alan Marion, 74 years late. Records show the postcard was mailed with a one cent stamp from Portland, Oregon, on February 20, 1940. The card arrived at the Butte Falls, Oregon, post office July 2013, and was uncovered by Sunny Bryant, a new USPS employee.

"I was overwhelmed with the job at that point, so to come across the postcard was just a shock," said Bryant. "My first response was, 'What am I supposed to do with this?'"

Bryant held onto the letter until later that summer when she overheard a member of the Rogue Valley Genealogical Society, Charleen Brown, discussing her work at the post office. Sunny Bryant decided to approach Brown, and showed her the relic.

While it is true that sometimes we must wait for answers to prayer, this applies only to certain types of prayers, like intercessory prayers, which are time and content specific.

The miracle is that God answers our prayers before we ask and even as we are asking. Think of all the good things that happen to us and our loved ones that we take for granted. Think of all the positive blessings we receive in life. Why, we can scarcely keep track.

I call these prayer blessings. God knows what we need and saves us the trouble of asking!

*Prayer: O God, thank you for listening to me in our conversations together, and for speaking to me as well. After all, this is what prayer really is - a good conversation. Amen.*



## FAREWELL RECEPTION FOR PASTOR MUNDINGER

### SUNDAY, JULY 30

Well.....here it is already, we have to bid farewell to Pastor and Kelli. We thank them for the five wonderful years they have served and sheparded us.

There will be the usual 9am worship service that morning with a retirement reception for them after in the church lower level.

At 11am there will be a potluck meal. We ask that everyone bring a dish to pass. Beverages, plates, etc. will be furnished.

So, mark your calendars and plan to attend!





# From St John Lutheran School



July is the month we celebrate our nation's birthday. God has blessed us with a beautiful country, and we need to take care of the gift God has given us and pray for those that are entrusted to run it. Happy Independence Day!

We are continually faced with challenges as of late. With gender confusion, race relations, and foreign relations taking center stage in our society we need to keep God at the center of all that we do. We cannot push Him aside as so many would have us do. God has always taken care of us, and He will continue to do so. We need to share His news with a world that needs to hear it and not remain silent.

We have been very busy at school preparing for next year and cannot believe that July is here already. How are we midway through summer?

Book orders and supplies have been ordered and are coming in to be sorted and stocked.

The floors throughout the building are being scrubbed, buffed, and sealed. The old computer lab is well on its way to becoming the new third and fourth grade room. It has received a new coat of paint, new ceiling tiles, and new flooring. The A/C units are installed in the classrooms and a huge plumbing upgrade in the upstairs bathroom should be underway by the time you are reading this. Resurfacing the parking lot is

also on the list of things to do this summer. There are also numerous other projects that the trustees have planned for this summer to keep up our building. We thank the dedicated volunteers for all their hard work thus far and yet to come.

The Board of Education is continuing to work on policy updates to keep our school safe and operating at its full potential.

You will see new faces around the school this summer as Mrs. Janelle Wenzel and Mrs. Rachel Berry get settled into their classrooms. We wish Mrs. Cargin all the best in her future endeavors and we thank her for her 2 years of service at our school.

The church picnic is scheduled for July 9<sup>th</sup> at Riverside Park at the North Shelter House. The church service is at 10:30am and the picnic will follow the service. Bring a dish to pass and your own lawn chairs if you'd like.

Our second lemonade stand to help offset the cost of buses for field trips for our students will be Friday, July 14<sup>th</sup> from 10:30 until 1:30. We hope to see you there.

That is all for this month. Enjoy celebrating the Fourth of July with family and friends. God bless you, and God bless the USA.

In service to Christ,

*Miss Melissa Linde*



## **Volunteers Needed for the Screens for Church.**



I think it's safe to say most of us have come to enjoy the screens on Sunday morning. It's been a valuable part of our ministry to our homebound members. Until recently, Pastor Mundinger has been the go-to person when it came to putting the screen service together. Cathy has now taken over that responsibility using Power Point.

However there are still some responsibilities that will need to be addressed before Pastor Mundinger retires.

1. We will need people willing to "click" (or advance the slides) during the service. This is not a hard job, but we need help on Thursday and Sunday if we want the screens to continue. Please note that the elders will have the screens and projectors already on and ready to go.
2. We need people trained to "run" the video recording during church (could be Thursday or Sunday). The video then needs to be uploaded to Vimeo (again, not hard, but someone has to do it! The elders will also have the camera up and ready to record.
3. Finally, we need people trained to upload the video from Vimeo to You Tube and Facebook. This is easy as well when trained.)

There will be sign-up sheets available for all of these volunteer opportunities. And please note, you don't need to be a certain age to do any of these tasks. In fact, I'm guessing some of our young people are pretty savvy when it comes to this tech stuff! Prayer fully consider how you can help in this important ministry!





Our May 16, 2023 meeting was brought to order by Amy Radliff with the Altar Guild prayer. Both the secretary's and treasurer's reports were read and approved.

Under old business we are to keep the palm plant on the altar all summer.

New business was to inform us that the Cluppert and Jones grave will be decorated by Memorial Day. Deb Johanknecht has been making more baptismal napkins. We thank her for her talents. We will be cleaning the church on Friday June 23 at 9 am. Anyone who would like to help out is welcome. Many hands make little work.

A discussion about our banners took place. We reviewed them after the meeting. We have several new ones.

The monthly committee asked to be notified by Amy when funerals occur so they can prepare for the funeral beforehand. Amy will email them in event of a funeral.

Our stock of wafers and wine is good for now.

Our church picnic will be on July 9 at the park as usual.

September potluck will be on September 19 with Sara Chier, Betty Dewhurst, and Judy Mehn as hostesses

We adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by  
Judy Mehn

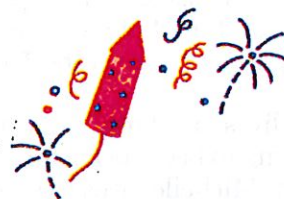


We again want to thank Karen Vergin-Krause for making the stoles for the confirmands, they looked awesome.

Mark your calendars, the LWML South Wisconsin District Fall Retreat will be September 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> in Wisconsin Dells. Please see the page flyer in the newsletter and talk to a LWML member or there will also be registration forms in the card room if you would like to attend.

LWML Sunday will be Sunday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, and our guest pastor will be Pastor Meader from the district office.

We take off the months of July and August so our next meeting will be Monday, September 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:30. We are going to be starting a new Bible study and we would love to have you join us. We meet in the church conference room or library depending on if other meetings are occurring.



## MEMORIALS

### IN MEMORY OF JOHN KUJAWA

For General Fund

From Don & Donna Dretske.....\$50.00

### IN MEMORY OF GERALD KRAUSE

For General Fund

From Pastor Bob & Carol Busse  
.....\$25.00

From Carol Gelhar.....\$20.00

For Human Care

From Russ & Robin Henriksen  
.....\$25.00

From Delbert & Barbara Krause  
.....\$25.00



# LWML South Wisconsin District Fall Retreat



## September 29 & 30, 2023

Clarion Hotel and Suites  
(formerly Wintergreen)

60 Gasser Road

Wisconsin Dells, WI 53965

*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ ...  
who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to  
comfort those who are in any affliction (2 Corinthians 1: 3-4).*



### Retreat Speaker: Michelle Diercks

Michelle Diercks is a speaker, Podcast host, Bible teacher, and Women's Ministry Retreat Leader. She is the author of *Promised Rest: Finding Peace in God's Presence*.

Michelle specializes in helping women find peace in God's promises, even through the uncertainties of life. And as the host of the *Peace in His Presence* Podcast, she's been recognized as one of the Top 50 Mom Podcasters by Podcast Magazine, three years in a row.

She lives on a farm in Eastern Iowa with her husband and they have two sons who are studying to become Pastors. She loves the outdoors, reading, and spending time with her family. Michelle loves to savor deep and meaningful conversations with friends and loved ones.

### Gifts from the Heart recipients:

Trinity Lutheran Wisconsin Dells -Blessing Box:

- Nonperishable food items
- Paper goods
- Baby items
- Hygiene items

Our Savior Lutheran Baraboo - Our Savior's Kids (Daycare):

- Winter hats/mittens and socks for kids 18 months to 5 years
- Small religious story books/coloring books for up to 5 years old
- Construction paper
- Kid friendly paint brushes
- Watercolor paint sets
- Art smocks for toddler and preschool age

**Offering Recipient:**  $\frac{3}{4}$  LLC Comfort Dog Program;  $\frac{1}{4}$  Female Church Workers Scholarship Fund

**Registration \$60 per person (includes lunch)**

**More information available at [www.lwml-swd.org](http://www.lwml-swd.org)**





Josepha Hartzke	7/01	Nathaniel Nighbor	7/18
Carol Kosterman	7/01	Cavin Oppor	7/18
Gloria Rodensal	7/01	Nancy Albright	7/19
Allison Wendt	7/01	Kathy Wiese	7/20
Phillip Marschall	7/05	Vincent Rowen	7/22
Brenna Mosier	7/05	Maren Krause	7/24
Belva Rux	7/05	Ryan Wendt	7/24
Dean Sales	7/05	Sara Chier	7/25
Sydney Radke	7/06	Cheryl Hoffman	7/25
Jennifer Billington	7/06	Mia Schubert	7/25
Renee Van Ornum	7/06	Robert Young	7/25
Brenda Achterberg	7/07	Ricki Schubert	7/26
Luke Frauenhoff	7/07	Eileen Boehlke	7/27
Jane Mittelstaedt	7/07	Russ Henriksen	7/28
Melissa Linse	7/08	Pat Metzler	7/28
Pat Siegmund	7/08	Kathleen Nechkash	7/29
Clinton Drover	7/09	Presley Wollert	7/31
Perriann Fredrick	7/09		
Tara Schubert	7/09		
Dennis Munro	7/10		
Jennifer Wollert	7/12		
Ken Mittelstaedt	7/14		
Bonnie Simson	7/14		
Connie Simson	7/14		
Sonia Wasniak-Bohn	7/14		
Gerald Dutcher	7/15		
Carol Gelhar	7/15		
Anastasia Hansen	7/16		
Kathy Anderson-Kemnitz	7/17		
Gary Boehlke	7/17		



**GOD**  
**BLESS**  
**AMERICA**





## Special Voters Meeting Call Meeting

**June 18, 2023**

Meeting was called to order at 10:45 am by Chairman Rich Wallner. Pastor Bryan Fritsch, SWD Circuit Visitor opened with prayer. 50 voting members were present.

New Voting Members: Gloria Rodensal and Amy Vetrone. Motion by Kevin Koch to approve new voting members. Second by Rebecca Mosier. Motion approved.

Purpose of the meeting to present nominations for call of our next pastor. Sixteen candidates were provided by the district office and by congregational members combined. Interviews were held for two of the candidates. Motion by Mike Schrader for the recommendation from the Call Committee. Second by Bob Young. Motion was approved. Kevin Koch spoke on behalf of the committee with the recommendation of Pastor Noah Rogness

Motion by Josh Dament to extend a call to Pastor Noah Rogness. Second by Rebecca Mosier. A vote was taken with the majority in favor, one opposed. Motion by Bob Young to extend a call to Pastor Noah Rogness by unanimous vote. Second by Mike Schrader. Motion approved by majority with one opposed.

Pastor Fritsch made the call to Pastor Rogness. Pastor Rogness will consider the call. Formal documentation will be sent to him digitally, expressed no need to mail documents.

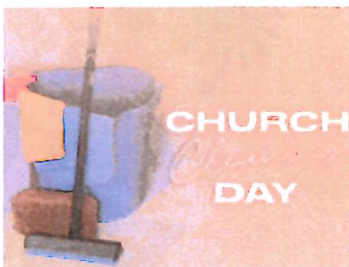
Rich Wallner presented a salary proposal for 95% of district scale in the amount of \$79,744. Included is 100% benefit coverage, same as previous. Motion by Jackie Lewis to accept the wage and benefits as described. Second by Bill Wissell. Motion approved.

A no-interest housing loan up to \$20,000 will be available. Moving expenses up to \$12,000, negotiable based on actual cost considerations. Motion by Melissa Linse to approve housing loan and moving expenses as presented. Second by Rebecca Mosier. Motion approved.

Motion by Keith Kraus to adjourn. Second by Jackie Lewis.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 am. Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

*Respectfully submitted, Amy Radliff, Secretary*



Thank you to those who were able to help the Altar Guild with the deep cleaning of the church. You are appreciated.



## St. John Lutheran Church Council Meeting

Date: June 21, 2023

The June meeting was called to order at 6 pm by Rich Wallner. Pastor Mundinger opened with prayer.

Present: Bob Radliff, Amy Radliff, Debra Thiel, Kevin Koch, Keith Krause, Melissa Linse, Pastor Mundinger and Rich Wallner.

Absent: Adam Ewald

### Secretary's Report by Amy Radliff

Motion Koch/B Radliff to accept the May minutes. Motion approved.

### Financial Secretary's Report by Bob Radliff

	<u>May 2023</u>	<u>May 2022</u>
General Fund	\$105,981.99	\$102,023.35
Children's Fund	\$ 5,415.94	\$ 18,208.28
Elderly Fund	\$ .00	\$ .00
Memorials	\$ .00	\$ 902.40

Attendance	233 per week	192 per week
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- General fund income includes; transfer of 2021 HRA, School Choice and PTL donation

Motion by A Radliff/Krause to accept the Financial Secretary's report. Motion approved.

### Treasurer's Report by Debra Thiel

#### Square Account May 2023:

Beginning Balance:	\$ 1.76	Income:	\$100.30
Expenses:	\$ .00	Ending Balance:	\$102.06

#### Hot Lunch Account May 2023:

Beginning Balance:	\$12,489.77	Income:	\$66,343.12
Expenses:	\$66,463.28	Ending Balance:	\$12,369.61

#### Elderly Fund May 2023:

Beginning Balance:	\$7,702.28	Income:	\$ .00
Expenses:	\$ .00	Ending Balance:	\$7,702.28

#### Children's Fund May 2023:

Beginning Balance:	\$70,912.83	Income:	\$ 5,415.94
Expenses:	\$ 2,909.75	Ending Balance:	\$73,419.02

Motion by B Radliff/Krause to accept Treasurer's report. Motion approved.

### Board of Trustees Report by Keith Krause

- Wood Chops at school have been spread in the playground area
- Flooring for new classroom has been delivered, scheduled to be installed week of June 26.
- Waxing of school floors will begin early July.
- Quinn Plumbing will be on site in July to complete plumbing issues
- Other Summer maintenance and updates will take place before the start of the school year

Motion by A Radliff/Koch to accept Trustees report. Motion approved.

### Board of Elders Report & Pastor's Report by Rich Wallner

#### Official Acts:

Baptism – Brian Wheeler – adult Baptism.

Baptism (not added to the church roll) – Layla Toddish, daughter of Marleigh McQuown and Garry Toddish

Transfer In– Dean Miller, from St. Paul Lutheran, Butternut, WI.

Transfer Out – David and Heidi Beardsley, with children Wyatt, Elijah and Adeline, to St. James, Shawano, WI. Thomas and Elizabeth Butterbrodt, to Luther Memorial, River Falls, WI.



Junior Confirmation Class – Sawyer Hess, Payton Herbst, Nathan Mosier, Makenzie Fox, Colin Dalton.  
Added to Roll – AJ Wood, grandson of Tammy Wood.  
Weddings – Paul Maas and Karen Jari  
Affirmation of Holy Marriage – Tyler and Emily Schubert  
Deaths – Gerald Krause.  
Non-Member Funeral – Gordy Klassa

**Communicant Members 481**

**Baptized Members 569**

**Church Families 299**

Motion by B Radliff/Krause to accept Elder's report. Motion approved.

### **Board of Education Report by Kevin Koch**

- Year end reports completed
- Policy updates made for parents, students and faculty
- School calendar for 2023-2024 approved.
- Review of substitute teacher pay
- Updates completed for Accreditation Status.
- School Choice per student increase of \$700 beginning at the start of next school year.
- Anonymous donation of \$50,000 was received for the school

Motion by Thiel/A Radliff to accept the Board of Education report. Motion approved.

### **Old Business:**

- Special Call meeting held for purpose of new pastor. We continue to pray for Pastor Noah Rogness as he considers the call.

### **New Business:**

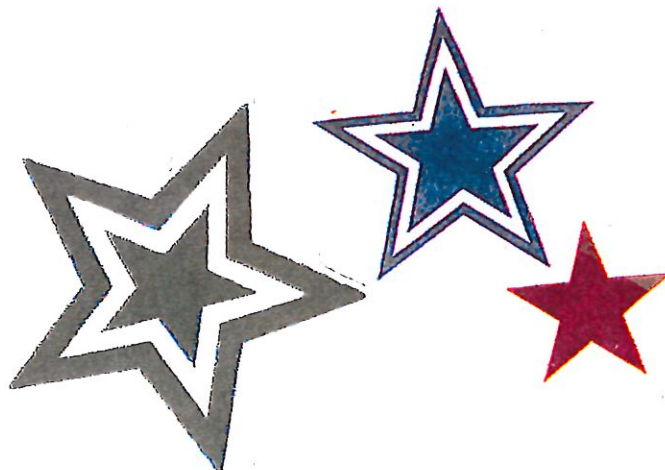
- Flowers have been placed on the Clupper and Jones grave sites in honor of their past donations..

**Meetings next month:** Trustees – Monday July 10th – 6:30 pm. Board of Education – Monday, July 10th - 6pm.  
Elders – Tuesday July 11th – 6pm. Council – Wednesday July 19th – 6pm.  
Quarterly Voters Meeting – Sunday, August 13th

Motion by Linse/Koch to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 6:30 pm. Meeting closed with The Lord's Prayer

*Respectfully submitted,  
Amy Radliff, Secretary*

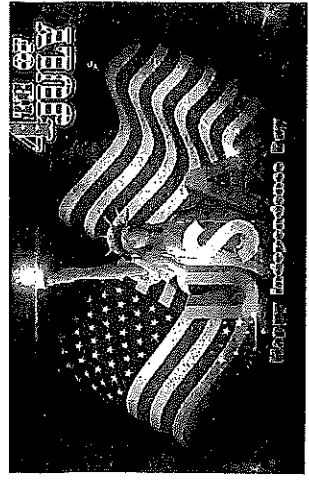
*\*\*Note: These minutes have not yet been reviewed by the Council and are subject to revision and correction at the next meeting.*







# July 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 9:00 Worship/HC	3	4	5	6 6:30 Worship/HC	7	8
9 CHURCH PICNIC Riverside Park Worship at 10:30 am PICNIC after	10 6 pm Board of Ed. 6:30 Trustee Mtg.	11 6:00 Bd. of Elders	12	13 6:30 Worship/HC	14	15
16 9:00 Worship/HC	17	18	19 6 pm Council Mtg.	20 6:30 Worship/HC	21	22 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 9 am—3 pm
23 9:00 Worship/HC	24	25	26	27 6:30 Worship/HC	28	29
30 9:00 Worship/HC 11:00 am Farewell Dinner for Pastor Mundinger	31					



