



## St. Paul News

St. Paul Lutheran Church  
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[www.stpauliq.org](http://www.stpauliq.org)

2026

JULY

### 50 Years of Freedom, To God be Glory

By Pastor Neil Wehmas

In July of 1776, the second Continental congress gathered to sign a document which was authored by Thomas Jefferson. The document we know as “The Declaration of Independence”. This document led to the formation of these United States of America. It led to the formation of the United States Constitution.

In this constitution we find these precious words: “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof...”. It is there that we find the freedom of religion.

What a treasure this freedom has been for Christians in the United States. Every year, we have over 100 worship services within the walls of St. Paul Lutheran Church. Yet, never do we ever fear that we would be arrested or face death for this worship. I can go to Cenex or Casey’s while wearing a cross necklace and a hat that says, “Jesus is King”. I can attend sporting events at a public school, while wearing a clerical collar and crucifix around my neck.

Yet, never once do I fear being arrested or shot at. Why? It began with this basic ideal of the freedom to freely exercise one’s faith. This promise has been fought for, protected, and defended by the United States Military for 250 years. For all of this we give thanks to God for this dear gift.

What is the appropriate reaction of Christians as we celebrate 250 years of freedom? First, we give thanks unto the most high God. Second, we give thanks for our military and our elected officials and all others who play a role in creating and defending our freedoms. Third, we pray for our nation. We pray for our military. We pray for our leaders.

Finally, and most importantly, we don’t take these freedoms for granted. We don’t neglect the freedoms. The US Constitution and US Military didn’t fight for your rights to NOT worship. Every human being alive has that freedom. Rather, you were given the freedom TO worship without the fear of persecution. So, go to church. Hear God’s word. Receive his sacraments in the blissful peace of these freedoms. Then as you go home, do not be silent about your God’s grace, rather speak of it to your neighbor.

This July 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> we will have a service that will in some ways acknowledge these gifts, but it will still not be our primary focus. Why? Fourth of July is reminder of our freedoms. However, it is also a reminder of the cruelty and tyranny of governments. It is a reminder of how many have died in conflict against tyranny. It is a reminder of our very broken world.

So, on Sunday, July 5<sup>th</sup> as we do every other Sunday, we look unto Jesus. Because in Jesus we find the greatest of freedoms. Freedom from even the idea of persecution. Freedom from death. Freedom from world where war exists. Freedom from our own wretchedness. Freedom from the enslavement of our own sin. In Jesus you have a freedom that surpasses all human understanding. Let us relish in that opportunity, in these days of religious freedom.

May we continue to relish in that gift of God, even when religious freedom is doubtful or gone. In God’s grace and glory, we rest and pray.

In Jesus’ Name, Pastor Neil



**THERE WILL BE NO SUNDAY MORNING FELLOWSHIP OR SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS until this fall**

**HYMN SING SUNDAY** so get your Hymn suggestions in the white box on the table in the Narthex

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**ASK THE PASTOR** – "Have questions to ask Pastor Wehmas? He will attempt to answer a few questions as part of the service. **Submit your questions in the white box in the Narthex.**



**VBS DONATIONS:** thank you to everyone who donated snacks & juice, or donated monetarily to purchase items for snack time.

**BIG THANK YOU** to Tracy Johnson, Shelbi Conover and Robyn Devitt for being our directors for VBS and organizing and setting up and tearing down for VBS. Dennis Clausen and Ashley Dose computer techs. To our volunteers for the week: Naomi Corrie, Haley Miesner,

Jenna Miller, Allyson Iversen,, Tracy Johnson, Janet Brinkman, Ann Sears, Robyn Devitt, Ashley Dose, Espe Hoffman, Evan Hoffman, Zach Johnson, Haley Johnson, Brynn Ernst, Avery Ernst, Myles Iversen, Gracelyn Miesner, Aubree Frank, Kaydee Frank, Bentlie Wilcox, Brianne Wilcox, Gemma Arbegast, Sophie Buns, Alayna Swanger, Stella Chesney, Jayden Schiernbeck, Karen Petersen Jacob Dannull, Kaye Volkman, Anna Van Sickler, we couldn't have done it without you, so **THANK YOU** for helping and spending your mornings with us this past week. Thank you to all the parents for bringing your kids!

**VBS OFFERING**, we collected during VBS \$536.05 !! Which Pastor Neil did have to shave because they surpassed the goal of \$250 and since they surpassed the goal of \$400, Jenna Miller and Espe Hoffman were chosen as a senior and an upcoming Confirmand to give Pastor Neil a pie in the face. Great job everyone on being so generous, as our VBS offering will go to Mission Central's Missionary Carol Halter, Missionary to Hong Kong.



**COMMUNITY BASKET DONATIONS FOR JULY: Condiments: ketchup, mustard, pickles, mayo, salt/pepper, puddings/jello, etc..** Place your donation in the shopping cart in the Narthex or the clear tote on coat rack by front door. **Any items are appreciated as well, as they can always use donations.** The Community Basket is open on Thursdays (except 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday), from 2:30-5:30PM **\*\*They can always use canned vegetables, canned fruits & canned soups. ESPECIALLY CEREAL. Also note: they can use outdated items that are within a year of expiration.**

**Mobile Food Pantry will be at Ida Grove Methodist Church, on Thursday, July 16 from 4:30-5:30PM .** Its helpful to bring a laundry basket or container for your food items.

The Methodist Church would appreciate the help of volunteers, especially any middle school or high school volunteers, please be to the Methodist church by 3:00PM



**2026 MONTHLY SCRIPTURE READING CALENDAR – JULY is on the Welcome Center for you to pick up. It is also included in this newsletter on the back of the monthly calendar also available on our Website under the Calendar tab. As well as our Facebook page.**

**LUTHERAN FAMILY SERVICE** is pleased to announce Lynnette Aschinger, clinical social worker, is back! Lynnette has therapy available here at St. Paul on Tuesdays, and she is also has offices in Storm Lake, Wall Lake and Carroll. Along with offering telehealth as well. To schedule an appointment call 712-276-9000 or email at [Laschinger@LutheranFamilyService.org](mailto:Laschinger@LutheranFamilyService.org) Business cards are available on the Welcome Center

### **MISSION CENTRAL EVENTS!**

- July 8, 2026 – Dr. David Preus – Romania and Eurasia – 1:00 pm
- July 8, 2026 – Andrew and Noel Schaff – Taiwan – 1:30 pm
- July 11, 2026 – Wasmund family – South Korea – 1:00 pm
- July 11, 2026 – Rev Shauen Trump – Africa – 1:30 pm
- July 11, 2026 – Jaimelynn (Tinkey)Flores and Rev Flores – Chile – 2:00 pm
- August 8, 2026 – Britt Odemba from Kenya – 1:00 pm
- August 15, 2026 – Rev. Brian and Deaconess Keah Payne – Tanzania 1:00 pm
- August 22, 2026 – Ashley Lehr – Puerto Rico – 1:00 pm

# CAMP OKOBOJI 2026

## Discipleship Programs

May 29-31	Kid's Kamp
June 4-7	Joy Camp 1
June 14-18	Cub Week 1
June 28-July 3	July 4 <sup>th</sup> Family Retreat
July 5-11	Jr High Week
July 9-12	Joy Camp 2
July 12-18	Cub Week 2
July 19-25	Youth Week
July 26-31	Family Retreat #1
August 2-7	Family Retreat #2

## Other Events

January 23-25...Family Ice Fishing Retreat  
May 1-2...Spring Volunteer Work Weekend  
June 10-13...Iowa West District LWML Convention  
June 20...Camp Okoboji Auxiliary Quilt Auction  
June 21-27...Minneboji Lutheran Camp  
May 24-September 6...Sunday Worship  
1st Sundays of the Month (May-October)...Brunch  
October 9-10...Fall Volunteer Work Weekend

For more information and to register, visit [campokoboji.org](http://campokoboji.org)



### **Stewardship Sentence:**

The Stewardship sentences are shared in helping to reinforce faithful, discipleship-centered stewardship is deeply encouraging. With the hope that they would serve as a simple tool to connect God's Word to the daily lives of His people—shaping hearts, strengthening faith, and guiding Christians in their walk as disciples of Christ, and also serves as a reminder of the shared mission we have in nurturing faithful stewards of God's gifts.

**Scripture:** "The word of God is living and active." — Hebrews 4:12

**Stewardship Sentence:** As God's Word works within us, we respond with faithful living and generous stewardship of all He entrusts to us.

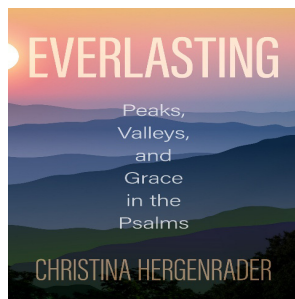
## SOME OF YOUR OPTIONS FOR BIBLE STUDIES

**WEDNESDAY EARLY MORNINGS BIBLE STUDY** meets at 7:00AM at Jimmy's

**WEDNESDAY MORNINGS BIBLE STUDY** will not meet until August 5

**NO SUNDAY MORNINGS BIBLE STUDY** until Fall

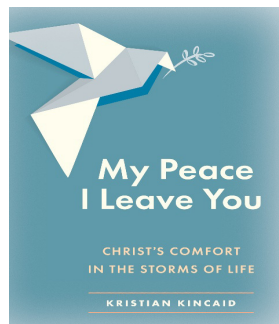
**WOMEN'S EVENING BIBLE STUDY** on 1<sup>ST</sup> AND 3<sup>RD</sup> Wednesdays on the month at 6:30PM \*\* however due to the upcoming holiday we meet July 8<sup>th</sup> (not the 1<sup>st</sup>) and meet in the fellowship hall. The evening study will be doing Everlasting, Peaks, Valleys & Grace in the Psalms



### ***Everlasting Peaks, Valleys and Grace in the Psalms by Christina Hergenrader***

Anxious. Worthy. Ashamed. Nostalgic. Lonely. Secure. This is just a handful of emotions we observe in the Psalms—and in our day-to-day lives, too. In this women's Bible study from beloved author Christina Hergenrader, you'll be guided through 25 psalms, digging into their genres, perplex emotions, glimpses of Jesus, and more. While in this life we experience mountaintop moments, deep valleys, and everything in between, we can rest in God's everlasting love and grace. Gather your friends and together you can read, feel, discuss, pray, and grow closer to the Lord.

**WOMEN'S DAYTIME BIBLE STUDY** is on the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays at 1:00PM in the Conference Room. We will meet on Thursday July 9 in the home of Mary Corbin and on July 16 at the church conference room they will start the book/ Bible study My Peace, I Leave You.



***My Peace I Leave You*** by Kristian Kincaid shows you Christ's everlasting love for you through 20 different struggles. Guilt. Personal difficulties. Doubt. Pride. Worry. Whether or not you've gone through or felt each of them, there's certainly one that you've personally struggled with. Each chapter ends with a short prayer and Bible verse to help you reflect on the reading and points back to Christ helping you in daily life.

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## LWML LADIES BIBLE STUDY JULY

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## Lutheran Women *in Mission*

**RUTH (2)** will meet on **July 2** at noon at Jimmy's and will have Bible study following at 1:00PM at the church in the Old Conference Room. Ellen will be BSL. We had 9 present and 1 guest at our June meeting.

**LOIS (3)** will meet on **July 2** in the downstairs Conference Room at 1:30PM. Gloria will be hostess and Nancy will be BSL. We had a moving party for Linda Paulsen. We will miss her dearly.

**EUNICE (10)** will meet on **Wednesday, July 1** at Willowdale Assisted Living, Battle Creek at 2:00PM. Shar will be hostess and Corliss will be BSL. We had 5 present for our June meeting.

**JOHANNA(12)** will meet **July 2 at 7:00PM**, at Golden Horizons. Cecile will be hostess and Ann will be BSL. We had 6 at our June meeting.

**LWML BIBLE STUDY LEADER'S MEETING** we will not meet in July

**LWML EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING** is being reschedule and we will let you know when we have a date for our meeting.

**THE LARGE LWML MITE BOX that is on the table in the narthex will be highlighted and along with the Mission Mite of the month, on the second Sunday of each month. For July: Reaching God's Children in Haiti Trinity HOPE, Haiti | \$61,782** Trinity HOPE began working with Lutheran schools in Haiti in 1999. Originally feeding 42 children in one school, the ministry now feeds 65,000 children, teachers, and cooks in over 265 Christian schools across the country. Haiti is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere where more than 4.7 million people suffer from acute hunger. The children are innocent victims of gang violence, inflation, cultural insecurity, lack of jobs for parents, and the worship of Satan through the Voodoo religion. Eleven of the 36 feeding program directors are Lutheran pastors who visit their schools twice a month to teach lessons from God's Word. Before each meal a prayer is said, and children profess their faith in Jesus. The children receive the light, love, and warmth of knowing Jesus Christ as their Savior with each meal served. This grant will fund 160,472 meals served to children and teachers over two years. Trinity HOPE: A Haitian feeding program that brings hope to the children of Haiti, one bowl of beans and rice at a time. The noon meal a child receives through the Trinity HOPE feeding program is life sustaining, and the Gospel message carries their eternity. Children thrive because they are receiving a source of nourishment both physically and spiritually.

**QUILTERS:** Some of the quilts and lab robes we make are red, white & blue for Ann to take to the VA in Omaha. We also gave a red white and blue quilt to our heroes Lisa and John Jacobsen who are military veterans and they graciously deliver to what we make to Sioux City.

**If you are wanting a lap robe or if you know of someone or an organization that would like lap robes please contact the church office or Susan Miller.**

# SPECIAL MISSION EVENT



Gary Thies

## **St. Paul Lutheran Church Ida Grove, Iowa**

**Saturday, August 22, 2026 Worship at 5 p.m.  
Sunday, Sunday August 23, 2026 Worship at 9 a.m.**

Gary brings to you and the congregation an in-person presentation with pictures and artifacts direct from the mission field. He has visited 75 countries and continues to connect weekly with over 100 LCMS missionaries around the world.

- Exciting presentation direct from the mission field
- More information at [www.missioncentral.us](http://www.missioncentral.us)


Gary W. Thies is a Mission Development Counselor with the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Gary lives on a farm in Western Iowa. He would love to share with you the news of what is really happening in missions through the LCMS. Be sure to invite someone to come with you because you, too, are a missionary!



# 20 Flavors ICE CREAM

## WORD SEARCH

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BANANA  
BIRTHDAY CAKE  
BUTTER PECAN  
CHEESECAKE  
CHERRY

CHOCOLATE  
CHOCOLATE CHIP  
COOKIE DOUGH  
COOKIES N CREAM  
MINT

MOCHA CHIP  
MOOSE TRACKS  
NEAPOLITAN  
PEACH  
PISTACHIO

ROCKY ROAD  
SALTED CARAMEL  
STRAWBERRY  
TOFFEE  
VANILLA

