



The Mountain Top Echo

Mt. Moriah Lutheran Church, Byron MN

Reaching Out ... Sharing Christ September 2024

Where Has the Time Gone?

Next month 22 years ago, September 11 to be exact, a terrible tragedy struck this nation, a tragedy that gripped lives throughout our country. The September 11 attacks caused the tremendous loss of life, increased security not only in this country, but worldwide, levels of alertness for terrorism activities, and increased worry and fear about our personal safety. Also, as we are thinking about terrible tragedy and loss of life, we need just to look back to March of 2020 when shelter in place suggestions were given and loss of life occurred because of a pandemic in the form of COVID. Where is all the fear and apprehension that was felt during those two separate acts which caused much harm, illness, and death? Where has all the fear gone? I wonder, I wonder.

Where has the time gone? I want you to think about that, because in the next month our children and grandchildren will once again enter the school buildings everywhere to continue their education. And you thought you would have a wonderful time during the summer months to travel, to watch many baseball games, to enjoy all sorts of cookouts, and time with family and friends. Just a short month and half ago, my wife Karen and I were exploring the ruins of Pompeii that was destroyed in 79 AD by the nearby Volcano Mount Vesuvius, the streets of Rome, and the leaning tower of Pisa (which is actually leaning). Where has the time gone?

Where has the time gone? It is interesting how devastating the last four years have been. The lives that this Pandemic has entirely changed, or altered, all of our joyous events such as birthdays, anniversaries, pool parties, church gatherings, even funerals, are causing people to skip the event or show up with mask on. Yet there are still mass gatherings of people without masks or not a single worry about that nasty disease of COVID. Have we forgotten all of the nasty stuff that has happened in our lives? Where has the time gone?

Where has the time gone? It has gone like it usually does, seconds and minutes ticking away, never to be recaptured again. We cannot go back and recapture the moment, we can only go ahead and cease the seconds, minutes, hours, and days that God through His grace and mercy has given us. Time to share God's grace with others, time to spend in personal devotions, time to spend in worshipping with praise and thanksgiving our loving, gracious God, and time to share the Gospel, to share that God wants all people to be saved. In time we understand that it is not God who leaves or disappears, it is us. Where has the time gone?

Where has the time gone? We are given precious moments from our gracious God to use, to manage as His stewards in this precious life. We are to use the precious time we have left on this earth to be sowers of God's grace and love in Christ Jesus and to share Him in our lives. We are to look forward as God's servants, Christ's missionaries through the power of the Holy Spirit to share Jesus and our faith with as many people as we are able to. Where has the time gone...a question that is answered by God through His grace and love.

In Christ's Amazing Service,
Pastor Fiege



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Stewards, Called to Forgiveness -

Human beings were created and redeemed to be stewards. Bearing the image of God (Gen. 1:26–28), the steward was created to reflect the Creator within creation. In a way, stewards are simply mirrors. Mirrors cannot do anything to the image that is placed in front of them.

A mirror was the first item in creation that embodied the computer term GIGO. “Garbage in, Garbage out.” In a computer, if you enter good data, you get a good result. You enter bad data; you will get a garbage result. In photography, you can run an image through a filter, which can remove imperfections. Myriad apps allow for the option to cut people out, add people in and change backgrounds all in an attempt to make the perfect image. Mirrors cannot do that. They do not provide anything new. Mirrors are created to reflect, not process, an image. They simply reflect the person standing in front of them.

Stewards are like this. Created to reflect, a steward will reflect the God in front of them. The steward will either reflect a godly stewardship that holds that God is the owner of all things (Ps. 24:1) and is the One to whom they are accountable, or they will reflect the god of self and see the created order as something to be possessed, used, and in far too many cases, abused. It is not a question of IF the steward reflects, it is really a question of WHO is being reflected.

For this reason, the *Lutheran Service Book* has included a necessary hymn worthy of meditation: “Forgive Us, Lord, for Shallow Thankfulness” (LSB 788). Its first verse reads:

Forgive us, Lord, for shallow thankfulness,
For dull content with warmth and sheltered care,
For songs of praise for food and harvest press,
While of Your richer gifts we’re unaware.

This is a fitting call to repentance for every steward. Our thankfulness is so often shallow. We get comfortable with the overflowing blessings we have entrusted to us by the Lord. These trusts are so many that the steward often forgets the One who entrusts them. Worse, with so many physical trusts evident, the steward loses sight of the greatest trust: the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The failed steward sees so much plenty that they lose sight of the treasure: Jesus! So, we confess our shallow thankfulness. In absolution, the imperfections of the failed steward are wiped away and a new image is sent into the world. We release our hold on stuff. We rethink our relationship with the created order and recall that it is all to be used FOR JESUS! This keeps the richer gifts in view, for us and for those we know and love who need Jesus.

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Electronic Giving: Our church invites you to consider our electronic giving program as a way to automate your regular weekly offerings. Electronic giving is convenient for you and provides much needed consistency for our church. If you are interested in participating in this program, speak with financial secretary, Tammy Vosberg. You may also contact Tammy with any questions at 507- 289-2850 or via email at dtvosberg@gmail.com



LWML meetings are planned for Sept. 14 and Oct. 12.



Prayer Chain: Ardi Gibbs is our Prayer Chain Leader. Please contact Ardi with your prayer requests or if you would like to join the prayer chain team. (507) 254-6564 / ardig775@gmail.com



Karen Lynn Naatz	September 1
Nolan Appel	September 17
Don Vosberg	September 17
Shane Amundson	September 18



Jerry and Verona Kruse	September 28
Shane & Kim Amundson	September 30

Camp Omega Update

Summer 2024...and beyond!

Last Friday marked the end of summer 2024 programming, and what a summer it has been!

Psalm 18:2

*The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer;
my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge,
my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.*

Stronghold was our theme this year and campers read stories from the Bible of God being a stronghold and providing for his people. We looked at these examples, knowing that God is still a stronghold and is always with us.

We sang praises and danced. We swam, and canoed, and pedaled a pontoon. We met new friends and caught up with old friends. We cooked over a fire, and had ice cream at canteen. We dove into the good word and took home stories of hope, peace, love, and joy.

From the team here at Camp Omega, thank you for being a part of this exceptional summer! Thank you for sharing your children, your young adults, your families, your church communities, and your congregations with us.

Summer 2024 Quick Stats

Over 900 campers came to Camp Omega in summer 2024!

Camp Omega traveled to 15 different churches around the state, leading Day Camps.

Camp Omega hired 22 college-aged young adults this summer to be counselors and leadership guides!

Thank you to the Camp Omega Summer 2024 Guides

They showed Jesus to their campers and fellow Guides through Bible Study but also their conversations and actions. They worked long hours and pushed through little sleep. They sang songs, answered big questions, and repeated instructions over and over again.

We're certain that God was working through them and in them all summer long.

Please pray for the Camp Omega Guides as they transition back to school and work, that they would cling to Jesus and the truths of the Bible this school year, just like they encouraged campers to do. 🙏

Check out Camp Omega's [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) for a video of Guide memories from the summer!



Karen and I would like to thank the Mount Moriah family for our anniversary wishes and gift on Aug. 11th. It was a surprise and very much appreciated having you being part of our celebration that day. God's richest blessings.

In Christ,
Pastor and Karen



Speaking Up for Life in Minnesota

Sponsored by LCMS Minnesota South District Faribault Circuit

EVENT LOCATION:

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Owatonna, Minn.

2500 7th Ave NE, Owatonna, MN 55060

Doors open at 8 a.m. • Program from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

RSVP by Sept. 11 for \$10 Catered Lunch

Register online at:

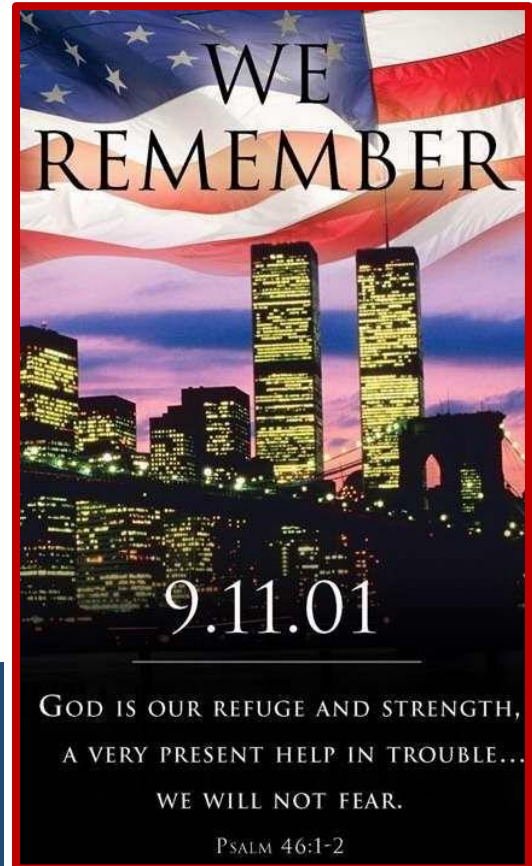
goodshepherdowatonna.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/2397242



Trinity Thurs. Night Bible Study

--Revelation --

On Thursday evenings this fall, beginning September 12, we will be studying the book of Revelation. This mysterious book of prophecy is full of strange images, weird metaphors, and incomprehensible predictions. We will study all of these things, and more, as we look at the last book of the New Testament and see how this peculiar book is actually meant as a book of comfort, rather than distress for the people of God.



CAN YOU HELP? Mount Moriah is looking for volunteers to run the keyboard. You would be responsible for about one Sunday per month and an occasional Wednesday night service during Advent and Lent.

There is flexibility with the schedule for conflicts and the keyboardists quite often switch dates. If you are interested or simply curious to know what is involved with running the keyboard, talk to Dave, Jeff, or Margaret. There is no obligation if you talk to us.

<u>Worship Assistant Schedule for Sept. 2024</u>	<u>Altar Guild for Month of Sept./Kim Amundson</u>
9/1/2024 – 15th Sunday after Pentecost Worship w/Communion - 10:00 a.m. Pastor Fiege	Elder – Don Vosberg Reader – Kristie Hahn Music – Dave Welsh
9/8/2024 – 16th Sunday after Pentecost Worship – 10:00 a.m. Pastor Fiege	Elder – Brant Klepel Reader – Aleesa Kobi Music – Jeff Rehwaldt
9/15/2024 – 17th Sunday after Pentecost Worship w/Communion – 10:00 a.m. Pastor Fiege	Elder – Shane Amundson Reader – Verona Kruse Music – Ruth Benning
9/22/2024 – 18th Sunday after Pentecost Worship – 10:00 a.m. Pastor Fiege	Elder- Brant Klepel Reader – Dave Welsh Music – Margaret Karst
9/29/2024 – 19th Sunday after Pentecost Worship w/Communion – 10:00 a.m. Pastor Fiege	Elder- Don Vosberg Reader – Kristie Hahn Music – Dave Welsh

HEROES OF THE BIBLE

P T K G C S S E N L U F K N A H T Y T V K K X J
 R N Z V F P U W E P M T H A N K S G I V I N G F
 E S U G N G C Y I N L H B U Y H S T F V G O X Q
 D R S Y X X I G R W I S D O M H V P W Y F U R X
 K N U A N R B Q O U E W J O S E P H L J A C E P
 A Z S T L P E B N Z Y R T E A W S J C V Y C U Y
 J E M Q H V H T B O L M G L K Q H U M I L I T Y
 R O H K Y R A N E C S S E N E V I G R O F P M Q
 W X Y T P G D J G P J X U A L L S C Q X J C O O
 S E L F C O N T R O L F U F D O O V H I D H H M
 B H N D U Q R J C O Z A A D G M V E W I I R F A
 Q Z F C Y L E A M L Z J Q I M Z M E W V V I W H
 N Q E T O S N E D I V A D I T D D J N E N S H A
 C X I O U X T E X L Q Q T D Q H V W B M Y T J R
 H O H S B A S P S X U M O N N T F I Z Q E M S B
 G E N L W E G R Z S E A H Y G B E U C H J A S A
 N Y X F M M D C R N H B P O T S F G L Q O S O D
 O C P F I N F I T D U B Y V N L C D A N O C I B
 M P M R G D O A E B E X C V O O A H L R E Y I U
 O K D B S L E A C N L B H C T G R Y Z M U S U D
 L B M C X B X N H A C E O K O M L L O Q S O S V
 O Z J A G A Z X C U I E D R H V T G S L W J C W
 S C L S M X E I B E S V F A A R N Z K K B B P K
 B D A A R R M R E I P N P N Q H G N G I D E O N

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| COURAGE | JOYFULNESS | WISDOM | SELF CONTROL |
| LOYALTY | CONFIDENCE | HONOR | COMMITMENT |
| HUMILITY | THANKFULNESS | FORGIVENESS | FAITHFULNESS |
| OBEDIENCE | PAUL | PETER | SOLOMON |
| DAVID | RUTH | DEBORAH | GIDEON |
| CHRISTMAS | JESUS | LOVE | THANKSGIVING |
| JOSEPH | ABRAHAM | NOAH | |

Labor Day Word Find

U W A I T R E S S I P Z R I U I X O W L F S E F E
 K Q M E E N N A I C I R T C E L E D D G B D Y L
 Z C Y O R K A W F L I R P O S W P Q F D N X N Y U
 J E S Z C E V T Z P Y O E R V C J L I F C X N X Y
 A P G E K W N Y N Q B G E B O P E C U T U B E R I
 D J Y U J Z U H D U W T H J M S V I I M V B P Q S
 U X N P Y W R T G H O F K B E E P I E B B D W B M
 X A Q Z B O S A P W Q C R G W H T E A E I E O H Q
 K H X T X C E K L U Y K C A V N X P R Q O M R X N
 Q Q S A O Q N D V L L Y A A L P H O E I D R S C Q
 L V Q Q D L G L A W Y E R O T C O D R S T W V I Y
 I G E Z W J I K B H X T P O L I C E T W Y Y O G O
 A R D C R E N P M E O K E R I U G C M L O J P Y Z
 V B B X S K E Z H G L T N B K N V E S F Y Q R I O
 Q M S G H C E T W C F E T M H Y U Q D N T T A H
 Y N X B W Y R J A B Y A E J Z O I V M R B Z X A L
 T M N Q T N W O M R P C R Y T P X X L C B Z H S O
 Q Z C Q Q A V E N S B H W J X G T J J D E N G R T
 D I Z N B D U P E O U E G U Q O C X Y N D R L Y U
 U U N U D S V X Z K H R L T Q E U Q W N Z M H T A
 Q B E D J E Z F T C E P S E R Q H L L W W O B Q C
 X T F M O N D A Y F C N W A C H W H T N N L S L H
 I B U J H E Y R P C M X D O R X R B T L Y G Q G X

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|-------------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| Accountant | Carpenter | September | Prosperity |
| Electrician | Weekend | Celebrate | Waitress |
| Engineer | Lawyer | Respect | McGuire |
| Plumber | Doctor | Honor | Monday |
| Teacher | Nurse | Pilot | Police |



Use These Words

BACK TO SCHOOL WORD UNSCRAMBLE

CREATE
ADJUSTMENT
POTENCIAL
TEACHER
BOOKBAG
REFLECTION
WISDOM
TRANSITION
FRIENDSHIP
CLASS
LEARNING
SCHEDULE
INFORMATION
ACHIEVEMENT

DATTSNUJEM	_____
NIEIRPSHDF	_____
ILEANNGR	_____
SCSLA	_____
AHECETR	_____
HUDCEELS	_____
AERCET	_____
LATPTNOEI	_____
IOMNIATONFR	_____
VHAMIENECTE	_____
DIWOMS	_____
TITANSINOR	_____
FOLENEICTR	_____
BKAOBGO	_____



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