



# The Mountain Top Echo

Mt. Moriah Lutheran Church, Byron MN

## Reaching Out ... Sharing Christ July 2025

### *Honors...Honors...Honors*

**Honors...**are usually given to a person or an organization that distinguishes them above the rest by doing something that is awesome and deserves to be honored. All we need to do is look at the sports that dot the map and season. It makes no difference if it be men's sports of hockey, basketball, baseball, football or even women's sports hockey, basketball, softball and the like. The list can be endless, yet the award is simple, win and achieve the trophy that is displayed for all to see and honor. What about you, are you honored? Think about it.

**Honors...**are given to someone who has completed something special in life. All one needs to do is look at the Commencement Ceremony of any high school or college that you have attended this year or any other year. Students are wearing colored braids that distinguish them above the rest of the class. That special honor was given to our oldest granddaughter this year as she graduated from St. Paul North High School. Looking at all the names in the graduation booklet, and noticing all the different symbols that were beside the student's name, we all noticed something that was very special, she achieved something that no one else accomplished in her high school graduating class. She was and is a very honored student, but is she really honored more than anyone else? Think about that.

**Honors...**are going to be given out to those people who will be ahead of everyone in their sport during the Olympics, whether it be the winter or summer games. Think about the individual or team that wins their special event that will be standing on the podium and receiving the honor of gold, silver, or bronze medal. Wow, aren't they special and honored above the rest? Are they really honored more than anyone else? Think about that.

**Honors...**are a special recognition that we indeed give to all service men and women who have served our country and giving themselves as a sacrifice to keep our country free. The flags will fly, the fireworks will be exploding in the sky, the parades will be marching in honor of all who served, to thank them for their brave service to keep America free. Think about this time as we continue to honor all for dedicating their lives for this country. However are they honored more than you? Think about that for a moment.

**Honors...**are given to each and every one of us. Yes, individuals and organizations will be honored for the achievements that have been accomplished in their field of expertise, whether sports, school, sales, etc. As you continue to think, to ponder this subject of honor I would like you to know that you are an honored person in the sight of a loving God. This God honors us in the sacrificing of His beloved Son Jesus on the cross to tell each of us how honored we have become. This honor is special because it is given to everyone who believes in Jesus as their personal Lord and Savior. The honor of medals, ribbons, colored cords on a graduation gown are all special and depict an honor given to a special person. And yet God through the Apostle John: ***"See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God, and so we are."*** (1 John 3:1) This action of the love of God shows how valuable each one of us is in the sight of that gracious God. Wow, what honor that is bestowed upon us. That is the reason we gather in God's house each and every Sunday, to thank our gracious God for the honor of calling us His children, redeemed in His beloved Son, Jesus. It would be an honor to invite you to attend the Sunday service as we thank our loving God to call us His honored children. Praise be to our gracious and loving God.

In Christ's Service  
Pastor Scott Fiege





The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
LCMS Stewardship Ministry – [lcms.org/stewardship](https://lcms.org/stewardship)



Stewardship Thoughts – July 2025

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The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
LCMS Stewardship Ministry – [lcms.org/stewardship](https://lcms.org/stewardship)

Newsletter Article – July 2025

Faithfulness: The Stewardship Standard

“Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful” (1 Cor. 4:2).

What is the standard to which a steward is held? Ask the average person, and they might talk about percentages, tithes, and commitments. Too often, the default mode of measuring stewards is by how much and how frequently they give. This is not helpful. Measuring activity without any connection to baptismal identity is a recipe for disaster. It can either breed a sense of superiority and self-righteousness or create a culture of scarcity and despair. Neither outcome is godly or helpful.

This is not to say that stewardship should be regarded as "no big deal." St. Paul, within his discussion of the ministry to which he has been called, sets the standard of accountability for the steward: faithfulness. This removes any sense of superiority or self-righteousness and dispels scarcity and despair. When a steward manages what the Lord has entrusted to them — resources and all aspects of life — for God's purposes, the focus is not on how much or how frequently they give.

This standard reflects the stewardship portrayed in the Gospels where Jesus entrusts varying amounts, each according to ability. The commended stewards were recognized for their faithfulness in their vocation, not the amounts they managed. Conversely, the condemned stewards were not castigated for their lack of performance but for their lack of faithfulness.

What does this mean for the steward in the pew? The Lord has entrusted you with various things. Luther captures them in his explanation of the First Article of the Apostles' Creed and the Fourth Petition of the Lord's Prayer. The familiar couplets of food and drink, house and home, spouse and children, land, animals and all possessions are the Lord's, and He has entrusted them to you for His purpose. This trust brings an active realization of thanksgiving.

This active thanksgiving is our stewardship. It can be distilled into two questions that the steward regularly needs to answer:

1. How has God blessed me?
2. How is He calling me to respond?

The first question is quite simple to answer: if the Lord has entrusted something to you, it is a blessing. This blessing is for God's glory and the benefit of your neighbor. The second question is more challenging to measure; it is not about percentages and charts. Instead, it is about a life of

thanksgiving that flows from the mercies of God revealed in Jesus Christ. This thanksgiving starts at and flows from the cross and the empty tomb. Our stewardship of the Gospel drives our stewardship of everything else.

The standard, then, is faithfulness. Faithfulness flows from eyes focused on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith. It does not come from our efforts but through the working of the Holy Spirit in our lives, through

Word and Sacrament. It begins at the altar in the Divine Service but extends into the world — from hearth and home to workplace and classroom, from commerce to leisure. The mercy of God, freely given in Jesus, leads us to demonstrate a faithfulness that reveals to others the same mercy we have received in Jesus.

This faithfulness cannot be measured empirically. It is simply allowing the Holy Spirit to work in and through us for the glory of God and the benefit of our neighbor.



**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](mailto:dtvosberg@gmail.com)



The next **LWML meeting** will be announced at a later date.

**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](mailto:ardig775@gmail.com)



Jason Gibbs	July 6
Charro Coleman	July 17
Judy Coleman	July 24
Bob Schuster	July 26



Bob & Shelly Schuster July 11
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**Mission Central Donations** - If you did not get the chance to donate money when Gary Thies was here from Mission Central, you still can. Put your donation into an envelope & drop it into the collection plate with a note on it that indicates "Mission Central Donation." If paying by check you can make it out to either Mission Central or Mount Moriah with a note indicating that it should go to Mission Central. We will see that it gets to Gary at Mission Central.

#### **LWML JULY SOCIAL EVENTS**

- **THIS WEEK** --- Mantorville is starting a “**Music in the Park**” event every Tuesday with music from 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm. LWML will provide \$10.00 for Mt. Moriah families to spend at the food wagons. We are planning on **Tues., July 1. The band on Tues. JULY 1 evening is the Rockin’ Hep Cats.** They are a popular band from Dodge Center that play root rock-n-roll.
- **On Wednesday, July 30, we will go to Berne Wood Pizza again.** Mt. Moriah families attending will be given \$10.00 to put towards a pizza. If you want to carpool, just give someone a call. The 5:00 p.m. band is **Foster Grand** and the 6:30 band is **The Stella Bees.**

## **MCCL Youth Life Leadership Camp**

**August 10-13, 2025**

### **What is Life Leadership Camp?**

Life Leadership Camp is a pro-life summer camp for high school students that includes educational sessions, fun outdoor games, engaging activities, and more, covering abortion and other right-to-life issues. Students will learn about pro-life activism, leadership, and engaging others in dialogue to impact hearts and minds, while making new friends and networking with other pro-life students from across the state. They will gain the knowledge and tools to become effective pro-life advocates and lead pro-life student groups at their own schools.

### **When is Life Leadership Camp?**

August 10-13, 2025 | Camp begins at 3:00 PM on the first day and ends at noon on the last.

**Where will it be held?** Koronis Ministries, 15752 County Rd. 181, Paynesville, MN 56362

**What does it cost?** \$100 per student (includes meals, accommodations, materials and T-shirt); scholarships are available.

**Who can attend Life Leadership Camp?** High school students who will be entering grades 9-12 or will be college freshmen in the fall of 2025.

### **How do I register?**

Register online at [mccl.org/camp](http://mccl.org/camp), or complete the paper registration and other required forms and mail with suggested donation to: MCCL, 4249 Nicollet Ave, Minneapolis, MN 55409.

**When is the registration deadline?** The registration deadline is July 31 (for the August camp), or when camp reaches capacity. We will contact you shortly after the deadline with a packing list, directions to the camp, and other relevant information.

**Who sponsors Life Leadership Camp?** Life Leadership Camp is sponsored by Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life (MCCL), Minnesota's oldest and largest pro-life organization and the sole Minnesota affiliate of the National Right to Life Committee.

**Who will be leading Life Leadership Camp?** Staff from MCCL will lead the camp. MCCL staff and special guest speakers will lead sessions. Learn more by visiting [mccl.org/camp](http://mccl.org/camp) or by contacting MCCL at 612-825-6831 or [mccl@mccl.org](mailto:mccl@mccl.org).

**Life Leadership Camp | Sponsored by Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life [mccl.org](http://mccl.org) | 612.825.683**



<b>Worship Assistant Schedule for July 2025</b>	<b>Altar Guild for Month of July -- Kim Amundson</b>
<b>7/6/2025 – 4<sup>th</sup> Sun. after Pentecost</b> Worship w/Communion 10:00 a.m. <b>Pastor Fiege</b>	<b>Elder – N/A    Reader – Verona Kruse</b> <b>Music – Dave Welsh</b>
<b>7/13/2025 – 5<sup>th</sup> Sun. after Pentecost</b> Worship – 10:00 a.m. <b>Pastor Fiege</b>	<b>Elder – Don Vosberg    Reader – Aleesa Kobi</b> <b>Music – Jeff Rehwaltd</b>
<b>7/20/2025 – 6<sup>th</sup> Sun. after Pentecost</b> Worship w/Communion 10:00 a.m. – <b>Pastor Fiege</b>	<b>Elder – Shane Amundson    Reader -- Dave Welsh</b> <b>Music – Ruth Benning</b>
<b>7/27/2025 – 7<sup>th</sup> Sun. after Pentecost</b> Worship – 10:00 a.m. <b>Pastor Fiege</b>	<b>Elder – N/A      Reader – Kristie Hahn</b> <b>Music – Margaret Karst</b>







NHSSNIUE \_\_\_\_\_

LOPO \_\_\_\_\_

MIWSGNIM \_\_\_\_\_

CEIRAMEC \_\_\_\_\_

ATLOMERNEW \_\_\_\_\_

TECDASLNSA \_\_\_\_\_

ONAVCATI \_\_\_\_\_

ELASUSGNSS \_\_\_\_\_

BLUAMLER \_\_\_\_\_

INCICP \_\_\_\_\_

PLCSIEPO \_\_\_\_\_

TIKE \_\_\_\_\_

IPFL LPSOF \_\_\_\_\_

HCEAB \_\_\_\_\_

UBERCABE \_\_\_\_\_

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ALMEONDE \_\_\_\_\_

VATELR \_\_\_\_\_

YAILMF \_\_\_\_\_

# WORD BANK:



BARBECUE  
BEACH  
FAMILY  
FISHING  
FLIP FLOPS  
GARDENING  
ICE CREAM

KITE  
LEMONADE  
PICNIC  
POOL  
POPSICLE  
SANDCASTLE  
SUNGLASSES

SUNSCREEN  
SUNSHINE  
SWIMMING  
TRAVEL  
UMBRELLA  
VACATION  
WATERMELON

# Happy Independence Day!

## 4th of July Word Search

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

ABLAZE  
ANTHEM  
BACKYARD  
BLAST  
GATHERING  
RED  
WHITE  
BLUE  
CAVALCADE  
CELEBRATION

CROWDS  
DECORATIONS  
BANG  
BOOM  
BATTLEFIELD  
CAMPING  
DELICIOUS  
DESSERT  
DEMOCRACY  
EMOTIONAL

FEAST  
FLAG  
AMERICA  
FIRECRACKERS  
ROCKETS  
EXPLOSIONS  
MUSIC  
PICNICS  
POTLUCK

FREEDOM  
INDEPENDENCE  
GRILL  
HISTORY  
LIBERTY  
NATIONAL  
PARADES  
PATRIOTIC  
FIREWORKS  
FESTIVAL

# July Fourth

## Word Scramble

DIRECTIONS: Unscramble the words, then use the highlighted letters to write out the scrambled secret message.

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### Mount Moriah Lutheran Church

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Web Site: [www.mtmoriahluth.org](http://www.mtmoriahluth.org)

[www.facebook.com/mtmoriahluth](https://www.facebook.com/mtmoriahluth)