



The Mountain Top Echo

Mt. Moriah Lutheran Church, Byron MN

Reaching Out ... Sharing Christ August 2025

Refreshing R and R

How has your life been? Have you been kept busy with all sorts of things; places to go, people to see, and things to do? Have you been so busy that you have little time for anything like eating and sleeping? The summer months are supposed to be time for family activities; going to the beach, enjoying the sun, playing corn hole games, and enjoying those outside activities that the long sun filled days enable us to take pleasure in. We know that our summers are short and so we need to make the best of our time in the sunshine. But have you really been enjoying your time in the sun? Or are you keeping yourself so busy that you are missing summer altogether? Maybe it is time for some much-needed R and R.

How has your life been? When the calendar turned to 2025, we were hoping that the new year would bring new opportunities to enjoy life and the world around us. Alas, we have discovered that the new year is just like the old year; stress, strain, injuries, surgeries, even death and dying. Oh do we so desperately need some R and R, then maybe our trials and troubles will drift away, and we will enjoy that time of rest and refreshment. Yet those daily bumps and bruises of trials, temptations, and tribulations still haunt us and cause us to be more stressed than we should. We just need to be away from those difficulties in life and then with just a little more rest we will be ready to face those troubles head on. Oh, for just a little R and R, a moment of shut-eye, resting in the shade of the tree, enabling one to continue on in life. Maybe it is time for some real R and R.

You know something? God, our heavenly Father is no different. He needed to take time out and rest, especially after creating the world and all that it contains. Just think of how busy he was! He created the sun, moon, plants, sea creatures, birds, and of course humans. Wow! After all that creating, God gives mankind a plan to follow...He rested. Now God gives us, his creatures that pattern to follow in our lives, that after all we do in our lives, we are to rest. God wants us to get that much needed rest so that we are able to endure the trials of life, sustain those numerous blows of trials, tribulations, and temptations. So, child of God rest in the loving arms of a caring God.

Yes, dear Christian you have faced so many difficulties in your life that you need that spiritual rest that God can only give you. In fact, that is why our gracious God sent His Son into the world. Yes, Jesus came to take away our sins, to forgive and to assure us of eternal life, as well as rest. Jesus speaks these tender words to each of us: ***“Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.” (Matt. 11:28-29)*** Jesus is waiting for you to come into his presence and receive that rest for your souls and lives. Jesus is inviting you to join others who have come into his presence and receive his gracious love, care, and rest. May Jesus bless your life and rest.

In Christ's Service
Pastor Fiege





The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

LCMS Stewardship Ministry – lcms.org/stewardship



Newsletter Article – August 2025

Jesus' transforming presence

"But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, 'Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount.' Jesus said to him, 'Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost'" (Luke 19:8-10 NIV).

Who knew, all those kids sitting in Sunday school were getting a lesson in stewardship! Generations of children have very often heard lessons based on the familiar account of Zacchaeus. The diminutive tax collector's curiosity surrounding the person and ministry of Jesus is what the Holy Spirit used to set him on a collision course for a total stewardship transformation. This transformation, according to the text of Luke 19, is not just about this life. This stewardship transformation is about eternity as well!

Remember the story: Zacchaeus was a tax collector. Do not think of friendly neighborhood IRS agents. This was more like a toll booth operator, but the governing authorities did not set the toll. They would contract men to staff roadside booths and tax the commerce that was passing along the road. This was an enterprise full of greed and graft. The tax collectors would take as much as they could and only pass on a portion to the government. The rest did not go into the community chest either! It went into the pocket of the tax collector.

This is why the people had such disdain for *Jewish* tax collectors. They were seen as both crooks and traitors. They were crooks in that they extorted their compatriots and others in the toll process. But worse, they were seen as traitors because their efforts supported the occupying Roman authorities. That is the real reason that the people would not make way so that short Zacchaeus could see Jesus.

For this reason, he runs ahead and climbs a tree. He had heard all the stories. He wanted to see this Jesus with his own eyes. Mercy is on display. This hated crook and traitor gets a direct audience with Jesus — at Jesus' own request! Jesus invites Himself to Zacchaeus' house. This is where the transformation is about to take place!

Notice how Jesus does it. He does not preach a three-week sermon series, nor does He ask Zacchaeus to make a pledge. There is nothing programmatic about Jesus' approach. But Zacchaeus is completely transformed! The transforming force is the very presence of Jesus! Direct time with Jesus takes a crooked, selfish, criminal and makes him the most faithful steward.

This new life of stewardship is marked by the promises made. First, he gives half of his ill-gotten gains to the poor. These are people whom he would not have defrauded at all! Yet, after spending time with Jesus, they are His first concern. Only after this does he double the requirement of the Levitical law on fraud. And what does Jesus say is the result? Salvation! Doing the acts of stewardship does not save. Rather, the faith in Jesus that is created by the Holy Spirit is what saves! This is critical for us to confess. Failed stewardship can and will cut you off from God. The only antidote for failed stewardship is the presence of Jesus.

We do not need to run ahead and climb a tree for this presence of Jesus. He makes Himself available to us every week in the Divine Service. He speaks His Word of invitation to us in the pages of Holy Scripture. This, and this alone, transforms us from sinner to saint, from owner to steward of all that belongs to the Lord.

Do you want to become a more faithful steward? Spend more time with Jesus. Make the Divine Service a weekly priority. Feast on Christ's body and blood weekly! This is the great gift that brings salvation from God's House to yours!



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



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



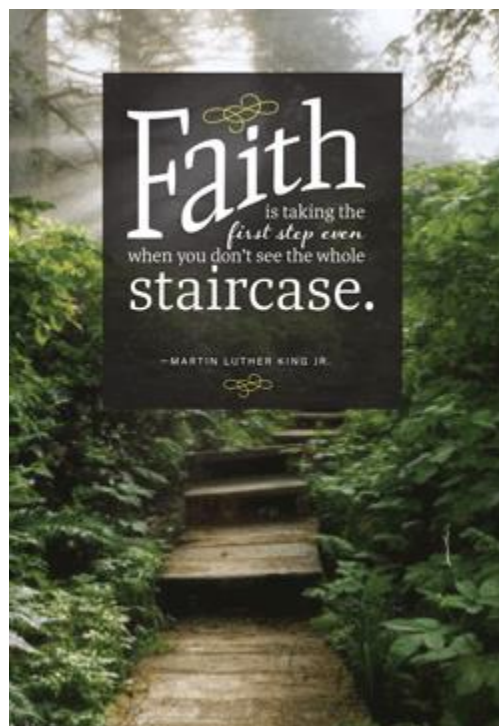
Tammy Vosberg	August 5
Kennedy Lillestol	August 7
Kristie Hahn	August 16
Paige Coleman	August 20
Croix Lillestol	August 23



Pastor Fiege & Karen	August 11
Charro & Judy Coleman	August 13
Bruce & Shelly Arett	August 28
Ralph & Karen Meyer	August 28

LWML August SOCIAL EVENT

- On **Sunday, August 24**, a **Potluck** is **planned immediately after worship service**. LWML will provide brats, hotdogs, and drinks. The event will be inside if it rains. A sign-up sheet is on the double doors.





**YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED
TO THE FIRST**

POBLO Arts Concert

Come encourage and enjoy musicians
and storytellers from: Colombia, China,
Japan, Nigeria, Egypt, and the USA.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 9

1:30 - 3:00 PM

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHAPEL

(869 7TH AVE SE, ROCHESTER)

Please financially support POBLO with a
Free Will Donation. Our leaders and
volunteers befriend, teach, encourage and
love God's people of many nations.



**The Noon-time (12:15p.m.) Trinity Lutheran
Organ Recitals are back for 2025!!!
Public Invited – Free Parking
– Free~Will Offering**



Tues., August 5th

John Schultz/Retired Organist
Northfield, MN

Tues., August 12th

Matt Gender/Dir. Of Music
Zumbro Lutheran Church
Rochester, MN

Tues., August 19

Samuel Libra/Dir of Music & Liturgy
Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church
Minneapolis, MN

Tues., August 26th

Thomas K. Hamilton/Minister of Music
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Duluth, MN

**This list is also on the
Current Affairs Bulletin Board.**

WE NEED YOUR PLASTIC BAGS:

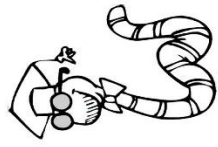
The Byron Lions Club is collecting
plastic bags to make benches to place
around the Byron community. If you
have grocery bags, or any plastic bag,
bring them to church and place
them in the can that is located
by the mailboxes in the back of the
church. If you have any questions,
talk with Ardi Gibbs.

Worship Assistant Schedule for August 2025

8/3/2025 – 8th Sun. after Pentecost Worship w/Communion 10:00 a.m.	Pastor Fiege
8/10/2025 – 9th Sun. after Pentecost Worship – 10:00 a.m.	Pastor Fiege
8/17/2025 – 10th Sun. after Pentecost Worship w/Communion 10:00 a.m.	Pastor Fiege
8/24/2025 – 11th Sun. after Pentecost Worship – 10:00 a.m.	Pastor Fiege
8/31/2025 – 12th Sun. after Pentecost Worship w/Communion 10:00 a.m.	Pastor Fiege

Altar Guild for Month of August --- Margaret Karst

Elder – Don Vosberg	Reader – Dave Welsh
Music – Dave Welsh	
Elder – Shane Amundson	Reader – Verona Kruse
Music – Margaret Karst	
Elder – Brant Klepel	Reader -- Shelly Arett
Music – Ruth Benning	
Elder – Brant Klepel	Reader – Aleesa Kobi
Music – Jeff Rehwaldt	
Elder -- Brant Klepel	Reader – Kristie Hahn
Music – Justin Hahn	



School

Word Scramble

Unscramble each group of letters to form a school word.

1. PCUIEN _____
2. EKDS _____
3. HACRI _____
4. DCOINTAIYR _____
5. TTSE _____
6. OOWEHMKR _____
7. TYSDU _____
8. EANLR _____
9. ECTEAHR _____
10. CYSNRAO _____
11. SEDNTTU _____
12. RDIAEGN _____
13. WTNIIGR _____
14. LNPEIGSL _____
15. CMEUTPOR _____

WORD SEARCH!

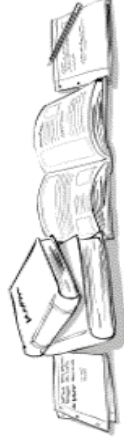
BACK TO SCHOOL

FIND AND CIRCLE THE WORDS ON THE LIST...WORDS MAY BE FOUND ACROSS, DOWN, OR DIAGONALLY
--FORWARDS, BACKWARDS, AND SOMETIMES OVERLAPPING. HAVE FUN!

WORD LIST

ACADEMY
ALGEBRA
BELL
BLACKBOARD
BOOKS
BUS
CAFETERIA
CHALK
CIVICS
CLASS
DESK
GEOGRAPHY
GEOMETRY
GOVERNMENT
HALL MONITOR
HISTORY
LANGUAGE
LIBRARY
LITERATURE
LOCKERS
MATH
PLAYGROUND
READING
RECESS
SCHOOL
SCIENCE
STUDENT
STUDY
TEACHER

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





SUMMER FUN

Word Search Puzzle

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



BAREFOOT	FISHING	PICNIC
BASEBALL	FLIP FLOPS	POPSICLE
BEACH	FRIENDS	ROAD TRIP
BICYCLE	FRISBEE	SPRINKLERS
CAMPING	GAMES	SUNSHINE
COOKOUT	ICE CREAM	SWIMMING
FAIRGROUND	LEMONADE	VACATION
FIREWORKS	OUTDOORS	WATER PARK



Mount Moriah Lutheran Church

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Web Site: www.mtmoriahluth.org

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