



The Mountain Top Echo

Mt. Moriah Lutheran Church, Byron MN

Reaching Out ... Sharing Christ

September 2025

Who Is In Your Life?

Who is in Your Life? Reminds me of a popular commercial on TV, where a gentleman is dressed as a Santa Claus going from place to place, throwing glitter in the air, going to a very valuable store, winking at the clerk, walking down the street to the tune of “Stayin’ Alive” when finally ending up on the dance floor and pointing to the camera and saying: **“What is in your wallet?”** The just of the commercial is to get us thinking of what is in our wallet so that we are enabled to buy whatever we want with just a wave of the credit card. It is a very interesting commercial that does get our attention. Instead of thinking of credit cards in your wallet, I want to turn a bit around and say to you: **“Who is in your life.”**

Who is in Your Life? Encourages us to really take a look at ourselves, to examine our earthly life and notice where we are going in life. The question focuses our attention not so much on the earthly, material, temporal things of life, rather our attention is drawn to our gracious God, who is our Creator, Preserver, and Redeemer. Another question that could very easily be asked along with our question of the day, is this; ***is God really important to you, in your life?*** An illustration that I read is about the Dusty Traveler. He stops by a house one day and knocks on the door, when it opens, he asks the woman, **“Does God live here?”** She responded to the traveler’s question by stating many things, that she and her husband go to church, are very involved with boards and committees, even teaching Sunday School, and then getting very frustrated with traveler’s continued question **“Does God Live Here?”** She then slams the door in the traveler’s face and goes out to the garden and inform her husband of the verbal exchange she had with the traveler. He responds by asking **“Didn’t you tell him that we are in Church every Sunday, that you are the President of the Ladies Group, teach Sunday School, and play the organ?”** And didn’t you tell him: **“That I have been President of the Church, Head Usher, Head Elder, and still very active in the Church?”** His wife responded: **“That is not what he wanted to know, he kept asking the same question over and over again: Does God Live here?”** Think about that dear Christians friends. Would you come to the conclusion that this husband and wife came to -- that God really did not live there? Is that your life?

Who Is In Your Life? It reminds each one of us to take a look at our priorities in life. It reminds us to really, really examine our lives. To be realistic of earthly life, we are closer now than when we were before reading this portion of the newsletter, to dying an earthly death. Does that shake you up? To be honest, it should! We have time for everything under the sun -- to garden, to do Fall’s work around the house, to get ready for school, boating, golfing, etc.-- than we are to spending time with God and His Word. So as you think about your life, what is your priority in life? Who is in your life?

Who Is In Your Life...should cause us to pause in our life and think about how important it is to know and confess Jesus as your personal Lord and Savior. For time is indeed fleeting, disappearing every second that we view on the clock, like the sand in the hourglass, time is slipping away. Just don’t think of what is in your wallet, but who is in your life this day and every day. Time from our gracious God and Lord who is giving us time to answer any dusty traveler who asks us, **“Does God Live Here?”** As we burst forth our answer with a hearty and bold: **“YES!”** God’s richest blessings.

In Christ’s Service
Pastor Scott Fiege



(Email below sent by Rev. Lucas Woodford, President
Minnesota South District, LCMS)

August 27, 2025

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Greetings to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, who comforts the hurting, binds up the broken hearted, blesses the mourning, and raises the dead!

Once again, our community has been turned upside down by a senseless shooting of innocent people, including many tender and precious children. It is hard for us to make sense of such evil and inhumanity. The worship and praise of individuals at the beginning of the school year was disrupted by violence, death, and despair. It shakes us to the core. Shock, anger, fear, and grief surround us. We lament with King David, "How long, O Lord?" (Psalm 13:1).

Yet, even in the darkness, there is light. Jesus Christ is the Light of the world, who came into the darkness to overcome the darkness of sin, the power of the devil, and all the wretchedness and pain that goes with it: "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." (John 1:5) In the midst of our sorrow, there is light. We know the darkness does not win. Yet, that does not remove its suffocating sting. Rather, it shows us the way through it.

Many are asking how they can help. Some of our surrounding congregations are stepping up, offering vigil services, grief support, and comfort teams. Each of you can help by lifting up the hurting community in prayer. Pray for all the families who have lost loved ones, those who have been injured, the caregivers, and the entire hurting community. As the body of Christ, let us show compassion for those who struggle, and share the hope we have in Jesus. Bring the light of Christ into this dark moment.

We are working to coordinate with those wanting to help, that we might shine the light of Christ all the brighter in both word and deed. As details emerge, we will communicate and collaborate as we are able.

In the meantime, know that we have a Savior who has come into the world, into our very flesh and blood, experienced sorrow and suffering, hurt and heartache, and even the darkness of death. Yes, Jesus knows the cruelty of this world, along with all its unfairness, suffering on the cross for the sins of every man, woman, and child to ever live on the face of this planet. Then He showed us how the darkness does not and cannot win. He rose victoriously over death and the grave. He is the light no darkness can overcome! Through faith in Christ, we have the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting—which is the light and hope that we bring to those walking in the shadow of death.

The Lord Jesus grant you words to say and the actions to do as you bear the hope of his light during this dark time.

In Christ,
Rev. Dr. Lucas V. Woodford, President
Minnesota South District, LCMS

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



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

The Concordia Nebraska A Cappella Choir needs your support!



The Concordia University, Nebraska A Cappella Choir has the incredible opportunity to share their musical gifts and their faith during a performance tour of Ireland in 2026. Founded in 1938, the audition-based Concordia University, Nebraska A Cappella Choir has a far-reaching legacy of memorable performances. But in addition to its Christ-centered focus, the thing that makes the choir special is its people.

As the choir prepares for their unforgettable journey to Ireland, we ask for your prayers and encouragement for our choristers, faculty, and staff. We also humbly ask for your financial gifts to support our students. Your generosity will make this trip possible, and we are deeply grateful for your support.

Jen Furr CO '97 GR '03
Senior Director of Outreach, Relations and Engagement
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LUTHERAN HERITAGE FOUNDATION (LHF) COLLECTION



Remember the many songs of the Christian faith you learned as a child? Even today, many of those songs remain deeply rooted in your memory, continuing to teach the Word years – even decades – after you first learned them.

In Africa too, music is a huge part of daily life, including in the life of the Church. But in Africa's new and even long-time Lutheran churches, a challenge exists: the number of songs to imprint the faith in children's hearts and minds is very limited. There are no children's hymnals or song books to teach from. Teachers are limited to the songs that they can remember themselves. LHF has started work on a new translation project called "Praise Him, Africa!"

You can help support this project by giving a donation in the Mission Box. The September and October Mission Box and fellowship donations will be sent to LHF to support this project. The Mission Box will be placed by the Fellowship Hall door the months of September and October.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATIONS.

LWML Update



Opportunities for growing the Mt. Moriah family. Invite a friend to participate.

- **October 12th** plan on meeting at Four Daughters winery at 1:30 pm. LWML will provide appetizers. If you would like to ride with someone, please talk directly with them.
- **October 31**, Halloween is on Friday! Start planning your ghoulish trunk for this year's Trunk-n-Treat. Let's fill the parking lot with decorated trunks for this popular community outreach event. It will be handled like previous years. LWML will provide some of the candy. Watch the newsletters/Weekly Updates for more information.
- On Saturday, **November 8**, there will be a winter treasures rummage sale from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. Anyone with holiday items, household, or craft items can bring their items beginning in October. Put your items in the back by the mailboxes so they don't interfere with the Trunk-n-Treat. Clean out those closets and bring your unwanted items.
- Also In **November**, there will be a collection of non-perishable items for the Byron community education food shelf. A wish list of the much-needed items will be in future newsletters and Weekly Updates

Ardi Gibbs, Lois Walbruch, Julie Lillestol, Karen Welsh

Any and all members of Mt. Moriah are welcome to join our group.

ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN

The Minnesota South Orphan Grain Train invites everyone to its annual meeting at St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Vernon Center, MN on Saturday, September 6, 2025.

We will have 2 Mercy Meal packing lines available for groups of 8 - 10 volunteers for each line. Mercy Meal packing will go from 9 am - 12 pm consisting of (3) hour-long sessions of packing. To sign up for a time slot, call Rev. Adam Finney at 507.613.8473.

The annual meeting will begin at 9 am with lunch at 11:00 am. Our elections this year include Treasurer and Assistant Branch Manager for anyone who wants to jump on board. All new members or participants are welcome! We will also sponsor our next shipment. We thank everyone for your support of Minnesota South Orphan Grain Train!



Worship Assistant Schedule for Sept. 2025		Altar Guild for Month of Sept. --- Kim Amundson	
9/7/2025 – 13th Sun. after Pentecost		Elder – Don Vosberg	Reader – Verona Kruse
Worship w/Communion 10:00 a.m.	Pastor Stam	Music – Dave Welsh	
9/14/2025 – 14th Sun. after Pentecost		Elder – Shane Amundson	Reader – Dave Welsh
Worship – 10:00 a.m.	Pastor Stam	Music – Margaret Karst	
9/21/2025 – 15th Sun. after Pentecost		Elder – Don Vosberg	Reader -- Kristie Hahn
Worship w/Communion 10:00 a.m.	Pastor Stam	Music – Ruth Benning	
9/28/2025 – 16th Sun. after Pentecost		Elder – Brant Klepel	Reader – Aleesa Kobi
Worship – 10:00 a.m.	Pastor Fiege	Music – Jeff Rehwaldt	

Name: _____



Patriot's Day

Today, we remember the sacrifices made on 9/11. Find all the words to solve this word search!

E	F	C	H	F	I	R	E	M	A	N	T	M	C
O	D	E	N	A	M	E	C	I	L	O	P	I	I
E	A	T	R	E	D	I	L	O	S	Y	R	F	I
L	S	N	O	I	T	A	N	C	R	E	R	R	A
E	E	A	R	E	R	U	O	C	E	S	E	T	
V	Y	C	E	E	G	E	T	I	B	A	R	E	O
E	R	I	S	V	T	S	F	M	N	E	S	D	I
N	O	R	C	T	I	I	E	E	B	M	B	O	R
T	M	E	U	H	R	M	E	M	E	R	H	M	T
H	E	M	E	C	E	P	E	E	A	R	E	S	A
E	M	A	A	R	E	T	I	V	H	R	R	E	P
Y	L	S	H	V	P	B	E	E	B	E	O	L	E
R	T	Y	P	E	C	I	V	R	E	S	E	S	S
C	E	R	S	R	G	A	L	F	C	R	S	I	E

Patriot	Fireman	Remember	September	Freedom
Policeman	America	Memory	Soldier	Heroes
Nation	Brave	Flag	Sacrifice	
Eleventh	Rescue	Service	History	

FOOTBALL

WORD SCRAMBLE

- IFKOFKC _____
- DTCUWHONO _____
- EHTMLE _____
- ETPLPNA _____
- CALKTE _____
- AMHCOPHNPI _____
- UTSDAIM _____
- TAEM _____
- RERUAQTABKC _____
- RAYDS _____
- HMFLITEA _____
- BZTLI _____
- DUHELD _____
- SERCO _____
- OVNRETUR _____

Chevron Lemon | www.chevronlemon.com



Visiting Pastor ---

Many of you already know that **Pastor Fiege** will be away on vacation from Sept. 7 through Sept. 21. While he is away on those 3 Sundays, we have **Pastor Bruce Stam** to fill in. Please help him feel welcome!



Mount Moriah Lutheran Church

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www.facebook.com/mtmoriahluth