



The Mountain Top Echo

Mt. Moriah Lutheran Church, Byron MN

Reaching Out ... Sharing Christ AUGUST 2026

Living With Peace

Have you been living with fear and anxiety? What a loaded question you might say. Of course we have been living with fear and anxiety. Have you not seen or read the news lately? Wow, this world is just mixed up, filled with terrible people doing terrible things to others. As we look around us there are fires north of us, there is heat and humidity all around that is causing distress on the crops, and there is massive flooding in Europe and in the southern states of the US. Don't get me started (you would say) on those prices at the pump, in the grocery store, or any other store. As you think about your life and the world around you, it is a tough world filled with anxiety, worry, and fear. Before you get depressed and stressed out, there is our gracious God who comes to us in His Word to give us peace.

Have you been living with fear and anxiety? There are other things that we live with that causes us to live in fear. For some it is climbing up the ladder to paint that window which hasn't seen a coat of paint for who knows how long, or climbing up the ladder to pick those plums on furthest branch a person can reach, or even driving on unfamiliar roads not wanting to get lost or even something worse. For still others it is getting on the plane to take a trip to some destination that one has planned to take for months. The Lord appears to us in His Word and gives us peace.

Have you been living with fear and anxiety? If we would be true to ourselves, the world and the strife that is happening is causing fear and anxiety in our hearts and minds. When the weather forecast calls for strong thunderstorms, raging winds, hail, and the like to rake the earth around us, we live with that anxiety that we or our loved ones will be affected in some way. The devil enjoys causing us to be fearful of the weather, wars, even the random shootings and killing of innocent people. Even as we hear of all the destruction that happens, the killing of innocent people, wars, increasing prices, and anything that causes fear to tear at our hearts and live, God still brings us words of peace in His Son, Jesus Christ. Jesus met in the upper room with His disciples on the night in which He was betrayed and spoke to His confused followers as He speaks to us: ***...peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give unto you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.***" (John 14:27)

Have you been living with fear and anxiety? The answer is yes, we have. Whether it has been traveling around this great country of ours, or around the vast world, we have experience anxiety and fear. We have feared the strong tornados, the hail bouncing off the crops or houses, the destructive wind that blows trees down, the killings that have affected others and people we know, and certainly we have experienced sickness, heart disease, cancer, and death. Yet through it all we have a gracious and loving God who gave His Son into death for all of our problems, fears, sins, and death, to rise for us and to give us eternal life and forgiveness of sins to each and everyone. That is why as we live with anxiety, worry, fear, and the like we have peace, peace that will sustain us, peace that will lift us up, and peace that will encourage us in life. The Apostle Paul wrote about peace when he wrote: ***"And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus."*** (Philippians 4:7). That peace enables us to live with everything that surrounds in this life, good and bad. May that peace of God lead you and encourage you this day and always.

In the Peace of Christ
Pastor Scott Fiege



LCMS August Stewardship **Newsletter Articles**

“What must I do to inherit eternal life?” asked the rich young ruler. Jesus said, “You know the commandments.” And he replied, “All these I have kept from my youth.” And Jesus said to him, “One thing you still lack. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me” (Luke 18:18–22).

When we hear this story, this question comes to mind: is Jesus speaking to us also, or only to the rich young ruler? In other words, is Jesus telling us to sell all that we have and give it to the poor?

As good Lutherans, we answer, “No!” But why? Why should we not sell all that we have and distribute it to the poor? The simplest explanation is this: if we sold everything we have, our wife and our children would be neglected. In other words, to sell everything we have and give it to the poor would ignore, even abandon, those whom God has placed in our care. Our money, everything we have, is not to be used solely for the church. But that doesn’t excuse us from using our money for the purpose God intends.

Everyone has three stations in life, three spheres in which we live and are to be of service to our neighbors. These stations are the church, the family and society. We are members of all three of these by birth. We are born into the church by water and the Word of God, and our duties to others in the church arise from our Baptism into the church. We are born into a family, and our duties to others stem from our birth into that family. Finally, we are born into society, which is simply a further extension of our birth into our family. The duties we have toward other members of society come from either our own birth or the birth of others into the same society.

All that we have and all that we are ought to be pressed into service for the church, the family and society. If we were to sell all we have and give only to one, the other two would be neglected, and we would falter in fulfilling our duties. So, consider your life and all that you have in light of these three stations. You pay taxes to support and help those in society. You save for college for your children, and provide food, clothing and shelter for the members of your family.

But the station that is usually thought of last is the church. Since the needs of the family and society are more immediate, the church is often given what is left over. This is not how it should be. Rather, we are to give of our first fruits, from off the top, the best, even as Abel gave the best of his flock. This requires forethought. It means that you sit down and make a plan of what you will give from the beginning. It means sticking to it even when it seems that there are other more immediate and pressing things.

And this is all the more necessary now as we enter into periods of time where giving is low due to high unemployment or where restrictions on meeting in church limit opportunities to give. If we love God and His gifts of forgiveness given through the Means of Grace, which we receive at church and only at church, then we will support it, just as we love our country and our family. For all that we have and all that we are is given to us by our gracious God. He spared no expense for us and our salvation. He gave up His Son to death so that our sins are forgiven, and we will live. What’s more, He provides for all that we need for this body and life. And our lives in this world, among these three spheres of church, family and society are to mirror the generosity of the one who gave us life in all three at birth.

Don’t let the church, your divine family, be an afterthought or even ignored. It is nurturing you, bringing you up in salvation through Word and Sacrament.



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



Call Ardi Gibbs for the date of the next **LWML** meeting.

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

The Perseid meteor shower 2026 is shaping up to be the astronomical event of the decade. As we look ahead, anticipation is building for the most popular meteor shower of the year, which will peak on the night of August 12–13, 2026. This annual spectacle of shooting stars tonight and throughout August is a favorite among astronomers and casual stargazers alike. The peak coincides with a 0%-illuminated New Moon—guaranteeing the darkest skies in years



The Perseids are famous for producing bright meteors and fireballs. They are caused by Earth plowing through the debris trail left behind by comet 109P/Swift-Tuttle. As these tiny space rocks hit our atmosphere, they burn up, creating the brilliant streaks of light we call shooting stars.

Active Dates – July 17 to August 24, 2026. The predicted peak for the Perseids 2026 peak date is overnight from 8/12 to 8/13, 2026. For observers around the world, the absolute best time to watch is during the pre-dawn hours with the best viewing window being Midnight to dawn local time, regardless of your time zone.

2026 is exceptionally special because the alignment of lunar phases and the meteor shower's peak creates a once-in-a-decade viewing opportunity. The Perseid meteor shower 2026 coincides perfectly with a 0%-illuminated New Moon. This means there will be absolutely no moonlight to wash out the fainter shooting stars, offering the darkest skies we have seen during a Perseid peak in years. Under a truly dark sky, observers can expect to see 90+ meteors per hour, approaching the maximum Zenithal Hourly Rate (ZHR) of ~100.

Here is how many meteors per hour you can expect:

- **Dark Sky Preserves/Rural Areas** – 90+ meteors per hour under ideal, cloudless conditions.
- **Suburban Skies** – 20–40 meteors per hour, visible away from direct streetlights.
- **City Centers** – 5–10 bright fireballs per hour, as light pollution hides the fainter streaks.

Hit the Greens, Change A Child's Life.

Enjoy 18 holes of golf at the beautiful **Valleywood Golf Course, Apple Valley, MN on August 10, 2026.** Your contribution will include golf, cart access, a taco buffet, and a drink ticket. There will be chances to win game and raffle prizes. If you're not a golfer, you can be a Hole Sponsor or a Meal Sponsor or just make a kind donation. All contributions are warmly welcomed and are tax deductible. This golf benefit will support Camp Omega Endowment Fund to help send children to Camp Omega and experience the love of Jesus. For more information and to register and/or donate for this benefit, go to www.campomega.org. Thank you for your support and making a change to a child's life.

Deb Vinkemeier
Camp Omega Board of Directors
612-720-7264



Save the date:

September 20, Sunday - Four Daughters Vineyard & Winery, near Spring Valley. Appetizers will be provided by the social committee. Come join the fun starting at 1 pm.



We Invite You To Attend A Retreat With Faith Family Reunion

When children have left the church and faith in Jesus Christ, parents that are left behind often find themselves feeling isolated and alone. The feelings of guilt and shame can become overwhelming as they wonder what they did wrong, could have done better or what they failed to do. The end result makes parents feel as though they are living solo with the need to carry this burden on their own.

When: Saturday, October 17, 2026

Time: 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Where: Good Shepherd Lutheran Church 2500 7th Ave NE, Owatonna, MN 55060

Sponsored by: the Faribault Circuit of the Minnesota South District of the LCMS

To Register: Call (507) 451-4125 or click on the QR Code

Cost: Registration is \$15.00 per person includes, breakfast, lunch and retreat materials



Click to Register

During this time, we invite you to begin the journey of discovery together with us as we explore the notion that we might all share similar stories and that maybe you are really not alone on this road.

FAITHFAMILYREUNION.COM

Worship Assistant Schedule for AUGUST 2026	Altar Guild for Month of AUGUST – Margaret Karst
8/2/2026 – 10th Sunday after Pentecost Worship w/Communion – 10:00 a.m. Pastor Fiege	Elder – Don Vosberg Reader – Dennis Karst(change) Music – Ruth Benning (change)
8/9/2026 – 11th Sunday after Pentecost Worship – 10:00 a.m. Pastor Fiege	Elder – Don Vosberg Reader – Dave Welsh Music – Dave Welsh
8/16/2026 – 12th Sunday after Pentecost Worship w/Communion – 10:00 a.m. Pastor Fiege	Elder – Shane Amundson Reader – Verona Kruse Music – Ruth Benning
8/23/2026 – 13th Sunday after Pentecost Worship – 10:00 a.m. Pastor Fiege	Elder – Brant Klepel Reader – Dave Welsh Music – Margaret Karst
8/30/2026 – 14th Sunday after Pentecost Worship w/Communion – 10:00 a.m. Pastor Fiege	Elder – Brant Klepel Reader – Alessa Kobi Music – Jeff Rehwaltd

Minnesota State Fair

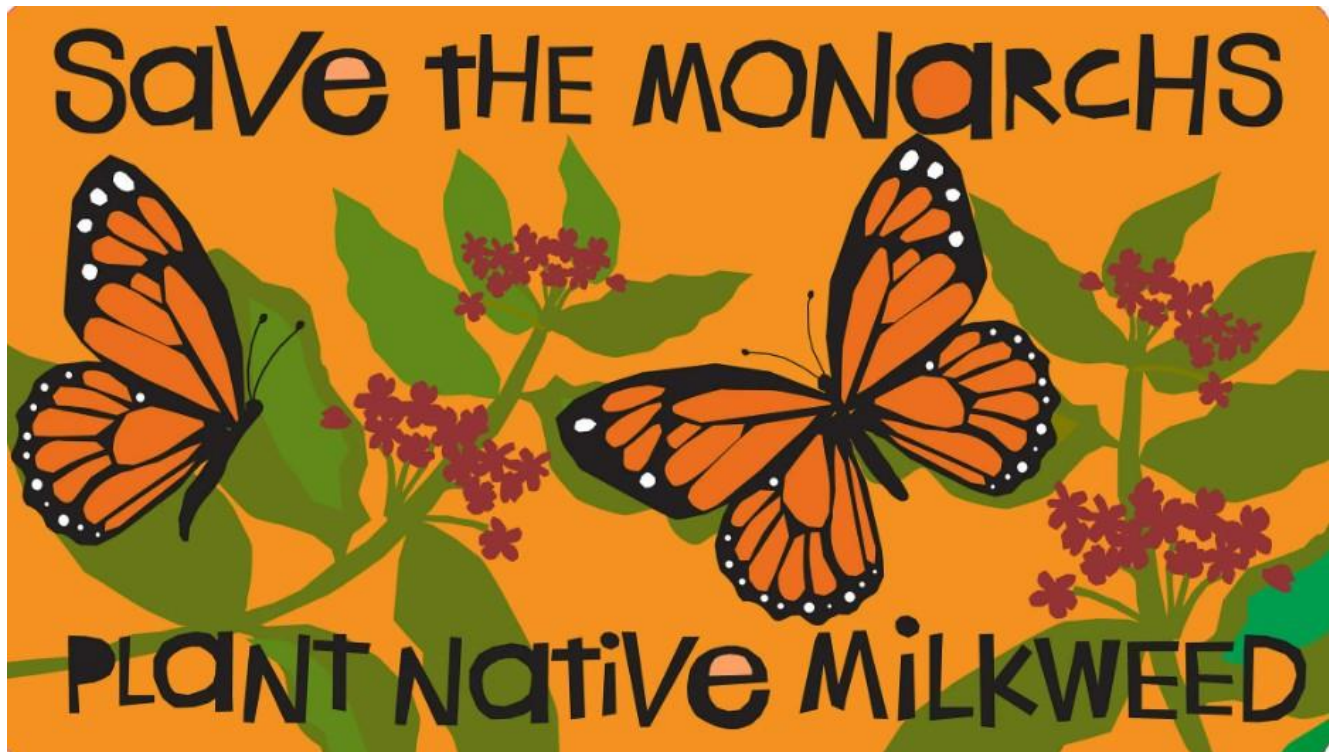
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| Cornonthecob | Frenchfries | Politicians | Grandstand |
| Fireworks | Cookies | Tickets | Walking |
| Animals | People | Eating | Parade |
| Midway | Prizes | Rides | Games |
| Music | Milk | | |

Summer Fun

Z U K G T P G E C R P Y V L L H Y D S I O V U E
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| SANDCASTLE | SUNGLASSES | HAMBURGERS | WATERMELON |
| SUNSCREEN | SPRINKLER | VACATION | SWIMSUIT |
| POPSICLE | SUNSHINE | ICECREAM | SWIMMING |
| COOKOUT | CAMPING | OUTSIDE | HOTDOGS |
| FRIENDS | PICNIC | SUMMER | BEACH |
| SWEAT | BIKE | POOL | HOT |



Mount Moriah Lutheran Church

923 2nd Avenue NW, Byron, MN 55920

Phone: 507-775-2460

Web Site: www.mtmoriahluth.org

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