



Have a safe Labor Day



The Mountain Top Echo

Mt. Moriah Lutheran Church, Byron MN

Reaching Out ... Sharing Christ SEPTEMBER 2026

Where Has the Time Gone?

As I write this article for the September newsletter, children have begun their yearly trek back to the books, the classrooms, the learning, the schedules, the activities and the like. As children and grandchildren continue on their new adventure, I remember those days that I began a new year of study. I remember the walks to Cobb Elementary, just two blocks from where I lived. In my memory bank I remember those days walking through the rain showers (because in Duluth it always seemed to rain the first and the last week of school). So it is time for a new adventure to begin in the lives of those children and grandchildren, as they do, we remember those days gone by. *Where has the time Gone?*

As we remember those early days of our lives, we continue to bring back to the present what it was like for us during these early times of our lives. Sometimes, as we remember the first days of school, we also bring to mind our first job. Do you remember that first job? I do; I was a newspaper boy for *The Duluth News Tribune* newspaper. I would be up and out the door by 5:00 am and wait patiently for the papers to be delivered at my stop. My journey would take me on a straight path from Woodland Ave to the Ridgeview Country Club, a hike of one mile. In the winter my father would help me by driving his car while I ran behind and dropped off the paper at my customers doorstep. *Where has the Time Gone?*

Memory is a good thing, isn't it? It is especially a good thing, when you are able to recall those special events that interested you and those not so nice things as well. I remember to this day (even after 55 years of knowing my wife, my bride Karen), recalling meeting her, courting her, first dates, asking her to marry me, all very great times. I recall those very interesting first years of marriage, going to Anoka Voc Tech (as it was called by in the day) having a job at Abbott Hospital as a Respiratory Tech and not being very happy in my job until the Lord pushed (I guess is the word I am looking for, but not pushed, maybe called is a better term) to another journey which would continue at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. While at the Seminary our first two children, Paul and Andrew, were born. They are now 46 and 44, *where has The Time Gone?*

So, that job of delivering *The Duluth News-Tribune* has turned into the first joyous job-calling occupation that I would have in this life which blessed me with tact and patience. Over the years I have had a few jobs which allowed me to meet a number of people who needed care and concern. It has been a blessing to be your pastor; shepherd all these almost 8 years. You have heard the messages of Jesus from the mouth of a humble servant over these years. It has been an amazing time to be your pastor during these years, for it was God's plan, after all: ***"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope."* (Jeremiah 29:11)** We have had a wonderful, blessed journey over these almost eight years, one that will never be forgotten. God will not allow it to be forgotten. So, when you think of that question: *"Where has the Time Gone?"*, think, ponder and know that God's love has been shared and will never be forgotten. We say to each other, ***"See you soon!"***

In Christ's Service
Pastor Scott Fiege



LCMS Stewardship
Stewardship in the First Commandment
Originally published in September 2023

The greatest gift that Martin Luther gave to us was his Small Catechism. The word “enchiridion” is part of the original title of this work. This is the Greek word for “handbook.” The Small Catechism is a handbook of the Bible. All the basic knowledge that a Christian needs to understand the faith and live a godly life has been taken from the Bible and distilled into this beautiful little book of Christian piety.

Luther starts with the Ten Commandments. The First Commandment: *You shall have no other gods.* What does this mean? We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things. (SC I) We have a God above us. He is the Lord God and we are not. He is Almighty and in control. He is righteous and good. And therefore, we should fear Him. This God is also our heavenly Father. He wants us to be saved. He does not want us to suffer His just wrath. He has provided salvation for us in His Son, Jesus Christ. And therefore, we should love Him. Our heavenly Father will never leave us nor forsake us. He has promised as much — and the Bible shows us that He always keeps His promises. So, we should trust Him. In the Large Catechism, Luther explains how money and possessions form one of the greatest temptations against the First Commandment:

This I must unfold somewhat more plainly, that it may be understood and perceived by ordinary examples of the contrary. Many a one thinks that he has God and everything in abundance when he has money and possessions; he trusts in them and boasts of them with such firmness and assurance as to care for no one. Lo, such a man also has a god, Mammon by name, i.e., money and possessions, on which he sets all his heart, and which is also the most common idol on earth. He who has money and possessions feels secure, and is joyful and undismayed as though he were sitting in the midst of Paradise. On the other hand, he who has none doubts and is despondent, as though he knew of no God. For very few are to be found who are of good cheer, and who neither mourn nor complain if they have not Mammon. This [care and desire for money] sticks and clings to our nature, even to the grave. (LC I 5–9)

These words of Dr. Luther should call us to repentance; sometimes, we live and act like we don’t have a Father in heaven. We seek our comfort and peace outside of His gracious promises. But we do have a Father in heaven. He does love us. All His promises are true. And the Lord will surely provide. If that is our belief, then our outward lives will reflect this belief in our acts of generosity and mercy. We will see money and possessions not as gods but rather as tools for doing God’s work.



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





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

Lord, in my work — whether at a job, at home or in a service—

help me
to do it with
purpose and
peace.

Keep me from being
overwhelmed, and remind me
that my worth is not in what I
produce, but in
who I am in You.
Amen.

Pastor Fiege will be gone on **Sunday, Sept. 13**
so **Pastor Stam** will be conducting our
Worship Service that day. He will also be
starting up Bible Study for the Fall.



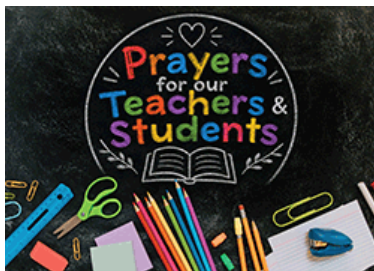
A Good Foundation

Poet: Catherine Pulsifer, ©2021

Oh I recall my school filled days
I now realize how much it pays
To learn and get an education
It truly gives you a good foundation.

Life will teach you many things
Ups and downs and many swings
But the learning that I got at school
Has made me not anyone's fool.

So learn all you can while you're in school
Don't worry about being so cool.
Always do your very best
And life will take care of the rest.



A Big Thank You to our
members who helped
improve the landscaping at
the front of our church!!! There was a
lot of really hard work in a hot and
humid environment. A special thanks
to Brian Hahn and family for bringing
their heavy equipment to minimize
the lifting!



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 start-
ing at 1 pm.



The Lillestol Baptism --- Sunday, Aug. 16.



District Youth Day 2026

Keynote Speaker ---Rev. Brandon Metcalf

Rev. Brandon Metcalf currently serves as a pastor at Zion Lutheran Church in Bethalto, IL and previously served as a DCE in Missouri. He is a contributing author to numerous books and Bible studies for youth ministries, has written and taught extensively on effective parish education and family ministry, and has spoken at youth gatherings and conferences throughout the country, including the past three LCMS Youth Gatherings. He enjoys playing volleyball, board games, trivia, and writing parody songs, but his greatest joys in life come from being a husband and a father.

- **Saturday, October 10, 2026** 8:00 AM --- 4:00 PM Minnesota South District of the Lutheran Church –
- Missouri Synod 14301 Grand Ave South Burnsville, MN 55306
- Last year we had over 200 adults and youth in grades 6-12
- from across Minnesota join together for our District Youth Day
- at Concordia, St. Paul!

We invite you to join us again this year on October 10th!



The Monarch butterfly's winter roosting spots in Mexico, which once covered as much as 45 acres, was down to four and a half last year. World Wildlife Fund has spent years trying to combat the destruction, assessing the health of the forest, measuring the size of butterfly colonies, and planting trees.

Monarchs returning to the U.S. in Spring, need milkweed plants to lay their eggs on; it's the only source of food their newly born caterpillars will eat. But milkweed is now hard to find. It's virtually eradicated on agricultural land. Monarch Watch encourages people to plant milkweed in their gardens and on public land, creating what they call Monarch Waystations. Fifty thousand of them have been planted so far.

But, this year, scientists tell us conservation measures are going in the right direction: one survey found that the monarchs covered more than double the forest area during this year's hibernation season. That's more than seven acres of Mexican forest covered in butterflies.

Save the Monarch by planting native milkweed! See page 6 on how you can get free seeds to plant in your yard.

(Updated on: July 19, 2026 / CBS News-60 Minutes)

Worship Assistant Schedule for September 2026	Altar Guild for Month of Sept. – Kim Amundson
9/6/2026 – 15th Sunday after Pentecost Worship w/Communion – 10:00 a.m. Pastor Fiege	Elder – Don Vosberg Reader – Kristie Hahn Music – Justin Hahn
9/13/2026 – 16th Sunday after Pentecost Worship – 10:00 a.m. Pastor Stam	Elder – Brant Klepel (change) Reader – Dave Welsh Music – Dave Welsh
9/20/2026 – 17th Sunday after Pentecost Worship w/Communion – 10:00 a.m. Pastor Fiege	Elder – Don Vosberg Reader – Dave Welsh Music – Ruth Benning
9/27/2026 – 18th Sunday after Pentecost Worship – 10:00 a.m. Pastor Fiege	Elder – Brant Klepel Reader – Verona Kruse Music – Margaret Karst



September Word Search Puzzle



Autumn

Aster

Baking

Colors

Gourds

Hiking

Jacket

Leaves

Maple

Migrate

Orchard

Rake

Trails

Labor Day

Patriotism

Acorn

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



Apple Harvest!



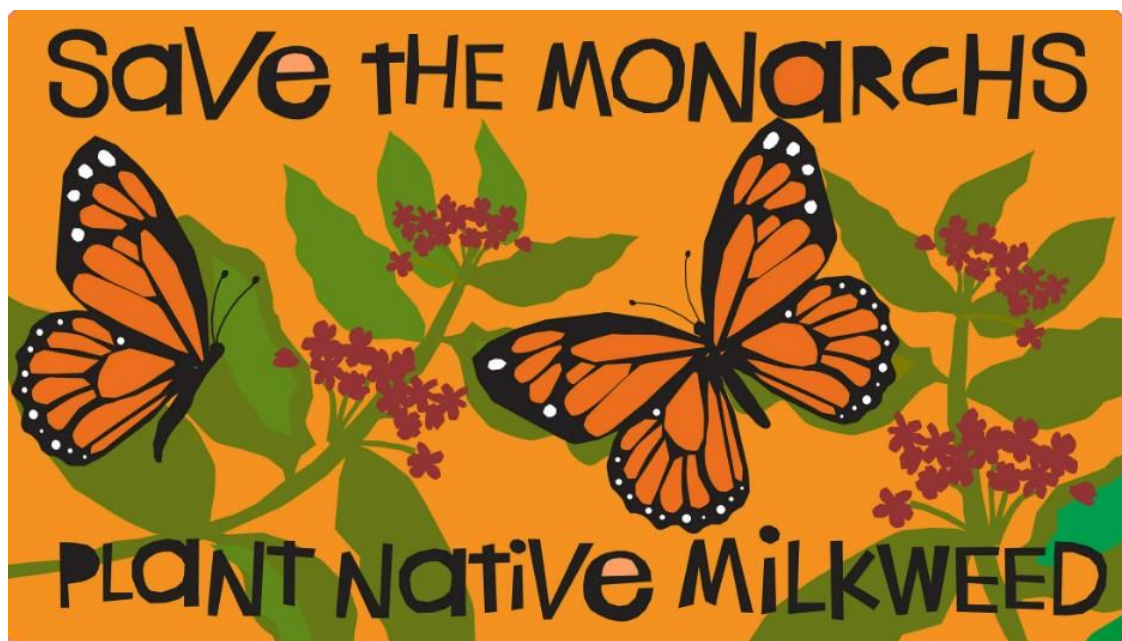
AGRICULTURE
AROMATIC
ATTRactions
BAKE
BASKET
BUSHEL
CIDER
COLORFUL
COOKIES
COOKING
CORE
CRISP
CROP
CULTIVAR
DESSERT
DONUTS
EAT
EATING
FALL
FARM
FARM STAND
FARMER
FIELD
FLESH
FRUIT
GATHER
GOLDEN
GREEN
HEIRLOOM
HORTICULTURE
HYBRID
JUICE
LADDER
LARGE
MEDIUM
MUFFIN
ORCHARD
OUTING
PECK
PEEL
PICK
PIE
PLUCK
PRODUCE
RED
RIPE
ROUND

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

RUSSET
SAMPLE
SAUCE
SEASON
SEEDS
SKIN
SMALL
SOUR
SPECIES

STORAGE
SWEET
TART
TENDER
TRADITION
TREE
VARIETY
VISITORS
YIELD





FREE Seeds just outside the church office!!!

Help yourself to the free, local milkweed seeds in a basket on the shelf right outside of the office. Just throw a ¼ in. or so of soil over the seeds on the ground this Fall and they'll sprout in the Spring after the winter cold treatment. (Seeds should be available by Sept. 2 — Marilyn W.)



Mount Moriah Lutheran Church

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Web Site: www.mtmoriahluth.org

www.facebook.com/mtmoriahluth