



AUGUST 2026

Creation in Christ Sunday



FROM OUR
PASTOR

Heaven is declaring God's glory; the sky is proclaiming his handiwork.
(Psalm 19:1 Common English Bible)

Most of you know that my granddaughter, Jada, has spent much of July with me. The goal initially was to help her improve her driving so that she will pass the driving test in Maryland and get her driver's license. The truth is this: She is already a good driver. Maybe she needed a boost in confidence and to gain more behind the wheel experience, but there was very little that I needed to teach. It's been a fun month, and I will miss her when she returns home on August 5. It's always good to see someone you used to know as a child having blossomed into a fine adult.

There was an added bonus. As Jada was driving the roads here in Somonauk and neighboring towns, I got to enjoy the scenery from the passenger seat. So many corn-fields and so much soybeans! It all grew so fast and the land looks so rich with the wonderful produce of human labor and God's blessing.

This all reminded me that at the Northern Illinois Synod Assembly in June, the churches and pastors were encouraged to celebrate September 1 or the following Sunday as Creation in Christ Sunday (also known as Feast of Christ Sunday).

This day celebrates God as Creator and reflects on the great mystery that everything was created through Christ. While of much of scripture and worship themes throughout the year is rich with Christ's activity in creation, this is a day to focus on the mystery of creation.

Many churches and denominations in both Orthodox and Western Christianity have celebrated this day in the past, this year marks the first time a new feast/festival has been adopted since the release of the common lectionary in 1983.

The ELCA is a member of both the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) and the World Council of Churches (WCC), two of the more than thirteen Christian communions that have encouraged the adoption of this festival.



Blair Lindstrom	08/02
John Shoener	08/02
Nancy Maroscia	08/02
Don Loux	08/03
Brynn Hallman	08/05
Ellie Kulton	08/10
Grayson Denault	08/12
Roger Hallman	08/13
Adam Killey	08/13
Brooklynn Misener	08/14
Linda Johnson	08/14
Alex Barnes	08/16
Joanne Robinson	08/17

Rosemary Underwood	08/17
Marion Gaffney	08/18
Julie Christopher	08/19
Amy Eighner	08/21
Mandi Grandgeorge	08/22
Gina Skofich	08/23
Karol Grandgeorge	08/23
Brad Eade	08/25
Roger Guehler	08/25
Beverly Heaney	08/26
Scott Horsch	08/29
Brad Rogers	08/29
Glen Reuter	08/29
Sue Weber	08/30
Glenda Andrews	08/30



Heidi & Patrick Eaton	08/05
Steven & Becky Vermeland	08/08
Tom & Linda Martin	08/10
Glenda & Dick Andrews	08/21
Keith & Marian Larson	08/22



Worship and Brunch in the Park Sunday, August 2nd.

9:00 Worship

10:00 Brunch & Fellowship

**Somonauk
community park**

**Bring a brunch/breakfast item to share.
Drinks and tableware will be provided.**



September 20th!! Rally Day!!

Sunday School is back in session!!

Sunday September 20th at 8:30AM

Please join us for our Rally Day Celebration!

Meet the teachers!

Play games!

Crafts!

Join us after the 9:45AM Worship Service
for a light lunch.



STEWARDSHIP/MISSION MINUTES 7-1-26

The July Stewardship meeting began at 8:45 a.m. with Karol Grandgeorge, Connie Hamer, and Mike Hamer present.

The May minutes were approved.

Mike's offering report for June: General Fund - \$19,137.58; Capital Fund - \$4544.60; Baby Care Kits - \$117.60 and MSHV - \$517.08.

LWR updates – Schoolbag kits is one of our August emphases. We are going to purchase supplies for 450 bags. Michael has ordered the cord for stringing bags. Dates for sewing and stringing bags are Tuesday and Wednesday, July 28th and 29th. We have set the date of Sunday, Sept. 6th at 4:30 p.m. for filling the completed bags. The Stewardship members will purchase the pizza and drinks for afterwards.

We will not be distributing Time and Talent brochures this year.

The Blood Drive concluded with 6 units gathered. We will not be sponsoring another as it has become very difficult to get participants.

The next Fellowship Dinner is scheduled for Tuesday, October 27th and St. John's is the host. The main menu has not been decided at this time. Robin Raupp is currently the St. John's coordinator.

The second emphasis for August is Childrens' Charities. We have chosen Somonauk CUSD #432 K-8 school supplies as the recipient. Connie will write the article for the journal and contact the school district.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 5th at 8:45 a.m. We adjourned at 9:45 a.m. by praying The Lord's Prayer.

Evelyn Smith has moved. Her new address is:

Cedarhurst Senior Living of Yorkville

4040 Cannonball Trail Room 232

Yorkville, IL 60560

WORSHIP COMMITTEE MINUTES 7-1-26

Present: Pastor Selena, Toni Lundeen, Julie Horsch and Cindy Karp. We started our meeting at 1:35 pm.

We talked about the upcoming church picnic on Sunday August 2nd. The keyboard will be needed at the park for music during service. We are looking for a couple strong volunteers to bring it to the park and to return it to church again after service. Toni said she will find out who can play that day. We will also have communion during service. I will check to see who is on Altar Guild that Sunday and see if they can take care of bringing it to the park. One last thing, help will be needed to open up the windows in the building we will be in. Any help with things will be so appreciated!

Pastor will be going to the monthly Ministerial meeting soon and will find out more details about service at the fair in September.

We also talked about service times through out the year and wondered what Council's thoughts are on just leaving it at 9:45am permanently.

We closed our meeting at 2:35pm. In God's service, Cindy Karp

August Emphasis:

Somonauk Comm. Unit #432

Dear Parishioners,

August is a busy month for families. Students are preparing to return to school and families are purchasing school supplies. School personnel are also busy with preparations for the school year. Along with LWR School Kits, children's charities is one of our emphases in August. This year we chose Somonauk Comm. Unit #432 as our monetary recipient. Specifically, we are donating this offering for kindergarten through 8th grade (K-8) school supplies. Many of us have or are currently working at James R. Wood Elementary or Somonauk Middle School and can attest to the excellent education which children have received. We would like to assist #432 in this effort as we are all aware how rising costs impact educational opportunities. If you would like to contribute to this emphasis, please remember to mark your donation as K-8 School Supplies or Children's Charities. Thank you ever so much for all that you do for St. John's community involvement.

LWR Lutheran World Relief Work Days

August 11th

9:00 am to 3:00 pm Bring a Lunch

August 12th

9:00am to 3:00 pm Bring a Lunch

During our workdays in August, we will be working on large quilts, making backs and centers for the quilts and putting together Baby Care Kits. If donations have come in, we will be sorting and tearing apart what needs to be gotten ready for putting in quilts.

Since we are hoping to do about 550 school backpacks, we will need people to go shopping. I

have included a list for you to shop with:

4- 70-sheet spiral notebooks 8 1/2"by 10 1/2" wide or college ruled

30-Centimeter ruler or ruler with centimeters and inches

1-pair of blunt scissors (rounded tip only; no pointed scissors)

5- Unsharpened #2 pencils

5- Ballpoint pens (blue or black ink; no gel pens

Pencil sharpener

Box of 16 or 24 crayons

2 ½ " eraser

If you can not shop, you may put your donation in a blue envelope or include it with your regular offering. Be sure to mark it for School Supplies and we will shop for you.

Hope everyone is having a good summer and take a few minutes to come help with LWR projects in the air-conditioned Fellowship Hall.

There are always jobs for many workers, so please take a few moments to come and give us a hand. GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS!

GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS!



MEETING

Stewardship Committee

8:45am Wednesday, August 5



Worship Committee

1:00pm Wednesday, August 5



Church Council

10:45am Sunday, August 9



Altar Guild

6:30pm Tuesday, August 18



Our Sharing Pantry



You are cordially invited to help us celebrate our 40th Anniversary!

1986 - 2026

SUNDAY, August 16, 2026

Ice cream social 2:00 – 4:00 PM

St. John's Lutheran Church

235 S. Green Street, Somonauk, IL 60552

We look forward to seeing you and your family!

Thank you for your support!



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
August 2026				
2 9:00am Worship <i>Church Picnic</i> <i>9:00 am</i> <i>Somonauk Comm. Park</i>	3	4	5 8:45am Stewardship 1:00pm Worship Mtg.	
9 9:00am Worship 10:45am Church Council Meeting	10	11 <i>LWR Workday</i> <i>9:00am-3pm</i>	12 <i>LWR Workday</i> <i>9:00am-3pm</i>	
16 9:00am Worship OUR SHARING PANTRY ICE CREAM SOCIAL 2:00-4:00PM	17	18	19	
23 9:00am Worship	24	25	26	
9:00 Worship 30	31			

	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 5:00pm Worship
	6	7	8 5:00pm Worship
	13	14	15 5:00pm Worship
	20	21	22 5:00pm Worship
	27	28	29 5:00pm Worship



God's Barnyard Community Vacation Bible School Recap

We had 29 children attend Bible School this year!
15 of those were aged 3-5. They kept us on our toes!

It was a wonderful week learning that God has a plan for us, he loves us unconditionally, he forgives us and is our Savior!

The stories were told by an animal from a different Bible Story each day. Monday was the dove from Noah's Ark. Tuesday was the cow from the barn in Bethlehem where Jesus was born. Wednesday was the lost sheep. Thursday was the donkey that Jesus rode on Palm Sunday.

We were so blessed to have awesome youth from the community
to be our group leaders this year.

Red Team - Junia Johnson and Sophia Ludwig

Blue Team - Madison Taylor and Addy Barnes

Yellow Team - Kira Barnes

Green Team - Ezra Ortega and Natalie Ludwig

I personally would like to thank everyone for all their encouraging words, prayers, help and support in making this a very successful Bible School!!

A very special thank you to those who helped in each rotation:

Games - Bonnie Guyer and Kherington Killey

Music - Jessica Ortega

Bible Study - Karol Grandgeorge and Wayne Karp

Crafts - Connie Hamer, Cindy Karp, Doris Miller and Linda Stahl

Snacks - Cara Killey, Ellie Koulton, and Susan Thomas



Nancy Miller, VBS
Coordinator

Church Staff

A. Administration

- i. Office Secretary: Julie Horsch

b. Business

- i. Financial Recorder: Mike Hamer
- ii. Treasurer: Scott Horsch

c. Facilities

- i. Building Superintendent: Diane Wold

d. Worship

- i. Accompanists: Jessica Ortega, Toni Lundeen,
Becky Stephens, Margaret Page

Church Council

President: Wayne Karp
Vice-President:
Secretary: Bob Fraley

Congregation Council

Mary Carlson
Mike Hamer
Connie Hamer
Cindy Karp
Joanne Robinson

Lutherdale Bible Camp Representatives-2026

Karol Grandgeorge, Nancy Miller

Synod Assembly Representatives-2026

Wayne & Cindy Karp

Cemetery Ministry Team

Bob Fraley, Glen Reuter, Doug Stahl

Endowment Ministry Team

Marion Gaffney, Dan Denault, Ward Hearn, Cara Killey, Wendy Merkel

Finance Ministry Team

Chuck Hoepe,
Bob Mueller, Joanne Robinson

Memorial and Other Gifts Fund Team

Kathy Anderson, Connie Hamer, Linda Johnson, Adam Killey
Jerry Lundeen, Nancy Miller, Anita Milligan

Church Ministries & Organizations Contacts

Altar Guild

CROP Walk: Mark Lee & Mike Hamer

Growing Hope: Jerry & Toni Lundeen

Global Missions: *In need of leadership*

Habitat for Humanity: Karol Grandgeorge

Hearts & Hands:

LSSI Christmas Hope Chest: Karol Grandgeorge & Julie Horsch

LWR Projects (Mission Quilts, Baby Care Kits, School Kits,

Personal Care Kits, Sewing Kits): Karol Grandgeorge

Meals on Wheels: Mark Lee

Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans: *In need of leadership*

Our Sharing Pantry: Jerry Lundeen

Prayer Chain: Karol Grandgeorge

Parish Education

Confirmation

- a. Primary Instructor—Scott Horsch, Maury Killey
- b. St. John's Congregational Council

3N1: 7—12 gr. Youth Ministry:

Coordinators:

Youth Ministry Connection from St. John's—Julie Horsch

Esther Circle: Jeanette Pfeifer

Rebekah Circle: Connie Hamer

Sunday School Coordinator: Nancy Miller

Chairpersons/Ministry Summaries

(Listed alphabetically by ministry)

Cemetery Ministry: Bob Fraley

Oversees the care of the church cemetery, maintenance and improvements.

Communications Ministry: Bob Fraley

Seeks to improve communication with members and the community.

Fellowship & Hospitality Ministry

Plans activities and recreational outings to promote friendship and fellowship in our congregation and community.

Finance Ministry: Scott Horsch

Proposes the budget and administers incoming and outgoing funds.

Outreach Ministry:

Reach out to the community by welcoming new neighbors with bread, hosting/participating in community events, following up with visitors, and bringing God's love to St John's 'special members' from cradle roll through the homebound.

Parish Education Ministry:

Oversees Sunday School Program, Summer Bible Day Camp, and youth related activities.

Property Ministry:

Oversees the care of the church facilities and grounds, maintenance and improvements.

Stewardship /Missions Ministry:

Provides opportunities for members of our congregation to use their gifts and resources, which includes raising funds for special projects. Provides a variety of opportunities to do God's Work with Our Hands. Organizes activities, publicize events and coordinate participation. Please join us in any way that works for you.

Worship Ministry: Cindy Karp

Striving to provide Spirit filled worship opportunities in an atmosphere of hospitality.

Newsletter of St. John's Lutheran Church August 2026



We're on the Web:
www.elcastjohns.org

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Somonauk, Illinois 60552

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office@elcastjohns.org

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