



## Selah



FROM OUR  
**PASTOR**

The Hebrew word, *selah*, occurs only 74 times throughout the Hebrew scriptures: 71 times in the Psalms and 3 times in Habakkuk. Yet it is not randomly placed but appears at crucial moments.

It acts as a break in the flow, calling for a moment of heightened attention. It tells us to stop and listen. It is similar to the way an interlude or a bridge in music breaks the rhythmic flow in the music, captures our attention, and calls us deeper into the song.

*Selah* tells us to pause. Pauses allow us to rest, reflect, and be restored. Pauses allow us to not only hear but to listen deeply to the sounds around us and the sounds within us. Pauses then allow us to re-engage, more fully and in a new way.

So why is this my reflection for July?

July marks the time of year where summer is in full swing. Summer is a time of family outings, vacations, weekend trips, picnics, and more. This period of the year affords us time to relax and enjoy time together with family and friends. Summer allows us a pause—even if it is a brief pause—to stop, reflect, and then re-engage re-energized and with a renewed perspective. That is why the word *selah* is important and why I focus on it.

This summer may you find moments of *selah*—times of rest and restoration in your work and your play as you continue to listen deeply to God's voice in creation around you and to God's voice deep within you.

*Selah.*




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# JULY

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## BIRTHDAYS

<b>Kathy Anderson</b>	07/02	<b>Michael Hulon</b>	07/13
<b>Dorinda Hartman</b>	07/03	<b>Tom Anderson</b>	07/14
<b>Heidi Eaton</b>	07/05	<b>Emerson Wold</b>	07/14
<b>Dick Andrews</b>	07/05	<b>Darla Fraley</b>	07/24
<b>Victoria Pyle</b>	07/05	<b>Kira Barnes</b>	07/27
<b>Christopher Franzone</b>	07/06	<b>Linda Stahl</b>	07/29
<b>Brody Lindstrom</b>	07/10	<b>Ryan Johnson</b>	07/29
<b>Maury Killey</b>	07/12		




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# JULY

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## ANNIVERSARIES

<b>Rev. Arlyn &amp; Jeanne Tolzmann</b>	07/01
<b>Anita &amp; Merlyn Milligan</b>	07/01
<b>Kyle &amp; Jennifer Reuter</b>	07/16
<b>Jeffery &amp; Monda Denault</b>	07/17
<b>Rhea &amp; Richard Lumsden</b>	07/20
<b>Bob &amp; Sharon Mueller</b>	07/31
<b>Scott &amp; Julie Horsch</b>	07/31

Plan to attend Worship in the Park  
on Sunday, August 2nd.  
A picnic will follow with  
games and fellowship.

**Somonauk  
Community  
Park**



## St. John's Lutheran Church Council Minutes - June 15, 2026

Members present: Bob Fraley, Connie Hamer, Mike Hamer, Scott Horsch, Cindy Karp, Wayne Karp, Joanne Robinson, Pastor Selena Blackwell, Lily Horsch (guest)

- Cindy gave devotions from Romans. Nothing, not even death can separate us from the love of God.
- Wayne called the meeting to order at 10:04.
- Lily Horsch, on behalf of Raven Behavior Analysis presented a proposal asking for use of the church facilities. Raven Behavior Analysis are behavior analysts who specialize in pediatric therapy and work mainly with clients with autism. The clinic would operate Monday through Friday during standard business hours. The clinic carries professional liability insurance and adheres to state licensing. A monthly donation for use of the space will be offered. Joanne made a motion to accept Raven's request for use of our facilities. Connie seconded. Motion carried.
- Connie made a motion to accept the consent agenda items from both the months of April and May. Cindy seconded. Motion carried.
- Scott presented the treasurer's report and noted that we are a little lower than our planned budget at this point in the year and will need to continue to monitor it.
- Committee reports:
  - ◇ Fellowship/Hospitality – There was confusion and discussion as to who is responsible for choosing the date for the church's outdoor service at the park, Worship or Fellowship. No date was decided.
  - ◇ Outreach – None
  - ◇ Finance – None
  - ◇ Missions/Stewardship – See report. Only six blood donations were received for the blood drive. There is thought on not continuing this ministry.
  - ◇ MOG – Did not meet. Will meet in July.
  - ◇ Parish Education – Confirmation went well. Five children are signed up so far for Vacation Bible School which is set for July 20<sup>th</sup> through the 23<sup>rd</sup>.
  - ◇ Property – Grease trap was replaced in the kitchen. Thank you to Ward Hearn and Jerry Lundeen for spraying and pulling weeds around the church and parsonage.
  - ◇ Worship – See report.
  - ◇ Tech – Pastor mentioned that she has difficulty getting into the office's laptop computer.
  - ◇ Endowment – Mike mentioned that the endowment fund committee recently distributed \$10,000 in donations.
- Pastor's report:
  - ◇ Visiting is going well. Pastor asked for more names of families who might be needing visits or phone calls. Names were presented to her.
  - ◇ Pastor spoke of her time at the synod assembly. The assembly suggested offering texts and sermons this fall based on a "season of creation" theme, emphasizing forest and land preservation.
  - ◇ Pastor would like to prepare a "Blessings of the animals" service on St. Francis Sunday in October, which would be open to the surrounding community.
- Wayne added that the Northern Illinois Synod spoke of being at a crossroads and are discerning the next faithful steps for ministry. One of the speakers from the assembly spoke as a bus being a metaphor for a church and that you should ask your council members three questions...
  - ◇ Who is driving the bus?
  - ◇ Where is the bus heading?
  - ◇ Is there enough fuel in the bus?

- Wayne related that the call committee had a very productive meeting with our synod liaison, Rev. Jana Howson. They were able to express their concerns and frustrations and have them answered.
- Cindy made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Mike seconded, meeting was adjourned at 11:27.

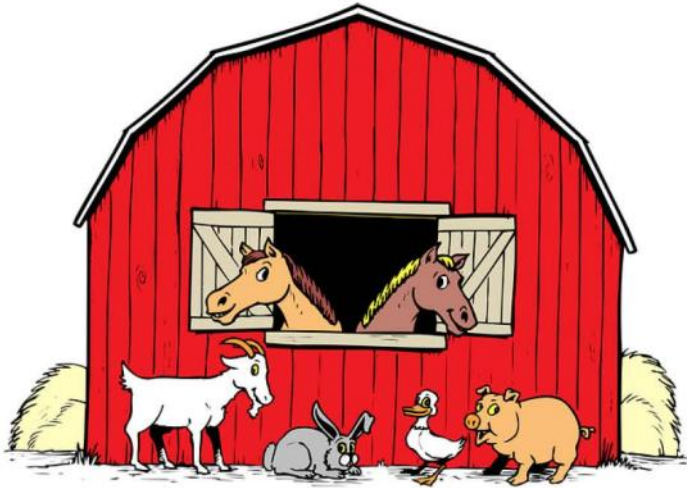
In God's service,

Bob Fraley

# God's Barnyard

## Community Vacation Bible School

St. John's Lutheran Church  
235 S Green, Somonauk



**Come join us for Vacation Bible School!  
July 20th-23rd, from 9AM to 1130AM.**

**Bible Stories, Crafts, Fun and Games and Snack Time**

**Bible school is available for children 3 years old (must be potty trained) and on up to those completing 5<sup>th</sup> grade.**

**Bible school is free to all who attend.**

**Registration forms are available from the church office.**

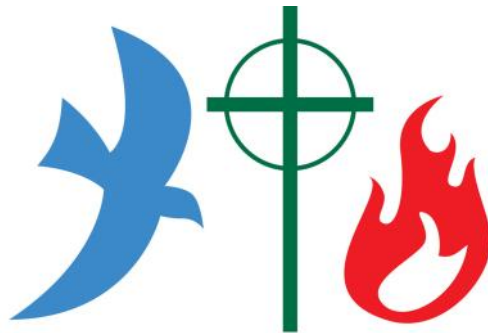
**Please contact the church office at 815-498-3667 for more information**

## Special Offering for July

It has been decided by the Stewardship Committee to have the special offering for July go to the Worship/Altar Guild committee. The Altar Guild does not have a budget, so everything must come from the Worship budget.

The Worship committee budget pays for the wine, wafers and cups used for Holy Communion, the copyright grants to print music and liturgy, the organists and pianists and any special music. If the altar guild has expenses for decorating the inside or outside of the church, that also comes from the Worship committee budget. In recent years members of the Altar Guild have purchased things to be used for decoration themselves. While no one is complaining about this, it may not always be the case that someone is able to do that. It would be nice for the members to know there is money available to purchase things. I think we have all noticed the neat window decorations this year. Some of them were donated by church members other than the Altar Guild. We thank them for the donation.

Because of the smaller amount of money available to budget, the Stewardship committee felt that the Worship/Altar Guild budget could use some help. We all enjoy worshipping in pleasant surroundings!



WORSHIP COMMITTEE

# LWR Lutheran World Relief Work Days

July 14th                    9:00 am to 3:00 pm Bring a Lunch

July 15th                    9:00am to 3:00 pm Bring a Lunch

July 28th                    9:00 am to 3:00 pm Bring a Lunch

July 29th                    9:00am to 3:00 pm Bring a Lunch

*In the month of July, you will find us busy doing the usual jobs of putting baby quilts together, making Baby Care Kits, cutting out school back packs, taking apart sheets, and sorting donations. We always need people willing to do the tying on the big quilts and the baby quilts. The “sewers” who have been working on the school backpacks at home during the year are making great progress. The extra work days mentioned above toward the end of July are to string backpacks and get things ready for putting in the bags. This includes taking packaging off the scissors and erasers and banding pens and pencils together. We hope to do about 550 backpacks this year. 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, July 1



## **Worship Committee**

1:00pm Wednesday, July 1



## **Church Council**

10:45am Sunday, July 12



## **Altar Guild**

6:30pm Tuesday, August 18



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
<h1>July</h1> <h1>2026</h1>			<b>1</b>  8:45am Stewardship 1:00pm Worship Mtg.
<b>5</b> 9:00am Worship	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>12</b> 9:00am Worship   10:45am Church Council Meeting	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>  <i>LWR Workday            9:00am-3pm</i>	<b>15</b>  <i>LWR Workday            9:00am-3pm</i>
<b>19</b> 9:00am Worship	<b>20</b> <i>Vacation Bible            School            9:00-11:30am</i>	<b>21</b> <i>Vacation Bible            School            9:00-11:30am</i>	<b>22</b> <i>Vacation Bible            School            9:00-11:30am</i>
<b>26</b> 9:00am Worship	<b>27</b> <i>LWR            Schoolbag            Workday            9:00am-3pm</i>	<b>28</b>  <i>LWR Schoolbag            Workday            9:00am-3pm</i>	<b>29</b>

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>  5:00pm Worship
<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>  5:00pm Worship
<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>  5:00pm Worship
<b>23</b> <i>Vacation Bible School</i> <i>9:00-11:30am</i>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>  5:00pm Worship
<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	



# *The* Parents Corner

During one of our Bible studies, the question was asked "What plans did you have when you were in your late teens?" There was much discussion, and only one person in the group had lived out those dreams in early adulthood. The rest of us, surprisingly, went in different directions from our plans.

Life is like that. You start off planning to do something and circumstances interfere. Life's surprises can turn out to be happy events in your life. And, sometimes, life surprises us with challenging situations.

In happy times and difficult times, God is there. Jesus has walked the path before us and is walking the path with us now, and He has sent the Holy Spirit to strengthen us. Blessed be God.

Submitted by Lois Spizzirri

## **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 July 2026

Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America  
God's work. Our hands.



**We're on the Web:**  
[www.elcastjohns.org](http://www.elcastjohns.org)

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Somonauk, Illinois 60552

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[office@elcastjohns.org](mailto:office@elcastjohns.org)

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