



LCMC
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August 2024 Newsletter



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From the Pastor....

IMAGINE HEAVEN

To you, the LORD's beloved people of American Lutheran Church,

Few books have changed my life like *Imagine Heaven*. Laurie Fevig gave me a copy after Easter 2023, and I regret letting it sit on my desk for almost a year. When I finally did pick it up, I couldn't put it down! It was so moving – spiritually, emotionally, and intellectually – that I read it again as soon as I reached the end. Then I shared it with my wife, and she finished it almost immediately.

Why was this book so engaging? The answer is in the title: *Imagine Heaven*. The writer invites his readers to make the details of eternal life with God the very real goal for their own lives. How does he do this? By using data from near-death experiences – which happen more often than you might think – and comparing the stories to what we see in the Bible. The results paint a vivid, detailed picture of Heaven, answering questions we all have about the specifics of that never-ending paradise.

Here's just one example of how this affected me: I had been reading about the common features of near-death experiences. According to the writer's research, a person will often have an out-of-body experience, and that means either staying in the same area as your body or finding yourself at the City of Heaven itself. (See Revelation 21:1-4) Either way, you would encounter Jesus, angels, or both. And this is what I had been reading as I got a call that an American Lutheran Church (ALC) member was in the hospital.

From the Pastor... (Continued)

RoseAnn Zinter knew she was passing, but she was at peace. How? God had visited her. Jesus had stood in her hospital room, and He told her to share that out-of-body experience with her family and with me. We were stunned, but thanked God for the confirmation that RoseAnn would soon be in Heaven, rescued from years of suffering and safe in the perfect love of Jesus Christ. And if that wasn't enough, she continued having visions, eventually visiting the heavenly city and seeing family and friends who had passed away before her. "I'm with Ruth!" she giggled, seeing ALC's long-time organist. "She wants me to dance with her, to sing. The angels are singing 'Jesus Loves Me', and they want us to sing along with them!" and so we did. Yes, we had the honor of joining with the angelic choir that day, and the same thing later happened at RoseAnn's funeral. Some who were there reported hearing "other" and "beautiful voices" singing 'Jesus Loves Me'.

This might sound strange coming from a pastor, from someone whose calling and career is studying the Bible every day, but *Imagine Heaven* made the promised eternal life won at the cross and empty grave of Jesus Christ feel more real. It answered my questions about Heaven, fleshed out heart-warming details about God's love for us, and most importantly, the book didn't contradict scripture. It is for these reasons I want to share it with you this September.

Next month, when our adult Bible Study resumes during the Sunday School hour, please join me in reading *Imagine Heaven*. It certainly changed my life for the better, and I hope and pray it will do the same for you!

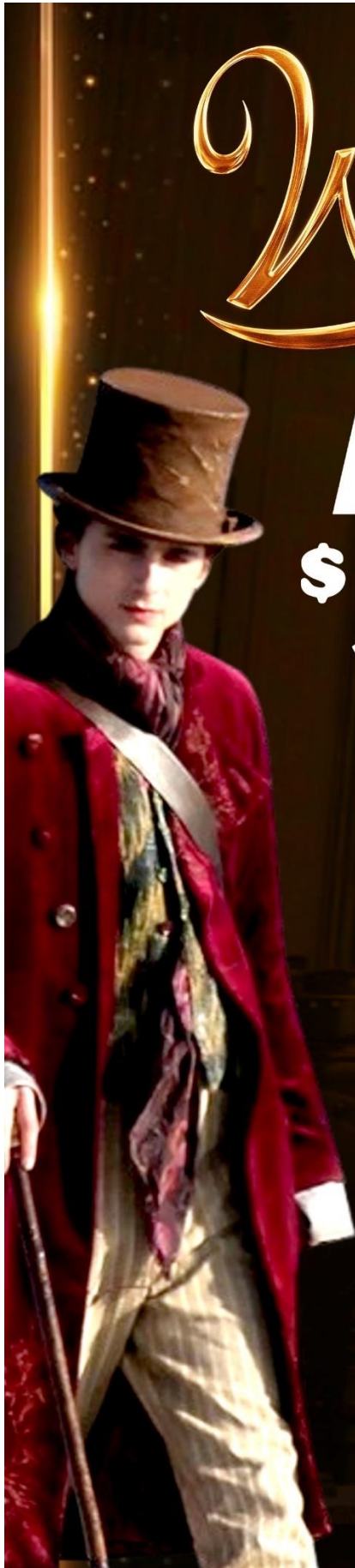
By grace, through faith, in Christ,

Pastor Ethan Fearing

Wonka

MOVIE NIGHT

1001



AUGUST 21ST

\$5 ENTRANCE

**INCLUDES: MOVIE, HOT DOG,
CHIPS, DRINK, AND POPCORN!**

GATES OPEN: 6:30 PM

WORSHIP: 7:30 PM

MOVIE STARTS: 8:30 PM

**JOIN US FOR GAMES, FELLOWSHIP, WORSHIP,
A BIBLICAL MESSAGE, AND MORE!**

@ LP DRIVE IN

**ACCEPTING
CASH/CHECKS ONLY**

HOSTED BY:



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Youth & Family – Page 2

Play the Ultimate Game!

Have you ever wanted to be a daring explorer? Maybe you're more of a clever tactician or a stealthy thief. Do you have what it takes to outwit, outplay, and outlast everyone else? If so, join us for this year's role-playing mystery retreat!

What are role-playing mysteries?

Participants are given characters and the story so far, launching them into an imagination-fueled event filled with strategy, team-building, physical challenges, and puzzle-solving. Good news: there's truly something for everyone, and the gameplay hooks players into an interactive biblical parable.



Interesting! Tell me more...

Every year, WatchWord partners with at least one Bible camp or church to present a weekend role-playing retreat. This year will bring you into a story that's one part Jumanji, one part Hunger Games, and one part Survivor!



Youth & Family – Page 3

Schedule of Activities

DATES: August 30 – September 1, 2024

FRIDAY	3:00 pm	Early Arrivals Begin
	6:00 pm	Check-In and Snack
	7:00 pm	What's in the Box?
	7:30 pm	The Rules
	8:00 pm	Tutorial Challenge
	9:00 pm	Campfire Worship
	10:00 pm	Optional: Treasure Hunt
SATURDAY	8:00 am	Missing Pieces
	8:05 am	Breakfast
	8:45 am	Hide and Seek
	10:00 am	Pawns
	10:30 am	Free Time and Puzzling
	12:00 pm	Lunch
	1:00 pm	Bible Study
	2:00 pm	Free Time and Puzzling
	3:30 pm	A Festive Game
	5:30 pm	Supper
	5:45 pm	The Final Countdown
6:15 pm	Decisive Duel	
7:00 pm	Campfire Worship	
8:00 pm	Optional: Tabletop Games	
9:00 pm	New Rule	
SUNDAY	8:00 am	Re-shuffling the Deck
	8:05 am	Breakfast
	9:00 am	Calling the Bluff
	9:30 am	Endgame
	10:00 am	Closing Worship
	11:00 am	Cleaning and Packing
	12:00 pm	Optional: A Local Lunch

To register, talk to Ethan:

320-874-0104

Cost to stay and play:

\$150 each

Meals, bathing facilities, and rooms will be provided.
Please bring clothing suitable for both indoors and out

Game location:

Mount Carmel Ministries

800 Mt Carmel Drive NE, Alexandria, MN 56308

Baby Care Kits – 2024

Baby Care Kits provide basic necessities for babies

More than one million people in Ethiopia have been driven from their homes because of ethnic conflict. Among them is Emebet Elias, a 35-year-old mother who now makes her home at a camp for internally displaced persons.

Many of the 5,000 people living in the camp walked more than a week to get there, with only the belongings they could carry on their backs. Though they are now safe from violence, food supplies and jobs are scarce, and many of the children have not had a change of clothes since arriving at the camp.



LWR and our local partner, People in Need, conducted a distribution of Baby Care Kits so that mothers like Emebet have the basic necessities they need to care for their babies. Families also received LWR Mission Quilts and Personal Care Kits to help restore dignity and a sense of comfort and home.

We Need Your Help to Make Baby Care Kits

A new baby is a blessing, but bringing a baby into the world can also be a difficult and scary thing for a mother living in poverty. Keeping a new baby healthy, clean and comfortable can take a lot of resources. Lutheran World Relief Baby Care Kits provide the basics a family needs to care for their newest members and introduce them to the world with pride.



Shoebboxes



As I said in July our 2024 goal depends entirely on each of you! AND WOW – how you respond!

You have already brought in SO many wonderful items for filling our boxes! Our VBS participants filled approximately 50 boxes in less than an hour! If we continue at that pace, we surely should have well over 650 boxes by November! We will have numerous Workdays during the next couple months. If we do NOT keep organizing, we will NOT be able to get into the ALCW storeroom used for Shoebox & Baby Care Kit items! What an awesome problem to have. Again, as I tell you over & over, we have fun “jobs” for all interests and abilities. If you only have an hour to spare, come! We have fun, accomplish MUCH, have good snacks & potluck lunch!

Presently Workdays on our calendar include: WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 14 / SEPTEMBER 4 / OCTOBER 1 & 2 (**PREP FOR & SERVING SPUD SUPPER**) / MORE IN OCTOBER & NOVEMBER AS NEED EXITS! **WATCH FOR FUTURE ANNOUNCEMENTS**

REPEATING: SUGGESTIONS to help fill a Shoebox: Items we are always in need of are large pencil sharpeners / scissors / notebooks or tablets / markers / colored pencils

Right now we need: clothing (all sizes)

Older boys suggestions : fishing tackle, small tools, clothes

Older girls suggestions: craft kits, sewing supplies, clothes, jewelry, hair accessories

ALCW – Page 3

More great gifts: Color books / yoyos / harmonicas / jump ropes / any balls / dolls/puzzles / Frisbees that will fit in a Shoebox / flipflops / sunglasses / hats / rain gear



**PUT OUR SPUD SUPPER ON YOUR CALENDER:
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 2
DATES FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL PACKING
& FINAL PACKING IN NOVEMBER ARE
TENTATIVE!
WATCH FOR FUTURE ANNONCEMENTS**

Mission Focus



Hot Rod Radio

99.7 FM



Hometown Radio

1400 AM

American Lutheran Church began broadcasting Sunday morning worship services in 1970. For the past 54 years the Gospel of Jesus Christ has gone within a 40 mile radius of Long Prairie.

The worship services are broadcast at 9:00 a.m. each Sunday morning over KEYL radio – 1400 AM, 103.1FM.

The cost of our weekly broadcast is \$75 each Sunday. We encourage you to support this vital ministry by sponsoring a broadcast in honor or in memory of someone.

Our sponsors are noted in each Sunday's bulletin, and it is mentioned on the air. A sign-up sheet is posted in the narthex.

Service Group 4 – July - August

Service Group Responsibilities:

- Serve for funerals on a rotating basis every 7th Funeral.
- Serve for special events occurring during the two-month period.
- Call for Ushers during the two-month period.

Group 4 Leader: Mary Emblom

Group 4 Members:

Ademite, Frank & Nancy
Bakewicz, Pastor Bill & Karen
Eichens, Marissa
Hanson, Donovan
Hasse, David & Liza
Hasse, John & Jane
Mellgren, Larry & Jan
Miller, Jenni
Olson, Russ & Jen
Ostendorf, Brooke
Ostendorf, Otis
Paulson, Neva
Poegel, Marvin
Priebe, Al & Tami
Ruda, Dave & Christy
Young, Bruce & Diane
Zellmann, Lori

August

HAPPY BIRTHDAY







1st Rebekah Arnold
1st Aidin Bryniarski
2nd Ashley Saarela
3rd Mark Ellingson
5th Lorraine Winge
6th John Hasse
6th Marge Morgan
6th Diane Young
10th Stan Hillman
11th Peggy Drevlow
11th Natasha Lopez
12th Patty Ostendorf
13th Liza Hasse
14th Mark Hasse
14th Andrew Katterhagen
14th Karen St. Germain
14th Lori Zellmann
17th Joshua Berscheit
18th Connie Pesta
18th Katylin Saarela
20th Greg Goplin
20th Jean Jacobsen
22nd Linda Hatton
22nd Kessy Holmquist
22nd Cooper Johnson
25th Laurie Fevig
25th Jonathan Haugen
26th Pearl Kramer
29th Kaiden Berscheit
30th Stephanie Asseged
31st Dianne Flaten
31st Brannon Karjala

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

1st Dave & Julie Atkinson
2nd Woody & Marilyn Gustafson
4th Delvin & Debra Durheim
8th Otis & Jamie Ostendorf
14th Jon & Laurie Fevig
14th Russ & Jean Jacobsen
15th Melvin & Charlotte Ackerson
16th Ryan & Jillene Lubbers
16th Jim & Patty Ostendorf
17th Rich & Neva Paulson
19th Kyle & Katie Bodle
20th Bob & Tammie Chapin
23rd Tom & Teresa Wiegers
25th Yebeltal & Stephanie Asseged
25th Chuck & Nancy Eldred
26th Bruce & Diane Young
28th Anthony & Serina Pachan
29th Dennis & Carrie Roering
31st Roger & Gerry Thies



ALC CALENDAR AUGUST 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 10:00am Visitation for John Monson 11:00am Funeral for John Monson
4 8:00am Board of Education Meeting 9:00am Worship Service with Communion 	5 7:00pm Trustee Meeting	6	7 7:00pm Deacon Meeting	8	9	10
11 9:00am Worship Service 10:00am Missions Committee Meeting	12 6:00pm Staff Meeting	13	14 9:30am Esther Circle 6:00pm Audio-Visual Committee Meeting 7:00pm Full Church Council Meeting 	15	16	17
18 Performing Arts Camp  9:00am Worship Service with Communion 	19 Performing Arts Camp 8:45am Sarah Circle leave for JoAnn Manlove's Home	20 Performing Arts Camp 8:15am Staff Meeting	21 Performing Arts Camp 11:00am Newsletter Articles Due 6:30pm Drive-In Movie Family Night - Gates Open 7:30pm Drive-In Movie Family Night - Worship Service 8:30pm Drive-In Movie Family Night - Movie Start Time 	22 Performing Arts Camp	23 Performing Arts Camp	24 Performing Arts Camp
25 Performing Arts Camp 8:30am Youth & Family Committee Meeting 9:00am Outdoor Worship Service 10:00am Prayer at Altar after Service 10:15 am Potluck Dinner after Worship Service 	26	27 8:15am Staff Meeting	28	29	30	31