AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH
A Place to Come Home To…

July 2026 Newsletter

LCMC
Pastor Ethan Fearing

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Website

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ALCW

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From the Pastor….

MISSION 10:02

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

When God came to us as Jesus Christ, His mission was a mobile one. He didn't pitch a tent or lease a building. Jesus didn't post ads, expecting people to find Him, hoping His message about the Kingdom of Heaven would eventually spread – no! The strategy that grew the Jesus Movement was to go out, to find people where they were at, to discover their needs, and to offer God's loving solutions.

Eventually, Jesus' followers were expected to help with His mission. That's one of the reasons He called them to be His disciples, and it was what He had been training them to do. Which is why, before leaving for their first assignment, Jesus' gave His disciples these instructions: "The harvest is great, but the workers are few, so pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest; ask Him to send more workers into His fields." (Luke 10:2 NLT)

What does it mean that "the harvest is great"? Jesus sometimes spoke in parables, and because farming was common work in His time, He often used agricultural terms as analogies for His messages. To say "the harvest is great" tells us there's a lot of work to do, which – in this case – suggests that many people still needed to hear the message of Jesus.

Not much has changed in the last 2,000 years. Our world, the people we encounter, still need God's loving message of Heaven. Jesus' mission continues today, and He continues to trust us – His disciples – to participate in growing His Kingdom. Even so, we are often tempted to think of our

From the Pastor (Continued)

church building as a pitched tent to which people will flock – nope! Sorry, but that wasn't how it worked in Jesus' time, and it isn't going to "grow the Church" today. We need to get back to moving around in our community, meeting people where they were at, discovering their needs, and offering them God's loving solutions.

How can we start? Let's look again at the words Jesus said before sending the first disciples out on their assignment: "The harvest is great, but the workers are few, so pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest…" It all begins with prayer, so that's our challenge: we need pray. If we want American Lutheran Church to be a hub for the Kingdom of Heaven, then we need to ask God where "into His fields" He wants to send us.

Let's try this: For all of July 2026, we're going to pray. Jesus tells us, His disciples, to ask the LORD where to go and what to do, so let's do it! And because humans are creatures of habit, maybe we can simplify things through the following steps:

1. SET AN ALARM. Either use your phone or watch to set an alarm for 10:02 a.m. or p.m. This time of day will remind us of that Jesus gave this mission in Luke 10:2.

2. PREPARE YOUR HEART. Grab a map of our community. Ask God to bring a location or people group to mind so you can ask Him how we might serve. We'll also start compiling suggestions for this over the next month or two, so be on the look-out for that!

3. INVITE OTHERS. If you're in a small group or you have kids, invite them to join you in praying.

4. PRAY. When your alarm goes off, stop what you're doing and take time to pray. Ask God to send you, us, and others on the mission to tell people His good news.

By grace, through faith, in Christ,
Pastor Ethan Fearing

Volunteer needed for Coordinator of the Wednesday Night Suppers for the 2026-27 year. Please let Deb Fearing or Lori Zellmann know if you are interested in helping with this mission. The coordinator sets the schedule for the year and shares it with the team leaders.

Pregnancy Resource Center

The Pregnancy & Life Resource Center is taking applications for a new director (at the request of retiring Director Peggy Stacey) . If you are looking for a wonderfully rewarding way to serve God, if you feel gifted working with people, have a basic understanding of finances, and are looking to be part of front-line Kingdom work, then would you join us asking God to see if this is a position for you? This position is a part time ministry opportunity, running around 20 hours most weeks.

If God is leading you to look into this position, please feel free to talk with Peggy (320-533-0976) or Board Chairman Matt (360-560-4043).

Youth Mission Trip

For ages 12+

INDIANAPOLIS INDIANA
JULY 12TH -18TH 2026

AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSION TRIP

Lead222

Lead222 is a combination of mission trip and leadership conference designed to give youth ministries a week of service, worship, learning, laughter and growth. We take care of all the details so you can focus on investing in and serving the community.

Lodging

We will be staying at Wyndham hotel. During the evening we will head to a local church for supper, worship and more

Worksites

Lead 222 believes their work projects are to partner with existing ministry and service programs that are already in operation and that will continue on after we leave. The needs of these ministries will dictate which opportunities are available. These could include painting, stocking food pantries, serving the homeless, working in children's programs, construction projects, sorting clothes, serving the elderly, and various other job.

A few reminders:

1. Be prepared.
2. Remember that you are a guest on these ministry work sites
3. Keep a servant attitude – come ready to serve!
4. Things may change, so be prepared to be flexible and patient

REGISTER NOW
DUE BY 02/22/26

If you have any questions, please reach out to Sierra. 320-766-4153

FUNDRAISING GOAL IS $1100

L2

LEAD222

ALCW

ALCW UPCOMING EVENTS

- OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD
  - Donations - Keep them coming!
    - School supplies - pencils, erasers, sharpeners, crayons, colored pencils, scissors, notebooks, coloring books.
    - New clothing youth size 2 - 16. t shirts, shorts, underwear, flip flops, pjs, etc.;
    - small toys - cars, dolls, yo-yos, balls, stuffed animals, etc.;
    - hygiene items - wash cloths, toothbrushes, hair brushes, combs, etc. (No soap, toothpaste or liquid items)
  - Workdays - First Wed of the month starting June 3rd. 9 am to 2 PM. Potluck during noon. Come when you can and stay as long as you are able.
- LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF BABY CARE KITS
  - Donations:
    - Clothing - gently used or new size 6 - 24 months. Sleepers, t shirts, pants, jackets, infant caps. (Please wash prior to drop off and check for stains, missing buttons, broken zippers. We cannot accept fleece.)
    - Socks - must be new. Size 6 - 24 months.
    - Hand Towels - new. Dark colors preferred.
    - Bar Soap - gentle, such as ivory.
    - Flannel - to be made into diapers & blankets. No Fleece.
  - Workdays:
    - October 9 - set up
    - October 10 - packing day & ALCW meeting with potluck.

Emergency Food Pantry Help Needed

The <u>Long Prairie Emergency Food Pantry</u> needs <u>YOUR HELP</u> with the following:

1) Please bring your **<u>clean used plastic grocery bags</u>** to church and put them in the basket under the coat rack by the parking lot door.

2) If you have about three hours to **<u>volunteer on a Wednesday or Friday morning, we could use your help!</u>** Please contact Jane Olson at 732-6895.

Thank you!

Mission Focus

Long Prairie Missions

Mission to reach out to local needs: Spanish bibles have been purchased and are distributed at the local food shelf and at our New 2 U Sale. Coborns gift cards have been given out to people who come to the church in crisis. Thank you for supporting our local mission!

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 Members:

Ademite, Frank & Nancy
Bakewicz, Pastor Bill & Karen
Eichens, Marissa
Falzone, Mike & Tanya
Emblom, Mary
Gruendeman, Adam & Rachel
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

July

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

1st Sidney Bleess
1st Kyle Bodle
2nd Whitney Eckel
5th Peggy Kortuem
7th Jodi Eckel
7th Christie Ruda
12th Peggy Poegel
13th Sue Ellingson
13th Rich Paulson
14th Alyssa Fearing
14th Eugene Holmquist
14th Sanvik, Carol
14th Sy Thole
15th Hunter Cavallero
16th Kimberly Pachan
17th Dusty Berscheit
17th Courtney Ruda
18th Kevin Hanson
18th Carol Ragan
19th Sharon Blumke
19th Marilyn Gustafson
19th Lynn Pesta
22nd Shaughn Warzecha
25th Henry Wolbeck
26th Mason Bodle
26th Luke Holman
26th Dianna Mead
27th Connie Peterson
27th Cheryl Philippi
28th Joan Merritt
29th Dawson Hasse
30th Wesley Westerberg

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

2nd Kirk & Jane Olson
8th Tom & Peggy Poegel
9th Dean & Julie Schultes
11th John & Jane Hasse
12th Louis & Darlene Jacobson
14th Larry & Jodi Eckel
16th Adam & Ashley Berscheit
18th Aaron & Jamie Fearing
20th Brian & Janet Katterhagen
21st Jonathan & Joni Young
22nd Pat & Tracy Schultz
26th Al & Melinda Bruder
28th Nic & Katrina Holman
29th Jason & Amanda Parker

ALC CALENDAR JULY 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 **9:00am** Shoebox Workday **7:00pm** Deacon Meeting	**2**	**3**	**4**
5 **9:00am Worship Service with Communion** 	**6** **6:00pm** Staff Meeting **7:00pm** Trustee Meeting	**7**	**8** **9:30am** Esther Circle **7:00pm** Church Council Meeting	**9**	**10**	**11** Youth Mission Trip
12 Youth Mission Trip **9:00am Worship Service** 10:30 am Missions Committee Meeting	**13** Youth Mission Trip **8:15am** Staff Meeting	**14** Youth Mission Trip	**15** Youth Mission Trip **11:00am** Newsletter Articles Due	**16** Youth Mission Trip	**17** Youth Mission Trip	**18**
19 **9:00am Worship Service with Communion** 	**20** **8:15am** Staff Meeting **8:45am** Sarah Circle Meeting	**21**	**22**	**23**	**24**	**25**
26 **9:00am Worship Service** **10:00am** Prayer at Altar after Service **5:00pm** Vacation Bible School 	**27** **8:15am** Staff Meeting **5:00pm** Vacation Bible School	**28** **5:00pm** Vacation Bible School	**29** **5:00pm** Vacation Bible School	**30** **5:00pm** Vacation Bible School	**31**	