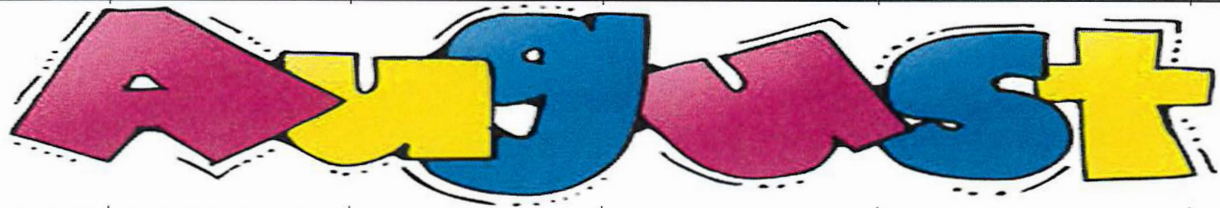


| SUNDAY                                                                             | MONDAY                                                                                                    | TUESDAY                                                                                           | WEDNESDAY                                                                                | THURSDAY                                                                                                    | FRIDAY                                                         | SATURDAY                                                                                    |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  |                                                                                                           |                                                                                                   |                                                                                          |                                                                                                             |                                                                | 1<br>    |
| 2<br>9:30am Worship with Holy Communion                                            | 3<br>9:00 – 3:00 VBS                                                                                      | 4<br>9:00 – 3:00 VBS<br>5:00 Safety Committee<br>6:00 All Committees                              | 5<br>9:00 – 3:00 VBS                                                                     | 6<br>9:00 – 3:00 VBS<br>1:00 LaVonne Forsberg Funeral                                                       | 7<br>4:00 Wedding Decorating<br>6:00 Kasprick/Nelson rehearsal | 8<br>3:00 Kasprick/Nelson Wedding                                                           |
| 9<br>9:30am Worship followed by Donuts                                             | 10                                                                                                        | 11<br>9:30 Quilters<br>3:30 Techy Tuesday                                                         | 12<br> | 13<br>1:00 Nursing Home Visits<br>5:00 Finance Committee                                                    | 14<br>Pastor Sabbath                                           | 15<br>Pastor Steph @ Synod Council                                                          |
| 16<br>9:30am Worship with Holy Communion                                           | 17 Pastor Steph Off<br> | 18 Pastor Steph off for the morning<br>9:00 Quilters<br>3:30 Techy Tuesday<br>6:00 Church Council | 19<br>9:30 Staff                                                                         | 20<br>Conference 2 Pastor meeting<br>1:00 Nursing Home Visits<br>7:00 Confirmation Orientation/Registration | 21<br>Pastor Sabbath                                           | 22<br>  |
| 23<br>9:30am Outdoor Worship                                                       | 24                                                                                                        | 25<br>9:00 Quilters<br>3:30 Techy Tuesday                                                         | 26<br>9:30 Staff<br>5:30 Pre-School Stepping Stones                                      | 27<br>1:00 Nursing Home Visits                                                                              | 28<br>Pastor Sabbath                                           | 29<br> |
| 30<br>9:30am Worship With 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday Polluck                           | 31                                                                                                        |                |      |                        |                                                                |                                                                                             |



# Anything But Ordinary!

Pastor's Pen ~ August 2026

In the Genesis I Creation account, God created Light and separated it into patterns of day and night – with greater and lesser light to mark the flow and order the pattern of Time. Time marks the progression of life in patterns of past, present and future. The Egyptians are credited with the idea of separating the day into smaller parts using a sundial. And different peoples developed similar patterns of segmenting time – appropriate to their regions or areas.<sup>i</sup>

Today, we measure time with alarm clocks, phones, clocks and Fitbits. We measure in school years, program years, work days and days off. Some of us mark time with cups of coffee and sunrises, through birthdays, snow days, and even seasons of weather, road construction, Lake season and the ordinary passing of time. Life has a natural ebb and flow—like shadows climbing the walls with the sun to tuck us in when night has begun. We live one day in, one day out, through the ordinary and the extraordinary moments of life. Even in the church we speak of season of devotion, celebration, contemplation and growth – marking them by colors and special feasts. The season after Pentecost is often referred to as “**Ordinary Time**” or the “**Long Green Season**” since the paraments stay mostly green from the end of May until the end of November!



The flow of sand in an hourglass can be used to measure the passage of one hour of time. It also concretely represents the present as being between the past

This summer, we have been looking into the family narratives of Abraham, stories that make the title “ordinary” seem laughable. *“These stories are potent with drama and disappointment, punctuated by a God who keeps showing up, persistently, creatively, and lovingly. In the mess and the mundane of family life, God works in ways that are surprising, transformative, joyful, reconciling, and unifying. The movement of the Spirit is anything but ordinary.”<sup>ii</sup>*

Our life in Christ – as named, claimed and beloved children of God means we – too – are called to live lives that are **anything but ordinary** in this very conventional and ordinary human world. In the past two months, our encounters in Genesis have included stories of being **called into mission** – even at an old age; **God's promise** and our discounting laughter; **being cast away/abandoned/rejected** – and finding a well of refreshment; **Binding confusion** – and freeing provision; **Society's confining expectations** – remaining hospitable while thirsting for openness; **Abusive power, trickery and control** – that crumble as God's power transforms broken relationships; **Dreams of connections** – and seeing how God is present transforming realities; **Deceit and trickery** – met with tables being turned; **Wrestling with God and with your own self – feeling alone, guilty, fearful** – receiving a Blessing that transforms your life and purpose; **Broken relationships – even in families** – transformed by God's work into beautiful reconciliation; and finishing this month with stories of Moses' incredible life – which end – like Abraham's – being called into new leadership roles at 80 years old!

If you missed any of these reflections, go back and read or listen to them on the Redeemer App or Website. Reflect on times you have felt disconnected from friends, family, God; or felt guilty about things you *did or didn't do* throughout your life; or times when God broke into your experience and things seem to miraculously change for good!

While I felt called for most of my life to be a pastor, there were constraints and traditions that did not allow that form of leadership for many years. I did a lot of the same activities in daily life but there was always something pulling or calling me to more. When I was finally able to move forward on the dream – that calling, many of the older women in my sponsoring congregation pulled me aside. **“You are an inspiration and encouragement to us! We are so often told we cannot do things now because we are too old – but you are breaking down that wall and belief! When we were younger, they said we couldn’t do things because we were women or we were too young, yet you have been actively engaging in so many things – we feel seen through you and empowered to try again – or at least not give up!”**

Sisters and brothers in Christ, God has you in this place – in this time – to be actively engaged in bringing God’s words of *hope and life, forgiveness and love* to those around you. It may be in your family or with your friends, maybe with your co-workers or those in your neighborhood. What dreams do you have for God’s world to be like here in Thief River Falls?

*PRAYER: May we open ourselves to the surprisingly persistent grace of God which will always be anything but ordinary. May I open myself to the ways you continue to use what is ordinary for radical transformation and love. Amen*

### **OPPORTUNITIES to step up YOUR MINISTRY in the Kingdom!**



**HEART – 2 – HEART** Do you like to visit with friends? Do you care about those who can no longer get out easily to worship or other activities? Join the Heart-2-Heart Ministry and make a difference in someone’s life in TRF. You will be connected with someone in our congregation (or community) and meet with them once a month to simply visit and let them know they are remembered and loved. Then call once each week to just say “hi”. Call Pastor Steph if you can help!

**FOOD SHELF** The price of food has soared along with the temperatures this summer. We are always looking for ways to support our neighbors in Need. Let’s have some fun with the heat! Although all non-perishable food is welcome, let’s especially supply things with a HOT theme! Like Salsa, Peppers, ethnic foods and spices – or cool things down with ice cream cones, or toppings. Use your imagination! The Cart is in the Commons.



**BREAD BAKERS and ALTAR GUILD MEMBERS** Communion is an integral part of our worship life together. If you enjoy baking bread – try this easy recipe for our Communion Bread – **Call Jan Anderson** for more information. If you prefer working behind the scenes, join the Altar Guild as they care for the sanctuary, and serve communion on a rotating basis. Call **Phyliss Johnson or Denice Nelson** for more info.



**CAPITAL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE** We need to replace the roof over our Sanctuary, repair the parking lot, and address the doors and storage needs so egress areas are not blocked, as well as continuing to upgrade the audio-visual components and computers throughout the building. If you have expertise in the area of finance and fundraising, or experience on one of the earlier campaigns, please contact Alexis Dennis, interim chair of the CCC. This is not an on-going committee but limited in scope to this Capital Campaign!



<sup>i</sup> Wikipedia: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Time>

<sup>ii</sup> Sanctified Art Summer Study Journal, Introduction to Study Journal Copyright © 2017 A Sanctified Art LLC.

REDEEMER  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

# UPDATES FROM THE DIRECTOR OF GENERATIONAL MINISTRIES

August 2026



## REDEEMER HELP BOARD

Hello Redeemer Family!

Pictured above is the Redeemer help board. On the left side is where you can put a flyer with your strengths to help the church as a whole, or individuals. The right side is for requests. If you need help with your yard, for example, you would place a note and hopefully a member of our congregation will answer the call.

Speaking of answering the call, JAM Teachers are needed! JAM is starting on Wednesday, September 16<sup>th</sup> at 5:45 pm. Jesus And Me is an important program that helps our elementary kids learn who Jesus is and grow in their faith journeys.

If you would like to inquire about being a JAM teacher, please reach out to Katelyn.

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

- VBS August 3rd-6<sup>th</sup> 9am-3pm
- Fellowship Donuts August 9<sup>th</sup> 10:30am
- Coffee Hour August 13<sup>th</sup> 9am-11am
  - Coffee Cart and Treats on Thursday mornings
- Fellowship Donuts September 13<sup>th</sup> 10:30am
- JAM starts September 16<sup>th</sup> 5:45 pm



Katelyn Johanneck  
Director of  
Generational  
Ministries



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In a class I took on Lutheran hymnody, Professor Carl Schalk told us that Martin Luther – who was not only a theologian but a musical composer – wrote that “next to the Word of God, music deserves the highest praise.” Schalk noted that Luther said, “next to,” meaning *alongside*, not *above*. For Luther, music stands right next to the Word of God. This made quite an impression on me. Could a hymn’s text and music have equal importance? Certainly, the combination of a good hymn text and tune is greater than the sum of its parts. Music can enhance the text of a hymn, adding another layer of meaning, causing it to lodge more firmly in our memories.

As one pastor quipped, “Nobody ever leaves the church humming the sermon.” The hymns we sing are a proclamation of faith, shaping us for service in the world.

Which hymns and songs are lodged in your memory? What tunes and texts help to carry you through times of sorrow and times of joy? It’s never too late to add songs to your memory bank!

*This message is excerpted from “How can I keep from singing?” by Anne Krentz Organ in the June/July/August 2025 [Gather](#) magazine. Today we commemorate Johann Sebastian Bach, 1750; Heinrich Schutz, 1672; George Frederick Handel, 1759; musicians.*

*"We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now."*  
— Romans 8:22

*"As the deer longs for flowing streams, so my soul longs for you, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God."*

— Psalm 42:1-2

## A Call to Prayer for Rain and Relief

Beloved in Christ,

The Scriptures speak often of dryness and longing. They remind us that all creation depends upon God's mercy and that every good gift comes from the Lord. These days, our own region knows that longing. The prolonged heat and drought have already taken a heavy toll. In some places, farmers have given up on this year's crop. Others are making the painful decision to sell all or part of cattle herds built over generations because there will not be enough feed. The land is thirsty, and so are we.

The Apostle Paul tells us that "the whole creation has been groaning," while the psalmist speaks of a deer longing for water. Their words call us to bring our longing before God. We pray for the healing of creation, for gentle, soaking rains, and for mercy upon all whose lives and livelihoods depend upon the land.

While all of us are affected, some bear a heavier burden: farmers and ranchers, those whose work is outdoors, and those who are unhoused. I ask you to remember them in your prayers and in acts of kindness and generosity. Our farmers entered this growing season already facing historically low commodity prices and historically high input costs. They need our prayers and our support.

I encourage every congregation to include prayers for rain and for those most affected by drought and heat in weekly worship until this season has passed. I also ask each of us to make this part of our daily, even hourly prayers. You might consider a prayer like this one:

God of All Creation,

The good earth that you created here in Northern Minnesota is dry. Our farms and gardens are parched and the heat is killing the crops. We pray for an end to the drought and ask for rain to water the land and renew our fields. As you create all things new through Jesus and brought us into your holy family through the waters of baptism, we ask that you send water from heaven to give life to the drought stricken areas of our world so it might produce food and provide a livelihood for those who work the land.

We pray trusting in your goodness and mercy, In Jesus' name,  
AMEN

**God of Mercy,**

We pray for the farmers and agricultural businesses in our area affect by the drought. The land is parched and crops are dying. We pray for the gift of rain for the land. We pray your Spirit will give us the faith to trust in you. Help us all to have confidence in your love and care during this difficult time. Help us feel your presence and have hope in your promises.

Thank you for the farmers who work to feed the world and for your love in Jesus Christ our Lord,  
AMEN

Thank you for your faithfulness, your compassion for your neighbors, and your trust in the God who continues to provide our daily bread.

In Christ, your Brother,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Tesch". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bishop Bill Tesch

# SYNOD MISSION TEAMS

## NORTHWESTERN MINNESOTA SYNOD

**This is discipleship in action.  
JOIN US!**

### **Equity, Justice, and Right Relationship**

This team helps our synod grow in living out God's call to love our neighbors in just and meaningful ways.

- Anti-racism learning and practice
- Right relationship with Indigenous communities
- Honest conversation and growth

**This work is about the Gospel shaping  
how we live together.**

### **Companion Synod**

Our synod's companion relationship is with the Andhra Evangelical Lutheran Church (AELC) in India.

Through this relationship, this team:

- Joins in prayer and mutual support
- Learns from one another's faith
- Builds relationships across cultures through accompaniment
- Explores ways to engage in national issues together for the sake of growth and equality.



In Christ, we belong  
to one another.

### **Contact**

NW MN Synod Office

- [newsnwmn@cord.edu](mailto:newsnwmn@cord.edu)
- 218.299.3019
- [www.nwmnsynod.org](http://www.nwmnsynod.org)

### **Hunger Table**

The Hunger Team exists to help our synod respond faithfully to hunger in our communities. This work is both immediate and systemic, caring for those in need today while also addressing the deeper causes of food insecurity. Join Us!

**Until All Are Fed.**

### **Care For Creation**

Our Mission Statement:

Compelled by Christ and the urgent need for action, we strive to promote, educate, and advocate care for God's good creation, and to support congregations called to do the same.

**Reach out for:**

- Assistance in planning/goal setting
- Providing educational presentations
- Assistance in obtaining tax incentives & rebates for energy improvements

### **Accompaniment Team**



Recognizing and Welcoming the  
Gifts of LGBTQ+  
Candidates for Ministry

This Team accompanies congregations while they prayerfully discern their congregation's needs and the gifts of their next leader.

SANFORD<sup>®</sup>  
AMBULANCE

# NEW STATION OPEN HOUSE & RIBBON CUTTING

SANFORD



**8/12/26**

**4-7PM**



**324 10th Street E.**  
Thief River Falls, MN 56701



**MEET YOUR  
LOCAL EMS PROFESSIONALS**



**TOUR THE  
NEW STATION**



**VARIOUS EMERGENCY VEHICLES  
FROM SEVERAL AGENCIES  
AVAILABLE FOR A TOUCH A TRUCK EVENT**

*Celebrating*  
**THE COMMUNITIES  
WE SERVE,**  
*honoring our  
mission* 



TOGETHER, WE'RE STRONGER | THANK YOU FOR LETTING US SERVE YOU 



## Refer a Friend



### Multiply Your Impact for Patients with the Refer a Friend Program

**We need your help spreading the word about how easy and important it is to donate blood and help patients. Many people say they never donated blood because they've never been asked. You can help by making that personal ask — of friends, family members, coworkers, fellow church members, etc.**

Vitalant's Refer a Friend program makes it easy to become a blood donation advocate.



#### REFER

Share your referral code with everyone.

**Log in** to your donor account at [vitalant.org](https://vitalant.org) to find your code.\*



#### REDEEM

Get \$10 gift card for every NEW Vitalant donor who makes and keeps their appointment. The new donor gets a \$10 gift card too!



#### REPEAT

There's no limit to the number of \$10 gift cards you can receive!

**In the last few years, the number of people donating blood has dropped about 20%.** Without new people coming in to give blood and current blood donors continuing to give, patients could be at risk if blood isn't available when they need it.

Whether you're donating blood or referring a friend to donate, we appreciate everything you're doing for patients!



For more information or to schedule a donation, call **877.25.VITAL** or visit us at [vitalant.org](https://vitalant.org)  
Find us @vitalant:     





## Give Blood for a Chance to Win a Car!

Time to rev up the excitement for helping patients this summer. Donate **July 9 – Aug. 8** for a chance to **win a car**. You could be the lucky donor randomly selected as the winner of up to **\$30,000 toward the purchase of a new ride!**\* Find details at [vitalant.org/CarGiveaway](https://vitalant.org/CarGiveaway).

[Make an appointment at vitalant.org](https://vitalant.org) or call 877-25-VITAL

Use blood drive code: **THIEFRIVERFALLS**

## MEDICS VS. MUSCLES 2 DAY COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE

TUES. AUG. 4TH 11:30AM-6:00PM

WED. AUG. 5TH 8:00AM-1:30PM @ THE EAGLES

SPONSORED BY SANFORD AMBULANCE TRF & SANFORD  
WELLNESS. FOR AN APPT CALL 218-416-0213.

FIRST TIME DONORS NEEDED!

ELIGIBILITY QUESTIONS? CALL 1-800-289-4923

*\*Terms and condition apply; see [vitalant.org/CarGiveaway](https://vitalant.org/CarGiveaway).*

877-25-VITAL | [vitalant.org](https://vitalant.org)  
Because of you, life doesn't stop

vitalant<sup>®</sup> 



# NEW BLOOD DONORS NEEDED

Discover if you are eligible and help save lives today!

*More than 30,000 blood donations are needed daily to safeguard the blood supply for patients in the U.S.*



If you're in good health and meet the general eligibility criteria, then you are likely able to give blood. General eligibility includes:

- Must be at least 16 years old\*
- Weigh at least 110 pounds\*\*
- Be in good general health

If you were told previously that you were disqualified from donating blood because you got a tattoo or piercing, traveled abroad or take certain medications you may be able to donate now. Recent changes to eligibility including European travel, may mean those once deferred can give.

## WHY GIVE?



Free Health Check



Save Lives.  
Feel Good.



Free Gifts

### FREE HEALTH CHECK

With each donation, you can keep track of your:



Pulse



Learn Your Blood Type



Cholesterol



Blood Pressure

Learn more, determine your eligibility and make an appointment to donate by scanning the QR Code:



\* If 16 years old, a signed parent guardian consent form is required each time you donate. 17 year old donors do not need parental or guardian consent unless they live in these states (or their school requires it): Arizona, Colorado, Montana, Utah, Washington or Wyoming.

\*\*Donors aged 16-22 and women age 65+ have additional requirements. For additional information visit [vitalant.org/eligibility](https://vitalant.org/eligibility).



For more information or to schedule a donation, call **877.25.VITAL** or visit us at **[vitalant.org](https://vitalant.org)**  
Find us @vitalant: [f](#) [@](#) [i](#) [x](#) [d](#) [in](#)

**vitalant**

I can  
follow Jesus  
by helping  
others



# Old Testament

1. OHAJUS \_\_\_\_\_
2. GNOS FO NOLMOOS \_\_\_\_\_
3. HAIHMNEE \_\_\_\_\_
4. 1 CSRNCHIELO \_\_\_\_\_
5. UXEDOS \_\_\_\_\_
6. 2 CNRCIOSHLE \_\_\_\_\_
7. SMPASL \_\_\_\_\_
8. HZARICEHA \_\_\_\_\_
9. ZIELEKE \_\_\_\_\_
10. 1 SAEMLU \_\_\_\_\_
11. JANOH \_\_\_\_\_
12. JSEDUG \_\_\_\_\_
13. IMCHA \_\_\_\_\_
14. ANAZPIHHE \_\_\_\_\_
15. EADNLI \_\_\_\_\_
16. ZERA \_\_\_\_\_
17. LNETSIOMTAN \_\_\_\_\_
18. IEREHMJA \_\_\_\_\_
19. AUHBKAKK \_\_\_\_\_
20. AIBODAH \_\_\_\_\_
21. OSMAL \_\_\_\_\_
22. EROSVRBP \_\_\_\_\_
23. NEGSIES \_\_\_\_\_
24. 1 SIGKN \_\_\_\_\_
25. GHIAGA \_\_\_\_\_
26. BOJ \_\_\_\_\_
27. CETLIVIOUS \_\_\_\_\_
28. 2 KGSNI \_\_\_\_\_
29. ANMHU \_\_\_\_\_
30. 2 UAESML \_\_\_\_\_