

SUGAR CREEK BIBLE CAMP

For more information, contact
 Sugar Creek at 608-734-3113
 or check their website at:
 www.sugarcreekbiblecamp.org



SUGAR CREEK BIBLE CAMP'S LEGACY GIFT WALL PROJECT

The Legacy Gift Wall Project, a capital campaign, was started to honor/or remember friends and loved ones as Sugar Creek celebrates 50 years of ministry. Pick up a brochure in the Narthex or contact Sugar Creek for more information.

UPCOMING EVENTS at SUGAR CREEK

- * **June 11** - Summer Camp 2017 begins!
- * **June 19** - Yesterday's Youth
- * **June 26** - Golf Tournament Fundraiser, Viroqua Hills
- * **August 23** - Fireside Dinner Theater - "Church Basement Ladies", \$95 for bus, meal, and show ticket. Pick up in many towns.
- * **August 26** - Golf Tournament Fundraiser, Drugans
- * **October 1-7** - Washington DC and Gettysburg Tour

VOLUNTEER NURSES or HEALTH PRACTITIONERS NEEDED

Sugar Creek Bible Camp is still in need of a few volunteer nurses, physicians, nurse practitioners, or physician's assistants for certain weeks of camp.

Currently we have openings:

July 2-7 (Family Camp and Pilgrims Program)

July 9-14 (Traditional week of summer camp)

Aug. 6-11 (Traditional week of summer camp)

As a volunteer nurse you may receive a free week of camp for one of your children or you may gift that free week to a child whom you choose to sponsor. Additionally, you may bring your spouse along and younger (independent) children to stay with you if you choose. Please contact Kati at Sugar Creek Bible Camp for further information: 608-734-3113 or kati@sugarcreek.org

Health and Healthcare by Pastor Kris Fahey
 As I sat by a marsh, wondering whether or not healthcare is a commodity or a calling, I saw a mother duck swimming along. Swimming very close to her, were nine fuzzy, tan and gray ducklings. They were petit...and weak. But they snuggled close to the mother who kept them safe from harm and led them safely forward. The "Mother" Merganser was an image of God. The "chicks" are the people that God created. We are invited to nestle close to God, who operates toward us through the sacrificial love of Christ. The Good News of God's favor towards helps us so we can understand this issue and stand up for those in need.

What does the Bible teach us? The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America gathered scholars (like Martin E. Marty), and other Lutherans (health care professionals) to consider this question. They "crossed" (pun intended) the Bible and the Lutheran Confessions with the politics of healthcare back in 2003. What is Christ's take on health care availability? How can God's Good News shed light on this?

"The Christian Church has always been called to participate in the political process in advocating for laws and practices that govern the provision of healthcare" (ELCA Statement on Healthcare): Jesus healed the sick. God cares deeply for human beings. God frees us from our sins and enables us "chicks" to grow into people who care about the well-being of one another.

Jesus told a parable about the Good Samaritan. It begins, "A man was going down to Jericho and was accosted by bandits, beaten, and left for dead." As the parable continues, two people walked past him without stopping. But a Samaritan, stopped to heal his wounds, bring him to an inn, and provide money for his ongoing care until the Samaritan returned to see how the man was doing. By the way, the Samaritan himself was looked down upon as an outsider by the other two who passed by. This is a parable about following Jesus.

God makes provisions for how we are able to help others. We trust God's Word. God is operating in our desire to care and in the health care process (as Jesus demonstrated in the parable). When Luther and the other confessors wrote the Small

PASTOR'S PAGE CONTINUED

Catechism, they used Jesus' definition of neighbor: Everyone is our neighbor. Being generous givers and helpers is God's intent within the commandment, "Thou shalt not steal". Jesus points out that God has provided enough money so that the Samaritan could adequately nurse this stranger.

This has always been true. The first hospitals existed through the church. In the middle ages, "hospices" were places where anyone could go to be cared for and healed. Jesus and the disciples were society's model. Christian and Jewish hospitals came about. Gundersen Lutheran Hospital and St. Francis Hospital, in La Crosse are examples. Recently, "Lutheran" and "St. Francis" were dropped from the hospitals names. Faith might play less of a role today.

But, according to the ELCA Statement on Health, Healing, and Healthcare "Contemporary health care is a shared endeavor among individuals, churches, government, and the wider society)." And, "Too often... health care is distributed on the basis of merit, social worth or contribution, marketplace value, or ability to pay." Can we be advocates in U.S. policy?

VOTING MEMBERS FOR SYNOD ASSEMBLY

Thank you Louie Christopherson and Gary Wortman for volunteering to be Lewis Valley's voting members at Synod Assembly and Brad Pfaff and Lizzie Pfaff for volunteering at Mindoro.

We Need A New Sunday School Superintendent!

If you are interested in taking over the superintendent position, please let either Mona or Pastor know as soon as possible. If you have questions about what the role entails, Becky Berg and Jenna Oefstedahl would be happy to share their experience.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED for SYNOD ASSEMBLY

How would you like to spend time with a great group of people who share your Christian beliefs?

We are in need of volunteers for our Synod Assembly, June 9-11 which is being held in La Crosse this year. Volunteers play an important role in making the Assembly run smoothly, starting with registration on Friday evening and throughout the Saturday and Sunday sessions. This a great opportunity to meet members and clergy from other ELCA congregations in our synod, participate in worship and prayer throughout the three days, and feel the satisfaction of helping the mission of our church. To volunteer or to learn more contact Betty Sacia at (608) 526-3506 or via e-mail: brsacia@yahoo.com.

HEALING THROUGH GRIEF GROUP

Alternating Mondays - 5:30pm to 6:30pm; Sally Olson Conference Room
Clinic Building - Park in Lot #3 and use Family Health Center entrance
Mayo Clinic Health System - Franciscan Healthcare in La Crosse

June 5 - Creative Memory-Making Ideas

June 19 - Spirituality and Grief

July 3 - From Surviving to Growing

ATTEND ANY OR ALL OF THESE FREE AND CONFIDENTIAL SESSIONS.
No registration required. Call 608-785-0940 x22218 for more information.

EVENTS AT THE FRANCISCAN SPIRITUALITY CENTER. VISIT
WWW.FSCENTER.ORG OR CALL 608-791-5295 FOR MORE INFORMATION.

Put Your Whole Self In! Mind-Body-Spirit Meets Earth-Water-Fire-Air
June 19-23, Monday, 1 p.m.-Friday, 10 a.m.

Adults of all ages and abilities are invited to this new offering!
As we connect our mind, body and spirit with the earth, water, fire and air, we explore our five senses and take in the world around us.

Just like camp, there will be time during the day to hike, be creative, find time for quiet (you will even get time for a nap or two) and paddle a canoe if you choose. In the evenings, we will hear from different teachers on mind, body and spirit. One evening, we will even sit around a fire and roast marshmallows.

Included in your registration are three evening opportunities that are also open to the general public (\$10 each for the public; call [608-791-5295](tel:608-791-5295) to reserve your spot):

June 19 - Monday, 6-8 p.m. *Mindfulness Foundations*. Speaker: Greg Lovell

June 20 - Tuesday, 6-8 p.m. *Devotion Through Body Awareness*. Speaker: Cynthia (Sam) Licht

June 21 - Wednesday, 6-8 p.m. Film and discussion, *Everything is Spiritual* by Rob Bell

Investment:

- * Full: \$375, includes meals, four nights' stay, all program materials
 - * Commuter: \$250, includes lunches and dinners, all program materials
-

YOU'RE INVITED - OPERATION SERVE MISSION TRIP TO MEXICO CITY JULY 23-30, 2017

John & Diane Matousek will be leading a team, all ages and skills needed. All you need is a love of Christ and a willingness to serve. For more information, contact Diane at 608-485-0510.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES

VITERBO UNIVERSITY ANNOUNCES ITS INAUGURAL FRANCISCAN CORE EVENT, JUNE 11-16, 2017. This five-day summer service camp is rising 10th, 11th, and 12th graders offers education, experience, and reflection on social justice using St. Francis of Assisi as a model for living a life of service. Franciscan CORE seeks to develop empathetic and grounded leaders for the world and the church through Compassion for those on the margins, Outreach to those in need, Reflection on God's call, and Experience of community and service. Do not miss this unique and important experience. Register now at www.viterbo.edu/franciscan-core. Contact Emily Dykman at 608-796-3703 or eadykman@viterbo.edu with any questions or concerns.

UNDERSTANDING THE BETHLEHEM OF TODAY 50 YEARS OF OCCUPATION... 50 YEARS TOO LONG! Thursday, June 15, 2017, 6:00pm-8:00pm

English Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall, 1509 King Street, La Crosse

Please join us for a program explaining the plight and possibilities of the Palestinian people in Bethlehem. For more info, call 608-788-4346 or 608-785-1440.



STRAWBERRY SHORTCAKE & ICE CREAM SOCIAL
Mindoro Presbyterian Church
Sunday, June 25, 2017
following the 10:00am Ecumenical Worship in the
County Park (approx. 11am)

DO YOU HAVE OLD CLOTHES AND OTHER TEXTILE that you are just throwing away because you don't think they are in good enough shape (tears, buttons missing, stains) for the Salvation Army or the Goodwill? Instead of taking these items to the dump and filling up the landfills, take them to the Salvation Army and the Goodwill. They have ways to reuse these items - they sell them as rags, ship them overseas, and recycle them. They can't accept and/or reuse items that are dirty and have already been used as rags for oil and such... clean items only.

PASTORAL ACTS IN MAY

BAPTISM ON MAY 28, 2017:

ALIYANA JAZLYN CRUZ-PFAFF, daughter of Jennifer & Luis Cruz, at Lewis Valley

TRANSITION INFORMATION

Review of Call Committee May, 2017

Call Committee Members: Betty Pfaff, Chairperson; Lara Hines, Secretary; Crystal Sbraggia; Ivy Endris; Cathy Gabrielson and Jason Young.

- The committee had agreed to begin the Call Process with one of the last candidates that we interviewed. We had to ask permission to take his name to the Church Council as the first step of the call process. He gave it much thought, consideration and prayer but felt we were not a good fit for each other.
- We were then going to do a second interview with another candidate that we had interviewed last month and this person is now began the call process with another church.
- We are waiting for the synod to give us another name or two that we can interview.

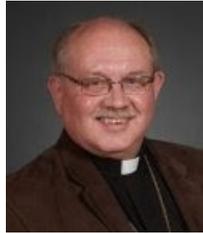
We ask that you continue to pray for us as a committee and the call process for guidance, assurance, strength and faith as we continue on this journey of finding the best person for our congregations.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to a Call Committee member. Blessings.

PO Box 167, MINDORO WI 54644

Please use the PO Box when sending correspondence to either church. This will insure that the mail will be delivered directly to the church and will arrive in a timely manner. The mail box at Lewis Valley's physical address is usually only picked up on Fridays, allowing the weather and possibly others to get to it first.

FROM BISHOP ARENDS



"**RE-FORMING GOD'S PEOPLES**" - It's the theme of our Synod Assembly, June 9-11. In this year of remembering the start of the Protestant Reformation, we remember that God is not done with us yet. And, we know that God has been re-forming Christ's body since it began. God has been re-forming our congregations as long as they have existed. We look forward (sometimes reluctantly) to the re-form that is in store for us - for each of us. As always, I'm looking forward to Assembly.

Following our Synod's time together, I look forward to a personal re-forming set to begin June 14. That's the day I begin a nine-week sabbatical. And I thank you in advance.

I hope to re-form my thinking. I'll be participating in the Washington Island Form in June with a focus on who Jesus is for me; in the Chautauqua Institute in July with a focus on what the church can become; and in the ELCA's Rostered Ministers Gathering in August with a focus on who we are as leaders together. I also hope to do some reading. I'd like to finish at least five of the books that are piling up around me - the ones that seem to be speaking to my soul.

I hope to re-form my family focus. The travels will take me near to grand-kids. We'll be taking time to just be together. We'll be re-forming our relationships, aiming that we will only get better together.

I hope to re-form my system. Some sleep, some healthy eating, some walking, and some biking can't hurt. I may even re-form some habits for healthier living.

I hope to re-form my relationship with God. Prayer. Reflection. Time to ponder. It sounds good to me.

Please pray for my sabbatical. While I am away, I will still be praying for you all.

Jim Arends, Bishop

WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE LA CROSSE AREA SYNOD AND THE ELCA? Go to www.lacrosseareasynd.org and www.elca.org. You will find a wealth of information on these sites.

COUNCIL MINUTES CONTINUED

for both.

Mutual Ministry (Staff Support) – no report

Other Business – Michael Miller is interested in joining our church council. Since we still have an opening, we all agreed after Jim Hines made a motion and Betty Pfaff seconded.

Communion Servers – June 4 Debbie Peterson and John Glennie, June 18 Betty Pfaff and Lizzie Pfaff

Motion to adjourn by Betty Pfaff, seconded by John Glennie.

Respectfully submitted by: Debbie Peterson, Secretary

Lewis Valley Council Minutes May 8, 2017

In Attendance: Barb Anderson, Karen Knutson, Gary Wortman, Jerome Nelson, Louie Christopherson, Jodi Anderson & Pastor Kris Fahey

Vice-President Gary Wortman called the meeting to order:

Approval of Agenda – Motion made by Jerome Nelson, seconded by Karen Knutson to approve agenda - MMSP

Secretary Report – Motion made by Jerome Nelson, seconded by Gary Wortman to approve secretary's report - MMSP

Treasurer Report – Motion made by Karen Knutson, seconded by Jerome Nelson to approve Treasurer's report – MMSP

Education – Nothing

Worship: May 14 W-ELCA Honorary Members and Sunday School teachers will be honored with a flower & cake after service.

Finance: Nothing

Property: Council will meet after church on May 14 to further discuss Building Insurance

Outreach: May 20th is Plant Sale

Other Business:

There was discussion on conceal and/or open carry policy for church. Will check further with synod office regarding a policy and confer with law enforcement.

Communion Servers:

No worship service at Lewis Valley during June

July 2nd. – Gary Wortman, July 16th – Karen Knutson

Adjournment – Motion made to adjourn

Submitted by: Karen Knutson, Secretary

COUNCIL MINUTES CONTINUED

Mindoro Council Meeting Minutes Mindoro Lutheran Church May 8, 2017 at Lewis Valley

In Attendance: President Betty Pfaff, VP Jim Hines, Secretary Debbie Peterson, Becky Berg, John Glennie

Absent: Josie Groth, Mary Kastenschmidt

Approval of Agenda – motion by Becky Berg, seconded by John Glennie

Secretary's Report – motion by Jim Hines, seconded by John Glennie

Treasurer's Report – It would be good for us to have more people doing Simply Giving. We had a \$287.09 shortage in our checking account and tax liabilities of \$478.34. We are going to check on some things so we tabled until next month's meeting.

President's Report – We got permission from family that donated basement piano to move it upstairs. We will wait until summer to switch the pianos. John Glennie will check cost if the old piano is taken to the dump. Jim Hines will check with The Salvation Army. Becky Berg will check about using a walking cart from her husband's work. Betty Pfaff will maybe put free piano on Craigslist.

Team Reports

Education – Becky Berg and Jenna Ofstedahl are stepping down from the superintendent positions. Thanks to both of them for their commitment they have given us in the past years. We will put in the bulletin the need for a superintendent.

Finance – We decided to let the money grow a couple years from Lent offerings. We want to use it for a scholarship for a graduate from our church eventually.

Outreach – no report

Worship – We decided to go back to not ushering the congregation out of the church. Pastor Kris will announce this and we will put it in the bulletin. Motion was made by Betty Pfaff and seconded by Becky Berg. We discussed survey of church times: Summer – Wednesday night = No, One or two services = One, Rotation = monthly (Summer 2017 9:00am Sunday service will be at Mindoro in June and August and at Lewis Valley in July.); summer service times – Wednesday night = 7:00pm, Sunday = 9:00am, Two Sunday services = 8:30am and 10:00am; September through May Sunday service times = 8:30am and 10:00am; Christmas Eve service times = 4:00pm and 8:00pm, rotating each year.

Property – The glass on top of table in narthex is broken. We tabled discussion of what to do until next meeting.

We will have the furnace company start as soon as possible. They will put in air conditioning also at the same time. It will save us money and because donations were so generous, we have most of the money we need

FROM PR. LIBBY HOWE, DIR. OF EVANGELICAL MISSION / ASST. TO THE BISHOP



TIRED OF THE NOISE?

I heard a song by Kenny Chesney on the radio the other day, and when it came time to think about what I should write for the Courier this month, that song was all I could think of. The song is called NOISE. Here's one of the verses:

Twenty-four hour television, get so loud that no one listens
Sex and money and politicians talk, talk, talk
But there really ain't no conversation
Ain't nothing left to the imagination
Trapped in our phones and we can't make it stop,
stop this Noise

It reminds me of the line in another song called Sound of Silence by Simon and Garfunkel:

People talking without speaking
People hearing without listening

That's what the world feels like to me right now. And it has been difficult to bring myself to contribute to the noise by adding more words to the world with a newsletter article. I'm tired of the noise. I'm tired of blogs and articles and news stories and Facebook posts, mostly telling me about everything that's wrong and why. So, I'm going to assume that maybe you're tired of it too, and not give you my opinion about anything really. Not because I don't have one (believe me), but because it's not necessary. It's already out there, somewhere. You've already read it or heard it or written it or shared it.

So I'll use this space to call you to some place quiet, either internally or externally. Turn it off...the TV, the computer, the phone, the radio, the car, your own mind and mouth. And breathe. Stay for a minute or two or ten. No need to add to the noise. I pray for you and for me, that we know some quiet amidst the noise, and in the quiet are brought again to the reality of God's presence and love for us, for one another, and our many and various worlds.

My soul waits in silence for God only. Psalm 62:1

Peace,
Pastor Libby Howe

LUTHERAN CAMPUS MINISTRY

Sharing a Letter . . .

received at Common Ground Ministry

Envelope addressed to: Cookie Makers

"To whom it may concern,

I wanted to say thank you to all of you who bake cookies for us UWL students. I can't express how much we ALL appreciate this. After having a bad day, and walking outside to see someone give away free cookies makes me smile. To know you take the time out of your day to do this for us is truly amazing. These cookies do not just taste delicious, but bring memories of baking cookies with my grandma. I will cherish those memories forever and remember them every Wednesday when I get a free cookie from you all. This melts my heart to know that we may never know each other, but you will still bake cookies for us students.

Cookies can always bring a smile to a person's face. To be honest, one day I had four cookies and can say they all were so delicious. I hope this tradition can last. I can say, on behalf of all UWL students, we appreciate you and all the cookies you make. Each Wednesday this makes my day better and I finish the day trying to make everyone else's day better as well, because you made mine so great. Again, thank you for all you do. It is so very appreciated!! Everyone is 'greatful' for you all. Sincerely, All UWL Students!"

THANK
YOU!

Pastor
Ben
Morris



COUNCIL MINUTES CONTINUED

and requested reimbursement. Lewis Valley will possibly have some plants remaining after plant sale that they could donate to the parsonage. Will check with renter to see what he is looking for.

Worship – Worship Time Survey was reviewed. There were 69 people that participated in the survey. The majority results were:
Summer services: No Wednesday night service, one Sunday Service during summer at 9:00 a.m. and rotate months between churches

Fall/Winter services: Worship service times were 8:30 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.

Christmas Eve Services: Worship service times were 4:00 p.m. & 8:00 p.m. and rotate times between churches each year.

A motion was made by Jack Glennie and seconded by Jim Hines to follow the worship times results from the survey. MMSP.
2017 Summer Worship schedule will be June Sundays at 9:00 a.m. at Mindoro, July Sundays at 9:00 a.m. at Lewis Valley and August Sundays at 9:00 a.m. at Mindoro. The months will rotate each year. The starting months were decided by a coin flip.
2017 Fall/Winter Worship schedule will start in September with 8:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.

Joint Business:

Call Committee – Another candidate that committee was interested in has declined. They have another candidate that is a possibility for a second interview. The synod has no other names at this time for the committee to consider.

Quilts/Prayer Shawls – Each congregation is responsible for displaying the quilts and prayer shawls they donate to the Synod Assembly. A frame for displaying them has been provided by the Synod. Gary Wortman will talk with Jean Gabrielson regarding Lewis Valley's quilts/prayer shawls & setup, and Betty Pfaff will talk with Cindy Tracey regarding Mindoro's quilts/prayer shawls & setup.

World Hunger – The Synod would like a representative from each congregation for Synod Work Hunger. Information will be put in bulletin and newsletter for anyone that might be interested in being a representative.

GPS meeting – May 20, 2017 at Trinity Lutheran in Sparta. This month's GPS is "THANK YOU for serving on the Church Council", Council members are encouraged to attend.

MMSP to adjourn. Closed with Lord's Prayer.

Next meeting June 13, 2017 at Mindoro.

Submitted by: Karen Knutson, Lewis Valley Secretary

COUNCIL MINUTES

Joint Council Meeting Minutes Mindoro & Lewis Valley Lutheran Churches May 8, 2017

In Attendance: Gary Wortman, Louie Christopherson, Jerome Nelson, Karen Knutson, Barb Anderson, Debbie Peterson, Jim Hines, Betty Pfaff, Jack Glennie, Becky Berg, Jodi Anderson, Pastor Fahey Absent: Josie Groth, Mary Kastenschmidt, Blake Young, Jason Young

Lewis Valley Vice-President Gary Wortman called the meeting to order.

Devotions: Pastor Fahey opened with devotions and prayer.

Approval of Agenda – Jerome Nelson made a motion to approve agenda, seconded by Jim Hines with additions to agenda of Quilts & Prayer Shawls for Synod Assembly, and World Hunger Leader needed. MMSP

Secretary Report – Jim Hines made motion to approve secretary report, seconded by Betty Pfaff MMSP

Pastor Report – Pastor reported it has been a busy month with Holy Week, a Baptism at Mindoro, new members at both churches, a funeral at Lewis Valley, and preparation for Confirmation. She has also done nursing home visits and a home visit. Pastor commented that confirmation classes have gone well, a good group of young people to work with. Pastor Fahey requested vacation on May 21st. and June 25th. A motion made by Betty Pfaff and seconded by Jim Hines to approve Pastor's report. MMSP.

Education – A new Sunday School Superintendent is needed when Sunday School resumes in the fall.

Outreach – Nothing to report at this time.

Mutual Ministry (Staff Support) – Nothing to report.

Finance – Mindoro received \$160.00 and Lewis Valley \$119.40 for Lenten offering. The funds will be put in the Youth Fund, marked for scholarship use when scholarship details are finalized.

Property – Building insurance was discussed; a renewal quote from Church Mutual was discussed. Further discussion will be in the individual church meetings. Jodi will contact Church Mutual with questions that were asked.

Sheetrock and paint needed around stove fan at parsonage. Bill Cox will coordinate work to be done.

Parsonage renter wants to do some outside work around parsonage

LA CROSSE AREA SYNOD MOOVES BEYOND GOAL

The final totals for giving to the World Hunger Appeal are in. La Crosse Area Synod congregations and individuals in 2016 gave a total of **\$208,231.97** to the World Hunger Appeal. Thank you for your offerings and congratulations to all the congregations who painted and purchased cows for display at the assembly. The cows raised almost half of the total given by the people of the synod.

To keep this effort going, we are asking each congregation to name at least one person as the World Hunger leader in your congregation. The Synod World Hunger

Subcommittee would like to receive these names before the assembly or at least at the assembly so that we can post them at our display. See the



number of Hunger Leaders grow. **Thank you Lizzie Pfaff for volunteering to be Mindoro's Congregational World Hunger Leader. Please contact the church office at 608-857-3474 to volunteer to be Lewis Valley's World Hunger Leader.** The church office will give your name to the synod office or to one of the members of the World Hunger Subcommittee. Please provide name, phone number, address, and email address. A job description for the Congregational Hunger Leader is printed below. The World Hunger Subcommittee will provide an annual information and inspiration session for these leaders this fall. Thank you for your involvement in this ministry.

Synod World Hunger Leaders: Tim Byom, Joan Francoise, Bob and Kathy Weeks, Pastor John Ashland, Pastor Kathy Ingbritson, Pastor Dave Bersagel

CONGREGATIONAL WORLD HUNGER LEADER JOB DESCRIPTION

- Serve for at least one year.
- Receive and share with the congregation appropriate resources from ELCA World Hunger Appeal.
- Assist their congregation in planning and carrying out a World Hunger Emphasis.
- Partner with their pastor in disseminating information about World Hunger and about opportunities for addressing world hunger through giving to the World Hunger Appeal.
- Participate in an annual gathering and training for Congregational World Hunger Leaders from the La Crosse Area Synod.
- Share ideas about how World Hunger issues can be lifted up and addressed in your congregation and committee.
- Be a contributor to the World Hunger Appeal.

REFORMATION 500 EVENTS

Please contact the church office for more information on any of the Reformation 500 Events.

DRIVE TO 500: COVERINGS OF CARE

The year 2017 marks the 500th Anniversary of the start of the Lutheran Reformation. As part of the observance of this anniversary we are challenging the La Crosse Area Synod of the ELCA to a "Drive to 500... Coverings of Care." Martin Luther believed in the importance of reaching out and providing support to those in need in our society. A covering of care such as a blanket, quilt, or prayer shawl are a wonderful and tangible way of wrapping someone in Christ's love.

We are challenging churches across the synod to prepare coverings of care. These include mission quilts, fleece tied blankets, and prayer shawls which will be distributed both internationally through Lutheran World Relief and locally through your church. These coverings of care are a great service project for young and old. We know many churches have talented quilting, fleece blanket, and knitting groups but we encourage you to include other members that are not involved in one of these groups as well. Preparing one or several coverings is a meaningful activity for fellowship groups, Bible studies (men and women), confirmation, and Sunday school students to take part in preparing your coverings of care.

We would ask that you bring your coverings of care to the Synod Assembly. If each of the 74 congregations across the La Crosse Area Synod participates contributed at least seven coverings of care each we should easily be able to meet the goal of 500 pieces by June. Finished articles will be displayed on the display racks during the Synod Assembly and will be blessed at the Sunday worship service.

It's been said that in the history of Western civilization only one individual has had more books written about him than has Martin Luther: Jesus Christ. What was it this small town priest from a little known university in Germany did that disrupted the entire religious, economic, political and cultural landscape of the continent of Europe? And why are we still talking about it 500 years later? Better yet - why would you and people around the world take time to wrestle with his work and his wisdom today?

As part of their mission to proclaim the Gospel, the Luther House of Study offers a variety of educational resources and opportunities. This includes convenient online resources and materials. Please go to www.lutherhouseofstudy.org/events for more information on the Reformation.

ELCA's 500th Anniversary of the Reformation Official Web Page:
www.elca500.org

THANK YOU

LEWIS VALLEY MEMORIALS

In Memory of Shirley Koss from Lillian Nordin, Dean & Nancy Spangler, Gene & Joanne Mashak, Bill & Karen Knutson, Rich & Barb Anderson, Dennis & Judi Odegaard, Henry & Vonnie Meyer, Paul & Karen Hanson, Randolph & Bernice Opland, Amy Olson, Helen Ustby, Dean & Darlene Burrows, David Johnson, and Carol Knudson.

In Memory of Shirley Koss to the LV W-ELCA from Marion Bertelsen.

In Memory of Shirley Koss to the LV Sunday School from Bruce & Trudy Swenson.

In Memory of Shirley Koss to the Norden Cemetery Association from Arlene Severson, Jack & Cheryl Card, and Jerome & JoAnn Nelson.

In Memory of John & Mary Eggen, Lester & Ruby Eggen, and Sam & Doris West from E. Jean Eggen.

*Dear Mindoro Outreach,
Thank you so very much for the card of well wishes and gift card. Your kindness is so appreciated and your prayers. God Bless, Arlan & Christina Pfaff*

Thank you to Dorothy Christianson, Cindy Roberts, Cheryl Silha, Debbie Peterson and Ginny Wegner for making cookies for the Warming Center. They were very much appreciated. ~Outreach Team

THANK YOU TO ROGER KING AND THE HOLMEN FFA for helping with the Spring Cleaning at Lewis Valley Lutheran Church and in the Norden Cemetery on Saturday, 4/29/17. As always, you were extremely hard working and gracious.
~ Norden Cemetery Association Board Members

THANK YOU TO ROGER KING & THE GARDEN TO SCHOOL/TABLE PROGRAM for their excess seed potatoes they donated to our Spring in the Valley Plant & Bake Sale.
~ The Spring in the Valley Team

FOOD PANTRY ITEMS

Just a reminder to check the expiration dates on items donated for the food pantry. Expired items cannot be accepted by/taken to the food pantry.
Thank you for your continued generous donations.



IN OUR PRAYERS

PRAYED FOR IN MAY: Larry Amborn, Audrey Baker, Newborn granddaughter of Bill & Karen Knutson Ella Jo Cunningham, Kim Farley, Barbara Hansen, Lori Hudson, Damien Indahl, Karen Indahl, Gary Johnson, Mary Kastenschmidt, Dale Kirchner, Joanne Mashak, Brian Miller, Mike Miller, Spencer Olson, Arlan Pfaff, Mary Sacia, Larry Seekamp, Dale Sutherland, Howard Tracey, all of our Honorary W-ELCA members, our Sunday school teachers and superintendents, our graduates, our military men & women, and Family & friends of Shirley Koss.



WE ALSO PRAYED FOR: Carol Timm, Del Pohl, Delores Wang, Don Heidel, Doris Long, Dorothy Ofstedahl, Eloise Thum, Grace Kastenschmidt, Helen Mikkelson, Mildred Timm, Ruby Knudson, Sara Pfaff, Pr Meg Hoversten & Middle Coon Valley Lutheran, Pr John Ashland & South Beaver Creek Lutheran, Prs Mike Woods and Kent Johnson & Prince of Peace Lutheran, Pr Steve Meyer & Immanuel Lutheran Caledonia, Pr Pete Beckstrand & Bethal Lutheran Viroqua, Interim Pr Gary Daines & North Coon Prairie Lutheran and Portland Lutheran, Pr Erik Feig & Trinity Lutheran La Crosse, Our Savior's Lutheran Soldiers Grove, Tamarack Lutheran, Pr Nile Sandeen & Utica Lutheran and Mt Sterling Lutheran, Pr Wendy Ruetten & East Lemonweir Lutheran, Pr Chuck Miller & Peace Lutheran Readstown, Pr John Dumke & Our Savior's Lutheran Westby, Pr Jeff Ruetten & St Stephens Lutheran, Pr Dave Hendrickson & North Beaver Creek Lutheran, Pr Amanda Schultz & Bethany Lutheran, Pr Kristin Wendland & St Paul's Lutheran Wilton, Pr Kathy Ingbritsen & Immanuel Lutheran Viroqua, the Rocky Mountain Synod, the Souther Ohio Synod, the Southwestern Washington Synod, the Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod, the East Central Synod of Wisconsin, the Oregon Synod, and the Western Virginia-Western Maryland Synod.

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE THAT HELPED PREPARE AND WORK AT THE SPRING IN THE VALLEY PLANT & BAKE SALE.

A special thank you to Cathy Gabrielson for her dedication to starting the wonderful annuals and collecting perennials from friends and her own collection. Thank you to her also for the work with the sale and hours of sleepless nights worrying and taking tender care of the plants. Later she makes sure leftover plants go to good homes.

Despite the weather or maybe because of it, it was a very successful day generating more revenue than any year that we have been holding the plant sale. The community enjoyed fellowship starting with the sweet rolls and coffee, and later lunch. Thank you to everyone that spread the word of the sale by putting up advertising and sending out notices to friends and family. Many bake sale and craft items were snatched up very quickly and these areas also made the day a success. Thank you to everyone that set up these areas and served the customers. Clean up on Sunday and Monday were made lighter with many hands pitching in to move plants, tables and take down tent. A very big thank you to everyone involved.

Also, thank you to Thrivent for their financial support to help cover some of the

20 expenses of the lunch and some of the plants needed for baskets.

REFORMATION 500 EVENTS CONTINUED

“BEN STILL SINGS”

Ben Larson's music and liturgy will be featured at the 2017 Synod Assembly as part of our celebration of the Lutheran Reformation. Learn more about “Ben Still Sings” at www.benstillsings.com

Join the Reformation Facebook page to learn facts and history tidbits about that period of time and what led up to the Reformation at www.facebook.com/RoadtotheReformation/

WHY IS THE REFORMATION STILL RELEVANT?

The Lutheran Reformation offers to Christian communities everywhere a liberating way of listening to and speaking the Scriptures. The Reformation teaching that Christ's life flows through faith into a life of service to the neighbor is especially liberating in our culture today.



The evangelical Lutheran Reformation offers the promise of God's love that makes possible a life of “living, daring confidence in God's grace.”

The Reformation teaching that faith is the work of God's Holy Spirit is especially liberating in a culture that assumes a faith relationship with God is an act of human “free will.”

Many, both within Christian communities and beyond, are held captive by ideologies that limit the full scope of God's mercy in Christ to demographic groups defined sociologically by certain beliefs, behaviors or experiences. The Reformation teaching that Christ's life flows through faith into a life of service to the neighbor is especially liberating in a culture that makes religious life into a demonstration of one's own worthiness and privilege to the disadvantage of others. From <https://www.elca500.org/about/>

WE'RE EXCITED TO ANNOUNCE OUR FIRST MOBILE APP, FEATURING LUTHER'S SMALL CATECHISM. Perfect for youth education and confirmation classes, individuals, adults, congregations, church leaders—anyone who wants easy access to Martin Luther's guide to the basics of Christian faith. “What does this mean?” Luther's Small Catechism and Spanish El Catecismo Menor de Lutero are both included in a free mobile app, available from the Apple iOS App Store and on Google Play. Content from the Study Edition is also available as an in-app purchase. Search “Catechism” in the Apple or Google app stores. (information from Augsburg Fortress.org)

YOUR CONGREGATIONS AT WORK

CHURCH TIME SURVEY RESULTS

A total of 69 members completed the survey. Joint council voted to follow the worship time results from the survey. Thank you to all who turned in the survey.

Summer Worship: There will be one service each Sunday in June, July, and August at 9:00am. June and August will be at Mindoro and July will be at Lewis Valley. The months will rotate each summer - in 2018 to June and August at Lewis Valley and July at Mindoro. There will be no Wednesday service.

Fall/Winter Worship: Sunday services will be at 8:30am at Lewis Valley and 10:00am at Mindoro starting September 3, 2017. Times will rotate each September - in 2018 to 8:30am at Mindoro and 10:00am at Lewis Valley.

Christmas Eve Worships will be at 4:00pm and 8:00pm and will rotate times between churches each year.

WELCOME NEW COUNCIL MEMBER AT MINDORO

Michael Miller has joined the Mindoro Church Council. Michael was appointed to the council at the May meeting and will start participating in council at the June meeting. There is still one more council position open; if anyone is interested, please contact a council member or the church office.

YARN WOULD BE GREATLY APPRECIATED

If you find yarn when you are at yard sales/estate sales, please think of buying it and donating it to the Prayer Shawl Ministry.

LEWIS VALLEY HAS EQUAL EXCHANGE COFFEE FOR SALE

The cost is \$8.50/bag, payable to LV W-ELCA. By purchasing Equal Exchange coffee, you are preserving the environment, helping small family farmers, promoting Fair Trade, and enjoying a delicious cup of coffee.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.MINDOROLEWISVALLEYCHURCHES.ORG

At the website, you will find the latest newsletter, an up-to-date calendar, links to other sites, histories of each church, and W-ELCA information, - and if you call the church office for the password, the pictorial directory. :-)

ALUMINUM CAN COLLECTION

Please save your aluminum cans and bring them to Lewis Valley. Help the Norden Cemetery Association raise some money. Please either leave the bags of cans by the retaining wall or put them into the cemetery shed.

Melrose-Mindoro High School Graduates

Allison Gerdes, Mel-Min's Valedictorian, will attend UW-Eau Claire majoring in Psychology.

Tanner Gerdes

Brianna Kovacevich

Jessica Kovacevich

Noah Stayton will work at Woodman's for a year and then pursue a career in computers.

CONGRATULATIONS
GRADUATES!

Aquinas High School Graduate

Madison Merrell will attend UW-La Crosse majoring in Biology with plans to work in healthcare and is interested in becoming a Physician's Assistant.

Post-Secondary Education Graduates

Nick Kunes - Concordia University of Wisconsin - Business Degree; started employment at Federation Co-Op in Black River Falls on May 15

Tyler Opland - Ridgewater College, Hutchinson MN - graduated at the top of his class with an AAS Degree in Nondestructive Testing; has accepted a management position in his field at Pratt & Whitney in East Hartford, Connecticut; is moving there this weekend

Betty Pfaff - Saint Mary's University of Minnesota - Doctorate in Education

Katie Tracey - Western Technical College - with High Honors as a Registered Nurse; is working on the Medical/Surgical-Orthopedic Unit at Gunderson Medical Center

DO YOU KNOW A STUDENT IN HIGHER EDUCATION?

Lutheran Campus Ministry is on campus to help young adults as they attend colleges, trade schools and universities. Please share their name, contact information and which institution they will be attending with the church office or send it to the campus ministry at UW-Madison (www.lccmadison.com).

The Lutheran Campus Ministry will distribute the names to the appropriate Wisconsin campus ministry. Email them to director@lccmadison.com or mail to 325 N. Mills, Madison, WI 53715.

Baptismal Anniversaries Continued from Page 16	
July 15	Kally Koch Brett Gerdes Connor Christopherson
July 17	Tajinae Tracey
July 18	Ann Hanson
July 19	Nancy Spangler
July 21	David Kastenschmidt Alyssa Baumer
July 23	Timothy Tracey
July 25	Noah Stayton
July 27	Benjamin Jostad Katie Mashak
July 28	Megan Olson Morgan Miller
July 31	Elizabeth Sawyer

**Congratulations
to Debbie
Peterson, Kay
Pfaff, and
Sharon Pfaff as
they retire from
the Melrose-
Mindoro School
District at the
end of the
2016/2017 year.**

THE W-ELCA 10TH TRIENNIAL GATHERING WILL BE HELD IN MINNEAPOLIS JULY 13-16, 2017. The theme will be “All Anew”. Triennial gatherings bring Lutheran women together from across the church with life-changing workshops, worship, Bible study and more. Featured speakers, preachers and workshop leaders will bring the gathering themes to life.

Because the Tenth Triennial Gathering falls during the observance of the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation in 2017, the theme resonates with reformation and transformation images. At the gathering, participants will explore ways in which the Holy Spirit changes us, acknowledging that reformation and transformation have happened and continue to happen within the community of women known as Women of the ELCA.

At the Gathering, we are real women talking about our faith. About our doubts and challenges. About joy and what inspires us. We’ll experience simple conversations between friends—old and new—that will develop into a movement sweeping the church, inspired and infused with the Holy Spirit.

Register and reserve your seat on the bus if you haven’t already. You can

register online at <http://www.welcatg.org>. Contact Betty Kirchner or the church office for more information. From: <http://www.welcatg.org/news/registration-opens-sept-6-prices-set/>

**COUNCILS MEET TUESDAY, JUNE 13, 2017, AT MINDORO
6:30PM JOINT COUNCIL;
MINDORO & LEWIS VALLEY IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING JOINT**

PIANO - FREE TO ANYONE WHO WOULD LIKE IT

The upstairs piano at Mindoro is being replaced by the one in the church basement this summer. The current piano is starting to not work properly and is unable to be repaired. There will be no piano in the basement for now. If anyone would like the piano (bench not included) from upstairs, please contact a council member or the church office.

Please let Mona know in the church office if you have a
**CHANGE OF ADDRESS, CHANGE OF PHONE NUMBER AND/OR
CHANGE OF E-MAIL ADDRESS.**

The church office will be closed Thursday, 6/15/17, through Friday, 6/30/17; Mona will be on vacation and will return to the office on Monday, 7/3/17.

**REMEMBER TO CHECK WITH THE OFFICE MASTER CALENDAR BEFORE
SCHEDULING OR SETTING UP ANY EVENTS.
WE ARE A BUSY CHURCH!**

TEAM LEADERS

CHURCH COUNCILS: Jason Young (Pres-LV), Gary Wortman (VP-LV), Karen Knutson (Sec.-LV), Barb Anderson, Louie Christopherson, Jerome Nelson, Blake Young, Betty Pfaff (Pres-M), Jim Hines (VP-M), Debbie Peterson (Sec.-M), Becky Berg, Jack Glennie, Josie Groth, Mary Kastenschmidt, Mike Miller

CALL COMMITTEE: Lara Hines, Betty Pfaff, Crystal Sbraggia, Ivy Endris, Cathy Gabrielson, Jason Young

MUTUAL MINISTRY: Alice Baumer, Ginny Wegner, Lillian Nordin, Gary Steele

FINANCE: Karen Knutson, Jim Hines, John McRae

OUTREACH: Mary Kastenschmidt, Cheryl Card, Cathy Gabrielson, Betty Kirchner, Barb Drogseth, Sandy Freng, Ginny Wegner

STEWARDSHIP: Josie Groth, Debbie Peterson

WORSHIP: Ginny Wegner, Lillian Nordin, Sharon Pfaff, Debbie Peterson, Mary Lynn Sinclair, Bethany Johnsrud

EDUCATION: Becky Berg, Lara Hines, Beth McRae, Jenna Oefstedahl, Betty Pfaff, Nikki Christopherson, Rita Holley

PROPERTY: Bill Cox, Luke Johnsrud, Jerome Nelson, Dennis Olson, Rich Sinclair



New Members at Lewis Valley:
Henry & Vonnie Meyer.



Confirmation Sunday, 5/7/17
Above: Lizzie Pfaff, Tucker Sbraggia, and Kael Spors with Pastor Kris at Mindoro
Below: Ben Puent with Pastor Kris, his parents and his Godparents at Lewis Valley.



Happy Birthday!!	
June 1	Ellayna Christopherson
June 2	Lara Hines
June 3	Andrew Brockway
June 4	Rebecca Berg
June 5	Katrina Wharton Mackenzie Pfaff
June 6	Henry Meyer
June 8	James Freng
June 10	Katie Tracey
June 11	Lori Ernstes
June 12	Gary Wortman
June 13	Dave Whalen Benjamin Jostad
June 14	Timothy Kunes Alan Spors
June 15	Alma Sennes Monica Anderson
June 17	Curt Krause Samantha Jones
June 18	Gary Steele
June 20	Jocelyn Christianson
June 21	Judi Odegaard
June 24	JoDee Marco
June 25	Carrie Pfaff
June 26	Morgan Miller Megan Olson
June 28	Kay Timm Susan Loken Alyssa Baumer
June 29	Amanda Puent
July 1	Jean Van Riper Jaden Page
July 2	Steve Sacia Katie Mashak

Birthdays Continued	
July 3	Jonathan Young
July 5	Patricia Hoff
July 7	Alex Valiente II
July 8	Jacob Hines
July 9	Lauren Koss
July 11	Jennifer Cruz
July 12	Tori Kovacevich
July 17	Todd Baumer Mary Johnsrud
July 18	Tyler Christianson
July 19	Kyle Opland
July 20	Tucker Sbraggia
July 22	Cheryl Staff
July 23	Troy Stayton
July 24	Douglas Drogseth Christopher Pfaff
July 25	Mary Sutherland
July 28	Mary Wortman Dustin Anderson
July 30	Leslie Pfaff Kyle Korish Colton Koss
July 31	Bernice Opland Brenda Severson Tucker Stuessel

Bolded names are members celebrating an 80th Birthday or above. Let's shower them with birthday cards on their special day.

Anniversaries

Baptismal Anniversaries

June 1	Mike Sullivan
June 3	Lillian Nordin
June 5	Eloise Thum
June 7	Margo Weindorfer
June 10	Madisyn Sedevie
June 11	Laurie Gappa Mitchell Berg
June 13	Daina Dobbs Ryker Werner
June 15	JoAnn Nelson Tyler Opland
June 18	Leslie Bryhn Marie Puent
June 19	Davey Kirchner Julie Hanson Jayda Hoerres
June 20	Jenna Hanson Allison Gerdes
June 21	Steve Kirchner
June 24	Lara Hines
June 25	Luis Cruz-Pfaff
June 26	Marley Dobbs
June 28	Russell Van Riper
July 1	Shari Bockenbauer Richard Stuessel
July 2	Joseph Paisley Neal Hanson
July 6	Kael Spors Aries Wharton James Wharton
July 11	Peyton Brown
July 12	Ryan Sawyer
July 13	Gene Hanson
	Continued on Page 18

Wedding Anniversaries

June 3	Bill & Karen Knutson
June 8	Duke & Ali Cunningham
June 9	Randolph & Bernice Opland
June 10	Sheldon & Carol Taylor
June 17	Bill & Rita Cox Leslie & Melissa Bryhn
June 19	Gary & Mary Wortman
June 20	Chase & Morgan Miller
June 23	Brian & Natalie Caulum
June 26	Michael & Linda Knudtson
June 27	Kevin & Nicole Christopherson
June 28	Paul & Tracy Hutschenreuter
June 29	Richard & Daina Dobbs
June 30	Dale & Betty Kirchner
July 10	Jerome & JoAnn Nelson Steve & Kay Timm
July 14	Robert & Jane Everitt
July 16	Chauncey & Mary Stetzer
July 17	Richard & Debra Kirchner Neil & Ramona Jolivette

Please let Mona in the church office know if a name or date is incorrect or if someone needs to be added. The information is from the church records and all records are not complete. Happy Days to all!!

NORTH CONFERENCE W-ELCA SUMMER EVENT
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14, 2017
SOUTH BEAVER CREEK LUTHERAN CHURCH
 8:30 Registration & Coffee; 9:00 Devotions & Program; 11:30 Lunch
 \$5 Registration
 RSVP to Betty Kirchner or Julie Anderson
 (608-525-4671) by June 7, 2017.




Melrose-Mindoro Graduate Allison Gerdes on Graduate Recognition Sunday, 5/21/17, with Council Member Karen Knutson and Supply Pastor Robert Young.

ALWAYS BEING MADE NEW: THE CAMPAIGN FOR THE ELCA

The ELCA's Comprehensive Campaign Enters Fourth Year with \$113 million raised.

"We said about the campaign, 'Together we can do more.' I think we surprised ourselves. Responding to God's generosity, our people have also been generous. Through the campaign, we have changed lives across this church and around the globe. But our lives have been changed, too," said Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton. "We have discovered that the ELCA is neither helpless nor poor and that truly with God all things are possible. Many thanks to members, congregations and synods for their faithful and adventurous participation in the campaign."



MINDORO WORSHIP

MISSION STATEMENT: Mindoro Lutheran Church is committed to reaching toward God and to each other, to grow together in faith, fellowship and love.

Date	Lector	Ushers	Coffee Fellowship
06/04	Ron Moore	Jim Iverson, Ron Moore	Volunteer Needed
06/11	Lara Hines	Jim Iverson, Ron Moore	Volunteer Needed
06/18	Andrew Pfaff	Bill & Rita Cox	Volunteer Needed
06/25	Ecumenical	Worship in the County Park	Sandy Freng, Cindy Glennie



JUNE
COMMUNION SET UP -
 Mary Sutherland, Jenna Hanson

ALTAR COLORS -
 June 4: Red, June 11: White,
 June 18, 25: Green

USHERING OUT AT THE END OF WORSHIP ENDS

You will no longer be ushered out at the end of worship at Mindoro. Mindoro Council made this decision at the May meeting. Please greet one another and enjoy fellowship as you leave each Sunday.

MAY FINANCIAL GIVING THROUGH 5/21/17

Sunday Envelope Offering.....	\$3,972.00
Sunday Loose Offering	\$120.57
Pay Pal Giving	\$0
Thrivent.....	\$0
Simply Giving (electronic transfer).....	\$1,877.00
Total Giving.....	\$5,969.57

LEWIS VALLEY WORSHIP

MISSION STATEMENT: Lewis Valley Lutheran Church is committed to reaching toward God and each other, to grow in faith, fellowship and love. We offer opportunities for the community to experience the grace of God and respond in Christian commitment.

Date	Lector	Ushers	Coffee Fellowship
07/02	TBD	Louie Christopherson, Gene Hanson	Marie Puent
07/09	Cathy Gabrielson	Luke Anderson, Doug Ender	Brenda Severson
07/16	Carol Taylor	Gary & Barb Spangler	Barb Spangler
07/23	TBD	Gary & Sonja Steele	Sonja Steele
07/30	TBD	Gary & Sonja Steele	Carol Taylor



JULY
COMMUNION SET UP -
 Carol Taylor, Judi Odegaard

ALTAR COLORS -
 All of July: Green

LEWIS VALLEY OFFERING COUNTER NEEDED

Lewis Valley is in need of substitute offering counters. Two members count the offering immediately after church each Sunday. Time commitment is about 15 minutes per month. If you are interested, please contact the church office.

MAY FINANCIAL GIVING THROUGH 5/21/17

Sunday Envelope Offering	\$2,946
Sunday Loose Offering	\$37
Pay Pal Giving.....	\$340
Thrivent	\$0
Simply Giving (electronic transfer)	\$1,420
Total Giving	\$4,743