

July 2026



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## The Shepherd's Staff

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

### Wrapped in Love

On August 8<sup>th</sup> Good Shepherd is going to embark on a new exciting ministry, Swaddling Clothes. We have continued to see God's hand in this ministry as the Swaddling Clothes board prepares to welcome our community to Good Shepherd with free diapers and wipes.

This reminds me when the angel announced the birth of our Savior to the shepherds, he gave them a remarkable sign: "You will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger" (Luke 2:12). Those simple strips of cloth remind us of God's tender care and of the humble beginning of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Our Swaddling Clothes Ministry seeks to share that same love and care with families welcoming a new child into the world. Through handmade baby quilts; diapers, wipes, and possible other gifts into the future, we offer a tangible reminder that every child is a precious gift from God and that every family is embraced by the love of Christ and the prayers of His people.

This ministry is about more than fabric and sewing. It is an opportunity to proclaim the Gospel in a practical way. Each item lovingly prepared becomes a witness to God's promise that He knows us, loves us, and calls us His own from the very beginning of life.

We give thanks for the faithful hands and generous hearts that make this ministry possible. Whether you sew, knit, donate materials, pray, or help deliver these gifts, you are participating in a beautiful work of mercy and compassion.

As we wrap these little ones in blankets and diapers, may we also remember that in Holy Baptism, Christ wraps us in His grace and makes us His beloved children. As Children of God we have an exciting opportunity to be part of this ministry. I hope that you will join us on July 26<sup>th</sup> for the dedication and prayerfully consider helping in the different ways God will open up to us. I believe this ministry is going to be huge and a great way to show a caring and loving Jesus. May the Lord continue to bless this ministry so that many families may experience the warmth of Christian love and the comfort of His promises.

"Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights" (James 1:17).

God's Blessings  
Pastor Nicholas Thackery



## MAY ATTENDANCE AND OFFICIAL ACTS

|           | 5 pm | 9 am | Total |
|-----------|------|------|-------|
| May 2-3   | 34   | 114  | 148   |
| May 9-10  | 25   | 87   | 112   |
| May 16-17 | 26   | 96   | 122   |
| May 23-24 | 39   | 79   | 118   |
| May 30-31 | 30   | 78   | 108   |
| Communion |      |      | 297   |

**Transfers/Releases:** None

**Youth Confirmands:** Lukas Ferry and Garrett Begalle

**Official Acts:**

**Burials:** None

**Baptism:** None

### LWML NOTES

**LWML Board**  
Will Not Meet in July



### **Happy 4th of July**

Please note the office will be closed  
Friday July 3rd



### **Camp Okoboji July/August 2026 Camp Schedule**

**Register and get more information at**  
[www.campokoboji.org](http://www.campokoboji.org)

**Jr High Youth Week** - July 5-11 (Grades 6-8)  
**JOY Camp II** - July 9-12  
**Cub Week 2** - July 12-18 (Grades 3-5)  
**Youth Week** - July 19-25 (Grades 8-12)  
**Family Retreat I** - July 26-July 31  
**Family Retreat II** - August 2-7



## Newsworthy Notes

**Beacon of Hope Meal** will be on Thursday, July 2nd at 5pm. We will be cooking the meal here in the kitchen starting at 1:30 pm. If you would like to help, we would love to have you.



**The 2026-2027 officers** from our recent voter's meeting will begin their duties on July 1st along with the holdover officers:

**President**-John T Kastendieck

**Vice-President**-Dean Barnett

**Secretary**-Roxanne Fevold

**Treasurer**-Joyce Aljets

**Elders**-Dennis Detmering, Terry Allers, Dwight Wedemeyer, Mike Wiese, Jerry Bossart, Mike Kopp and Ricky Mander-nach

**Trustees**- Dean Fowler, Darrell Sturtz, Bill Arndt, Rich Neumann, Randy Junkman and Jason Fevold

**Christian Education**-Roxanne Fevold, Jessica Ferry, Alicia Taylor, Mandy Kastendieck and Tina Kastendieck

**Sunday School Superintendent**-Open

**Christian Management**-Steve Rethwisch, Gary Koch and Ed Birnbaum

**Christian Outreach**-Joleen Allers, Judy Koch, Loraine Pogge, Cheryl Eichler and Courtney Kopp

**Saturday Usher Chairman**-Open

**Sunday Usher Chairman**-Open

**Endowment**-Ann Roberson, Michelle Hammersland, Carol Johnston, Jamie Reed, Mike Kopp, Carole Mandernach, and Joyce Aljets

**LL Preschool**-Jamison Kastendieck, Jody St. John, Danielle Kastendieck and Stephanie Boeck

**C.I.A. Leader**-Tina Kastendieck

We thank all new and returning officers for their service.

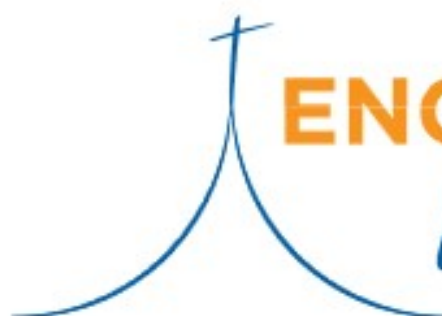
**Installation of Officers will be on Sunday, July 5th.**

### **JOY Group**

Please join us July 21st for a served meal.

Please sign up in the Narthex.  
Invite a friend and come have lunch with us at 11:30am.





# ENGAGED IN MISSION:

## *Congregation and Community*

**SEPTEMBER 18<sup>TH</sup> - 19<sup>TH</sup>**

St. Paul Lutheran Church  
1844 Highland Dr. - Carroll, IA 51401

**Speakers:**

**REV. DR. QUINTIN CUNDIFF**

*LCMS Director of Church Planting*

**REV. DR. HEATH TRAMPE**

*LCMS Director of Discipleship*

An opportunity for both pastors and laity to learn about, discuss, and consider how to be effectively engaged in God's mission where they are. Mission is not far away because there are people in our communities who need to hear the Gospel and God has given us the opportunity to engage with them.

**Registration and Hotel information:**

<https://tinyurl.com/EngagedinMission>





# Meet Caleb Krueger, DCE Intern

**Hello, Good Shepherd!!!** My name is Caleb Krueger, and I'm thrilled to serve as your Director of Christian Education Intern for the next year.

I grew up in Branson, Missouri, where my dad serves as pastor at my home church, Faith Lutheran. Branson is a bustling tourist town, and that unique environment gave me a wealth of experiences that have shaped who I am personally, academically, and in ministry. One of my most formative early roles was as a child actor at a Christian organization; Sight & Sound Theater, where I had speaking parts in front of a 2,000-seat house that regularly sold out. Even though I was young, that was my first taste of "ministry"; learning to speak confidently and connect with a large audience, even if just for a few minutes on stage. With my dad as a pastor, I always wanted to follow in his footsteps. From the age of six, I told anyone who would listen that I was going to be a pastor someday. But my path took a clearer turn when my home church welcomed a DCE intern from Seward. Watching that intern serve in real time opened my eyes to the unique, hands-on impact of Director of Christian Education ministry, and from that moment on, I've been intentionally working toward this vocation.

When I'm not serving or studying, I love to explore new restaurants and try foods I've never had before. I'm always up for a culinary adventure. I'm also an avid gamer; video games are my go-to for unwinding and connecting with friends online. I'm a big outdoorsman too. I love to ride my longboard down empty streets or take scenic hikes with a good view at the top. Most of all, though, I treasure time with people; whether it's deep conversation over coffee, a game night with friends, or just hanging out and being present with those I care about. Music has also been a constant thread in my life. I sang with The Kapelle at Concordia Chicago, and I've been playing the violin since I was nine years old and it's a skill that still brings me joy.

I'm 22 years old and engaged to the love of my life, Jadyn Stien. We're planning to marry in July 2027, and we're so excited for that next chapter. I come from a close-knit family of six: my oldest sister, Grace (27), lives in Portland, Oregon, with her husband Jaime, where she works as a librarian at a prestigious Spanish-and-Mandarin immersion school. My only brother, Nathan (25), is a professional ballet and contemporary dancer in St. Louis, performing with a company there. My youngest sister, Rachel (23), just moved to Tomball, Texas, to teach music at Salem Lutheran School. Both of my parents are Lutheran teacher graduates. my dad, Pastor Joel, graduated from St. Paul, and my mom, Laura, graduated from Ann Arbor. So, you could say Lutheran education and church work run deep in my blood.

I'm beyond grateful to be here with you all, and I look forward to growing in faith and fellowship alongside this congregation.





# July 2025

| Sun                                                                                                                | Mon | Tue                                                                                                                         | Wed                                                     | Thu                                                      | Fri                                    | Sat                                                                                                                |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                    |     |                                                                                                                             | 1                                                       | 2<br>7 am-Men's Bible Study<br>5:00pm-Beacon of Hope     | 3<br>OFFICE CLOSED                     | 4<br>5 pm-Divine Worship/HC<br> |
| 5<br>9:00 am Divine Worship/HC Install Officers<br>10:30 am-Adult Bible Study                                      | 6   | 7<br>9 am-Sewing                                                                                                            | 8<br>5:00pm-Christian Outreach<br>6pm-Swaddling Clothes | 9<br>7 am-Men's Bible Study                              | 10                                     | 11<br>5 pm-Divine Worship/HC                                                                                       |
| 12<br>9:00 am Divine Worship/HC<br>10:30 am-Adult Bible Study                                                      | 13  | 14<br>9 am-Sewing<br>1:30 pm-Fr. Haven Comm.                                                                                | 15<br>10:30 am-Lamplighters<br>5pm-Swaddling Clothes    | 16<br>7 am-Men's Bible Study<br>5 pm-Beacon of Hope meal | 17<br>9:00am-Bible Study at Ardy's Mae | 18<br>5 pm-Divine Worship/HC                                                                                       |
| 19<br>9:00 am Divine Worship/HC<br>10:30 am-Adult Bible Study                                                      | 20  | 21<br>9 am-Sewing<br>10:30am-Memorial Committee<br>11:30 am-JOY Group<br>5:30pm- Endowment<br>6:30-Trustees<br>7:00-Council | 22<br>5pm-Swaddling Clothes                             | 23<br>7 am-Men's Bible Study                             | 24                                     | 25<br>5 pm-Divine Worship                                                                                          |
| 26<br>9:00 am Divine Worship-Swaddling Clothes Dedication<br>10:30 am-Adult Bible Study<br>11:30am Voter's meeting | 27  | 28<br>9 am-Sewing<br>6:30 pm—Elders                                                                                         | 29<br>5pm-Swaddling Clothes                             | 30<br>7 am-Men's Bible Study                             | 31                                     | *Times and dates are subject to change                                                                             |
|                                                                                                                    |     |                                                                                                                             |                                                         |                                                          |                                        |                                                                                                                    |

Good Shepherd  
Lutheran Church

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*We're on the web*  
**[www.goodshepfortdodge.org](http://www.goodshepfortdodge.org)**  
Check us out on Facebook  
**Good Shepherd Fort Dodge**

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### LCMS Stewardship

Go ... Sell All You Have?

*Originally published July 2023*

"What must I do to inherit eternal life?" asked the rich young ruler. Jesus said, "You know the commandments." And he replied, "All these I have kept from my youth." And Jesus said to him, "One thing you still lack. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me" (Luke 18:18–22).

When we hear this story, this question comes to mind: is Jesus speaking to us also, or only to the rich young ruler? In other words, is Jesus telling us to sell all that we have and give it to the poor?

As good Lutherans, we answer, "No!" But why? Why should we not sell all that we have and distribute it to the poor? The simplest explanation is this: if we sold everything we have, our wife and our children would be neglected. In other words, to sell everything we have and give it to the poor would ignore, even abandon, those whom God has placed in our care. Our money, everything we have, is not to be used solely for the church. But that doesn't excuse us from using our money for the purpose God intends.

Everyone has three stations in life, three spheres in which we live and are to be of service to our neighbors. These stations are the church, the family and society. We are members of all three of these by birth. We are born into the church by water and the Word of God, and our duties to others in the church arise from our Baptism into the church. We are born into a family, and our duties to others stem from our birth into that family. Finally, we are born into society, which is simply a further extension of our birth into our family. The duties we have toward other members of society come from either our own birth or the birth of others into the same society.

All that we have and all that we are ought to be pressed into service for the church, the family and society. If we were to sell all we have and give only to one, the other two would be neglected, and we would falter in fulfilling our duties.

So, consider your life and all that you have in light of these three stations. You pay taxes to support and help those in society. You save for college for your children, and provide food, clothing and shelter for the members of your family.

But the station that is usually thought of last is the church. Since the needs of the family and society are more immediate, the church is often given what is left over. This is not how it should be. Rather, we are to give of our first fruits, from off the top, the best, even as Abel gave the best of his flock.

This requires forethought. It means that you sit down and make a plan of what you will give from the beginning. It means sticking to it even when it seems that there are other more immediate and pressing things.

And this is all the more necessary now as we enter into periods of time where giving is low due to high unemployment or where restrictions on meeting in church limit opportunities to give. If we love God and His gifts of forgiveness given through the Means of Grace, which we receive at church and only at church, then we will support it, just as we love our country and our family. For all that we have and all that we are is given to us by our gracious God. He spared no expense for us and our salvation. He gave up His Son to death so that our sins are forgiven, and we will live. What's more, He provides for all that we need for this body and life. And our lives in this world, among these three spheres of church, family and society are to mirror the generosity of the one who gave us life in all three at birth.

Don't let the church, your divine family, be an afterthought or even ignored. It is nurturing you, bringing you up in salvation through Word and Sacrament.