

ST. ANDREW'S NET
JULY 2026 NEWSLETTER

St. Andrew Evangelical

Lutheran Church

PASTOR BEN LANDER

201 S. Main St. Muncy, PA 17756

570-546-3591

www.standrewlutheranmuncy.org

Sunday Mornings

WORSHIP:

9:15 a.m.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL:

10:30 a.m.

COMMUNION:

First Sunday of every
month and Special
Sundays throughout the
year.



From the Pastor's Desk

"May the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:7).

Many of you may have seen the news articles regarding Pastor Tony Spell, who was arrested on June 24th for battery charges after an altercation with his neighbor's son. The recently viral footage of the altercation depicts Pastor Spell crossing a highway to physically assault the 20-year-old man. Pastor Spell defended his actions, claiming that the man had repeatedly made threats to harm and kill his wife and granddaughters. In a sermon he delivered after posting his bail, Pastor Spell claimed that he felt the need to defend his family and that he was doing God's will by "laying hands on the sick." With opinions landing on both sides of this issue, and with Independence Day right around the corner, reminding us of the bloody cost of our freedoms, a very timely question on many people's minds is "what does the Bible say about violence?"

From the very beginning, Scripture teaches that human life is a precious gift from God. We are created in His image (Genesis 1:27), and therefore every human life has inherent dignity and value. Violence, hatred, and murder entered the world because of sin, beginning with Cain's murder of his brother Abel in Genesis chapter 4. Since then, violence has been a tragic reminder of the wedge that sin drives between humanity and God, humanity and nature, and humanity and itself.

The fifth commandment, "You shall not murder", clearly forbids the unjust taking of human life. However, Luther's explanation of this commandment in the Small Catechism goes beyond the physical act of murder. He says, "We should fear and love God so that we do not hurt or harm our neighbor in his body, but help and support him in every physical need." This also reflects Jesus' view on this commandment. In Matthew 5:21-24, Jesus expands the definition of murder, saying that unchecked anger or holding hatred in your heart for a neighbor carries the same spiritual weight as murder. Jesus even says that if you are at the altar and remember that a brother or sister has anything against you, first leave your gift at the altar and go and be reconciled to that person. Reconciliation is more urgent to Jesus than self-defense. "Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul" (Matthew 10:28). Again and again, the biblical view of how Christians ought to relate to others is summed up in Romans 12:18, "If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone."

On the other hand, Scripture also recognizes that God has established earthly authorities to protect the innocent, maintain justice, and restrain evil (Romans 13:1-4). Governments, police officers, and members of the armed forces may be called to use force in service to their God-given vocations. This is not an endorsement of violence for its own sake, but a recognition that in a sinful world, God works through civil authority to preserve order and protect the vulnerable.

Martin Luther emphasized this distinction through his teaching on vocation and what is often called the doctrine of the Two Kingdoms. As individual Christians, we are called to love our neighbors, forgive those who wrong us, pray for our enemies, and seek reconciliation whenever possible. At the same time, Christians may faithfully serve in public offices where they are entrusted with the responsibility of protecting others and upholding justice. We are not free to act out of hatred, revenge, or selfish ambition. Instead, we are called to leave judgment to God while supporting lawful justice that protects our neighbors. Whenever force is necessary, it should always be exercised with restraint, wisdom, and the goal of preserving life and restoring peace. As my former sensei once put it, "the best martial artist is the one who never has to use his skills."

Christ Himself confronted violence by willingly bearing the weight of the cross for our salvation. Though innocent, Jesus endured suffering and death to reconcile sinners back to God. His resurrection is proof that, in the words of John MacArthur, "all death can do to the believer is deliver him to Jesus." As followers of Christ, we pray for peace in our homes, our communities, and throughout the world. We pray for those who serve in law enforcement and the military, for elected leaders, for victims of violence, and even for those whose hearts have been consumed by hatred. We ask the Holy Spirit to shape us into people who speak truth with love, pursue justice tempered with mercy, and reflect the peace that Christ has won for us.

In Christ's freedom,
Pastor Ben



JULY OUTREACH - TUNNEL TO TOWERS FOUNDATION

The mission of the Tunnel to Towers Foundation is to honor the sacrifice of firefighter, Steven Siller, who laid down his life to save others on September 11, 2001. We will also honor our military and first responders who continue to make the supreme sacrifice of life and limb for our country. Since 9/11 we have been helping America's heroes by providing mortgage-free homes to Gold Star and fallen first responder families with young children and by building specially-adapted smart homes for catastrophically injured veterans and first responders. We are also committed to eradicating veteran homelessness and helping America to Never Forget September 11, 2001



JULY CARE CARDS

Our July Care cards will be going to Jim Stahl. We have care cards available in the narthex or you can bring your own. please sign them with an encouraging note or thoughtful message and give them to the office to be mailed. Thank you!

OFFERING ENVELOPE UPDATE

Cathedral Letter Concepts will not be sending monthly envelopes for July in order to catch up production for its 3,000-plus customers. Please use a previous month's envelope you still have available and write the correct date on it! Thank you!

JULY DONATION DRIVE

Son Light House is looking for donations of school supplies, backpacks, and food supplies, such as snacks, cereal, peanut butter + jelly, and other food items that are non-perishable or have a long shelf life.

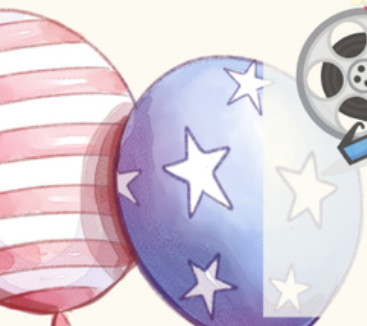


OUTDOOR MOVIE NIGHT

DATE: July 10th

TIME: Movie Begins at Sunset

We're serving popcorn, ice cream, tea, lemonade and water



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

DATE: July 13th -17th

TIME: 6:30-8:00pm

Registration is open on our website:

www.standrewlutheranmuncy.org

or you can fill out a physical form in
the Narthex or scan the QR Code!



Calling all children for a fun week as they join the
Apostle Paul when he travels to Athens for
Vacation Bible School, July 13-17! Any questions:
please contact Kathy Heilman: (570)546-2126 or
kheilman@comcast.net



RISE & DINE BREAKFAST

Join us on July 12th for a time of
fellowship and food before service.

Breakfast will be served at 8:00am!

We hope to see you there!



ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC

Join us for our annual church picnic! Hot
dogs and Hamburgers will be provided.
Please bring a side dish and/or dessert to
share, as well as your own table settings.



DATE: AUGUST 9TH
TIME: 3PM GATHER
5PM EAT
LOCATION: KIESS PARK

Williamsport Crosscutters

All Faith's Night - July 19th

Consider joining us for a fun
evening of baseball. Game starts
at 4:05pm. Please sign up in the
NArthex or contact the church
office if interested. Sign up by
July 5th. Tickets will be
purchased at a group rate.
Payments can then be provided
to the church office once the
final cost per ticket is
announced.



KIDS KORNER - CARING S'MORE

Supplies:

- SHOEBOX OR SMALL BOX
- ALUMINUM FOIL
- DUCT TAPE
- SCISSORS
- GRAHAM CRACKERS
- CHOCOLATE BARS/CHOCOLATE CHIPS
- LARGE MARSHMALLOWS
- HOT & SUNNY DAY

Instructions

- COVER THE INSIDES AND OUTSIDES OF THE BOX WITH ALUMINUM FOIL. CUT STRIPS OF DUCT TAPE TO HOLD THE FOIL IN PLACE TO MAKE A SOLAR-POWERED OVEN.
- WHEN FINISHED, PLACE THE BOX IN A SUNNY, VERY WARM SPOT (AGAINST A BRICK BUILDING, ON A SUNNY SIDEWALK, OR IN THE CENTER OF A SUNNY YARD). POSITION THE OVEN SO THE OPENING IS FACING UPWARD.
- AS THE OVEN "PREHEATS", GATHER A 10" SQUARE OF ALUMINUM FOIL, A GRAHAM CRACKER, HALF A CHOCOLATE BAR OR HANDFUL OF CHOCOLATE CHIPS, AND THE LARGE MARSHMALLOW.
- BREAK THE GRAHAM CRACKER IN HALF AND PLACE ONE HALF ON THE FOIL.
- TOP THE GRAHAM CRACKER WITH THE CHOCOLATE AND THE MARSHMALLOW. PLACE THE SECOND HALF OF THE GRAHAM CRACKER ON TOP.
- WRAP THE FOIL SECURELY AROUND THE S'MORE.
- PLACE THE S'MORE IN THE SOLAR-POWERED OVEN.
- NOW THAT YOU HAVE MAKE ONE FOR YOURSELF, YOU CAN MAKE ANOTHER ONE TO SHARE.
- WAIT 5-7 MINUTES BEFORE CHECKING TO SEE IF THE CHOCOLATE AND MARSHMALLOW HAVE MELTED.
- WHEN YOUR TREATS ARE NICE AND GOOEY, THEY ARE READY TO ENJOY! DON'T FORGET TO SHARE THE EXTRA ONE WITH A FRIEND OR SOMEONE WHO NEEDS A FRIEND.

Jesus accepts and loves us just as we are. He wants us to show others love, acceptance, and kindness too. He can help us offer acceptance galore as we care about others not one, but s'more!

MARTIN LUTHER'S SMALL CATECHISM: PART 2 : THE APOSTLES CREED

II. THE CREED:

As the head of the family should teach it in a simple way to his household.

The First Article.

Of Creation.

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

What does this mean?

ANSWER: I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my limbs, my reason, and all my senses, and still preserves them; in addition thereto, clothing and shoes, meat and drink, house and homestead, wife and children, fields, cattle, and all my goods; that He provides me richly and daily with all that I need to support this body and life, protects me from all anger, and guards me and preserves me from all evil; and all this out of pure, fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me; for all which I owe to Him to thank, praise, serve, and obey him. This is most certainly true.

The Second Article.

Of Redemption.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary; suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

What does this mean?

ANSWER: I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, purchased and won [delivered] me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, in order that I may be [wholly] His own, and everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, even as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.

The Third Article.

Of Sanctification.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; one holy Christian Church, the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

What does this mean?

ANSWER: I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Ghost has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith; even as He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith; in which Christian Church He forgives daily and richly all sins to me and all believers, and at the last day will raise up me and all the dead, and will give to me and to all believers in Christ everlasting life. This is most certainly true.

QUIZ ZONE

1. How many of Joseph's brothers traveled to Egypt to buy grain?
 - a. 12
 - b. 10
 - c. 11
 - d. 6
2. Which brother of Joseph's did not go down to buy grain in Egypt?
 - a. Reuben
 - b. Benjamin
 - c. Levi
 - d. Judah
3. How many days did Joseph keep his brothers in prison?
 - a. 3
 - b. 14
 - c. 20
 - d. 1
4. Which of Joseph's brothers did Joseph keep tied up until Benjamin was brought back?
 - a. Reuben
 - b. Manasseh
 - c. Levi
 - d. Simeon
5. What did Joseph command be placed in his brothers' sacks along with grain?
 - a. Money
 - b. Manna
 - c. Quails
 - d. Swords
6. When Joseph's brothers returned, what did Joseph command to be placed in Benjamin's sack?
 - a. Golden Candlestick
 - b. Silver Cup
 - c. Bronze Caver
 - d. Golden Ring
7. What did Joseph say the man who was found in possession of the silver cup would become?
 - a. His Successor
 - b. His Servant
 - c. His Friend
 - d. His Betrayer
8. During the seven years of famine, Joseph let his father and brothers dwell in what land?
 - a. Hushim
 - b. Goshen
 - c. Beulah
 - d. Moab
9. What did Pharoah tell Joseph that his father and his household should eat?
 - a. Milk & Honeycomb
 - b. From the fat of the land
 - c. Manna
 - d. Whatever they could find
10. How old was Joseph when he died?
 - a. 99
 - b. 100
 - c. 110
 - d. 120
11. What did Joseph name his first son?
 - a. Jacob
 - b. Ephraim
 - c. Benjamin
 - d. Manasseh
12. How many pieces of silver did Joseph give to his brother Benjamin?
 - a. 100
 - b. 1,000
 - c. 300
 - d. 3,000

BIRTHDAYS

July 01 - Sharon Cardinale
July 02 - Audrey Johnson
July 02 - Sara Styer
July 03 - Caleb Lander
July 03 - Katie Lander
July 03 - Ruth Lundy
July 08 - Nora Styer

July 14 - Barbara Wood
July 16 - Owen Stermole
July 20 - Lila Styer
July 21 - Josiah Lander
July 23 - Chelsie Houser
July 25 - Gary Heivly Sr.

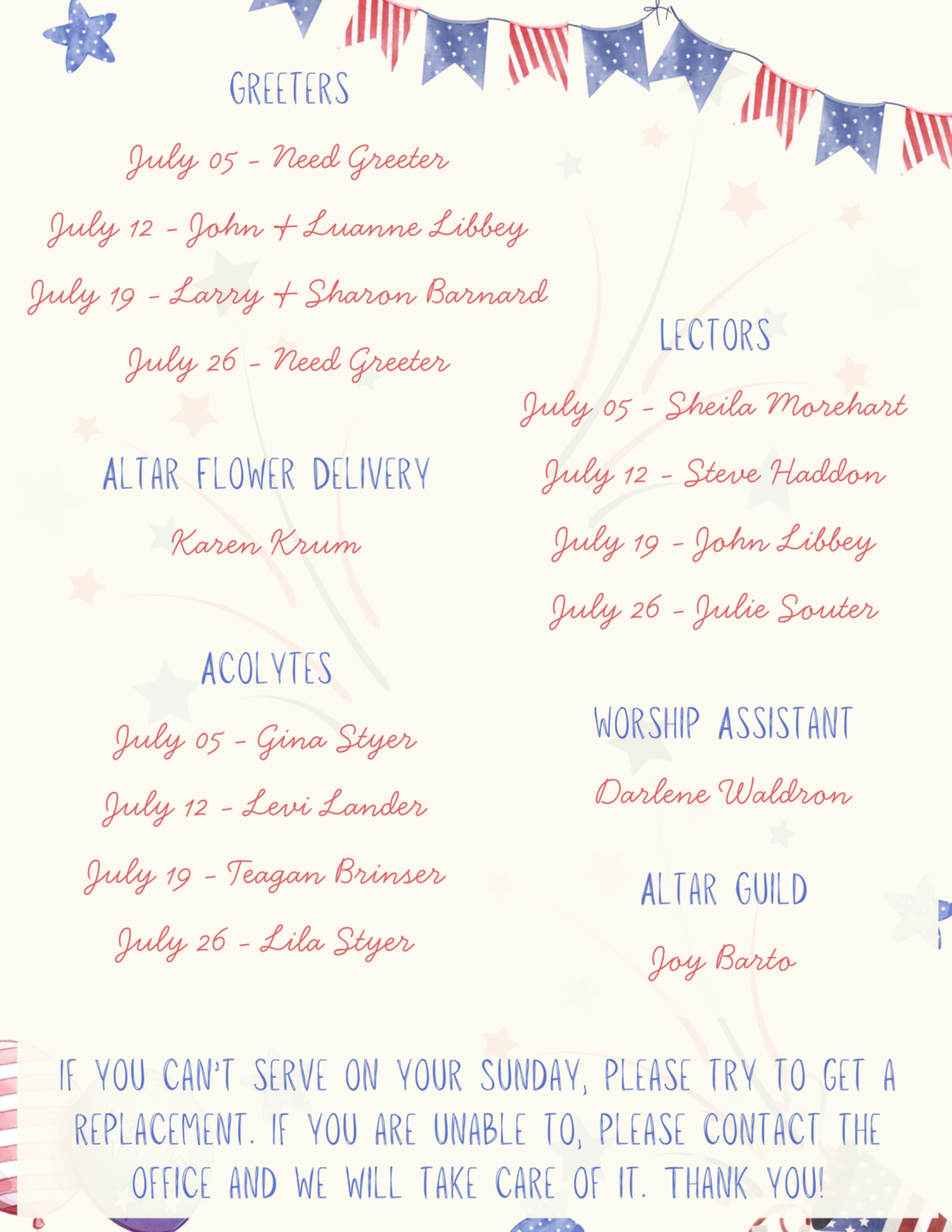
IT IS NOT WHAT WE EAT BUT WHAT WE
DIGEST THAT MAKES US STRONG; NOT WHAT
WE GAIN BUT WHAT WE SAVE THAT MAKES US
RICH; NOT WHAT WE READ BUT WHAT WE
REMEMEBER THAT MAKES US LEARNED; AND
NOT WHAT WE PROFESS BUT WHAT WE
PRACTICE THAT MAKES US CHRISTIANS.

Happy
4th
of July

QUIZ ZONE - ANSWERS

1. B - Genesis 42:3
2. B - Genesis 42:4
3. A - Genesis 42:17
4. D - Genesis 42:18-24
5. A - Genesis 42:25
6. B - Genesis 44:2

7. C - Genesis 44:17
8. B - Genesis 47:1-6
9. B - Genesis 45:18
10. C - Genesis 50:26
11. D - Genesis 41:51
12. C - Genesis 45:22



GREETERS

July 05 - Need Greeter

July 12 - John + Luanne Libbey

July 19 - Larry + Sharon Barnard

July 26 - Need Greeter

ALTAR FLOWER DELIVERY

Karen Krum

ACOLYTES

July 05 - Gina Styer

July 12 - Levi Lander

July 19 - Teagan Brinser

July 26 - Lila Styer

LECTORS

July 05 - Sheila Morehart

July 12 - Steve Haddon

July 19 - John Libbey

July 26 - Julie Souther

WORSHIP ASSISTANT

Darlene Waldron

ALTAR GUILD

Joy Barto

IF YOU CAN'T SERVE ON YOUR SUNDAY, PLEASE TRY TO GET A REPLACEMENT. IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO, PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE AND WE WILL TAKE CARE OF IT. THANK YOU!