

# The Messenger

## July 2023



St. Paul United Methodist Church  
P.O. Box 130  
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Ebenezer United Methodist Church  
P. O. Box 307  
220 Kansas Street  
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### HAPPY 90th BIRTHDAY WALTER!!!



Walter Oehlerking will be celebrating his 90th birthday on July 19th. Life takes endless turnings like a book from page to page. Walter has hit this very special age. Help him celebrate with a card shower! Send him notes of memories from the years past or good wishes!

Send Cards to: 28617 O Street, Elmwood, NE 68349



### HAPPY 50TH ANNIVERSARY!!!



Coleman and Deb Lenz will be celebrating 50 years of marriage on August 10, 2023. Love is what happens when two hearts find their happy place right beside each other. Help them celebrate with a card shower by sending them well wishes or words of wisdom!

Send Cards to: 30104 O Street, Elmwood, NE 68349

## UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

### Cass County Food Pantry Distribution

Saturday, July 15, 2023, 9:00–11:00 a.m.  
Location: Old Village Town Hall Building  
113 West E Street, Elmwood

### Elmwood Community Center

The Center is open for meals at noon or the weekday lunches can be delivered upon request or can be picked up at the center. Call 402-994-2145 to make a request for lunch.

We will not offer the Sunday Brunch during the summer months but will start again in the fall.

Thanks for your support of the Center.

### Elmwood Farmers Market



**Official Opening Day:**  
Saturday, June 3rd  
8:00 am – Noon  
Bess Streeter Aldrich Park  
Elmwood, NE

Vendors welcome! We encourage the vendors to post what they are selling so everyone will know who and what to expect. Vendors traditionally have sold fresh produce, hand-made or homemade products, and even direct sales vendors. It may be too early for fresh produce but there are many other things to be sold at the Elmwood Farmers Market!

**Looking forward to seeing everyone!**

*Market will continue every Saturday during the summer.*

## UWF CORNER

The Elmwood UWF will meet on Monday, July 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. at Martha Ann Bornemeier's, 117 N. West St., Elmwood. This will be our annual potluck event.

Murdock UWF will have their next meeting on Wednesday, July 5, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. for their usual meal and meeting at the church.

## Daniel's Courage in Captivity Vacation Bible School 2023

Come explore Babylon, where Daniel showed great courage in captivity! ROAR!



July 10-14, 2023  
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM  
Elmwood Christian Church

Pre-K (potty trained) - 6th grade  
\$10 per child or \$15 per family  
Join us on July 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 for the closing program and cookies at the church.



## July Birthdays-Elmwood



Ed Blunt – July 1  
Marcie Poteet – July 1  
Michael Vogt – July 4  
Christine Kunz – July 6  
Claire Ernst – July 6  
Sarah Kraeger – July 6  
Thomas Rase – July 7  
Faith Offner – July 7  
Caytlin Anstey – July 7

Wayne Althouse – July 8  
Kirsten Struble – July 8  
Donna Clements – July 9  
Richard Hawks – July 10  
Heath Vogt – July 15  
Suzie Allgayer – July 16  
Sherry Stubbendeck – July 18  
Jacob Stewart – July 18  
Sidney Brummer – July 19

Bruce Kraeger – July 19  
James Hendrix – July 19  
Walter Oehlerking – July 19  
Marion Wenzel – July 20  
Barbara Miller – July 24  
Spencer Stewart – July 25  
Clint Poteet – July 25  
Jim Kerns – July 29  
Marshall Vogt – July 30  
Barbara Frederickson – July 28



## July Birthdays-Murdock



Mike Hanson – July 2  
Jean Baumeister – July 5  
Mel Luetchens – July 5  
Randy Bornemeier – July 10

Mike Koehn – July 14  
Kim Streich – July 20  
Harper Murdoch – July 26  
Nathan Miller – July 31

## PASTOR'S PEN



Of all the summer months, July may be my favorite. If you have been around me for long, you know that summer is not my favorite. The heat is terrible, there are mosquitos, and the kids are restless without the routine of school. However, July also has the 4th celebration; for my family it has always been a time of reunions. My favorite part is the beginning of having a garden full of produce! There is something so special about that first tomato from the garden, the first cucumber picked from the vine or the first batch of zucchini patties cooked up at dinner. Oh and who can forget sweet corn! Man, this is the best time of year!

I want to say that gardening is a simple activity but anyone that has ever really had a garden knows that is not true. It takes planning to have a garden, preparation of the ground, buying the seeds, planting the seeds, watering the garden, and then waiting for it to grow and produce something. And if it was really just about waiting for the plants to grow that might be simple but it is not just the seeds that you plant that grow. If you plant the seeds and then return to your garden in July hoping that you will have tomatoes, peppers and cucumbers, you might be surprised as to what you find. You will probably find a garden in disarray. A space that was once smooth and clear ground, where you so carefully planned and planted those seeds will be now full of unruly and crazy weeds. You might find that the weeds are actually even bigger than your plants; they have grown with great gusto, loving this ground that you so nicely prepared in hopes of getting great produce. In fact, in my experience the weeds grow faster than the seeds and plants that I plant; it is a real wonder of the world how that happens. To really get what you desire out of a garden, you have to tend to it. Beyond planting and an occasional drink of water, you also have to weed it, guide your plants where you want them to grow and watch over it. It is interesting that our faith is so similar to planting and growing a garden.

When we learn about who God is, it is like preparing a garden. We pick the perfect spot of land, we prepare the ground and when we accept Christ into our lives, it is planting a seed into our hearts and souls. Sometimes we think that is all that is needed. We have planted the seeds; they will be fine on their own. It will grow and produce fruit and life will be grand. Except that just as with gardening, our journey with Christ is not easy either. We have to continue to tend to the garden of our soul. We have to water it with the worship and studying of the Word. We have to guide it with our actions. But if we don't, if we just let those seeds sit and hope that they will do what they are supposed to, we will come back and find a soul full of weeds. If we simply just go to church on Sundays but don't live out the message, our souls will be overtaken. Because just like the weeds in my garden, the wickedness of the world seems to grow faster than the goodness of our souls.

The interesting thing about weeds though, if you get them when they are still small and stay on top of weeding your garden, as the seeds you sowed get bigger, you will find that the weeds aren't as prevalent. Sure, you still have to tend to it; but it is not such a huge undertaking as it might have seemed. Our souls are the same. If we tend to our souls, we will find that the goodness will overtake the evil. We will find that it doesn't seem like such an undertaking. We will find that the weeds of evil aren't as big as we thought. We will find that the outcome, the taste of our fruitfulness tastes all the sweeter. Psalm 128 says "Blessed are all who fear the LORD, who walk in his ways. You will eat the fruit of your labor; blessings and prosperity will be yours." May you tend to and enjoy the fruits of your soul this month.

Until Next Time,  
Pastor Michelle

### **June/July Mission Project supports EM Soccer League**

The mission project for June and July is to collect funds for the Elmwood Murdock Soccer League. This local program provides an opportunity for many local youth to play soccer in our communities. Donations will be used to provide equipment for the program. More details will be shared during church services in June and July.



Bess Streeter Aldrich  
Foundation

# SUMMER ART CAMP

With Linda Trundle

Using Aldrich literature, architecture, and nature from the Aldrich gardens as inspiration, campers will study fine art techniques to apply to daily projects. Camp cost is \$40 and includes supplies and snacks.

When: July 10-13th  
1 PM-3:30 PM

Where: Aldrich House  
204 East F St., Elmwood, NE

Who: Any student currently in grades 3-6

Please contact Stephanie Mauck for registration.  
aldrichfoundation.steph@gmail.com



\*PUBLICITY IS FUNDED IN PART BY CASS COUNTY TOURISM, VISITCASSCOUNTY.COM  
\*CAMP PARTIALLY FUNDED BY HUMANITIES NEBRASKA EDUCATOR GRANT



## Summer Reading Program!



This year, the theme is community unity and teamwork.

**July 6, 13, 20 & 27**

Section A Ages 4-6 @ 10:30am  
Section B Ages 7-11 @ 1:00pm

**Stories! Games! Crafts! Snacks!**

Registration sheets will be available in June.  
Space is limited.



124 West D St. Elmwood, NE 402.994.4125



## Pie Ride

Thursday July 6, 2023  
Elmwood Aldrich Park

Serving from 5pm-8pm  
St. Paul United Methodist Church  
Serving Homemade Pie and MORE!  
Brownie Sundaes, Krispy Bars, Root Beer Floats

Bring your lawn chair and  
enjoy

Local Talent: Slick Fiction  
Band

Performing from 6-8:00 p.m.  
At the Gazebo

# July 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 8:00am-Noon Farmers Market – Elmwood Park
2 9:00am Worship Service – M  10:35am Worship Service - E	3	4 <i>Independence Day</i>  Murdock Celebration Events	5 5:30pm UWF – M	6 10:30am & 1:00pm Reading Program  5-8:00pm Pie Ride	7	8 8:00am-Noon Farmers Market – Elmwood Park
9 9:00am Worship Service – M  10:35am Worship Service - E	10 1-3:30pm Art Camp  6:00pm UWF – E  ----- ---6-8:00pm	11 1-3:30pm Art Camp  VACATION Elmwood	12 1-3:30pm Art Camp  BIBLE Christian	13 1-3:30pm Art Camp  10:30am & 1:00pm Reading Program  SCHOOL Church	14  ----- -----	15 8:00am-Noon Farmers Market – Elmwood Park  9-11am Food Pantry Distribution
16 9:00am Worship Service – M  10:35am Worship Service - E	17 7:00pm Church Council - E	18	19	20 10:30am & 1:00pm Reading Program  5-8:00pm Pie Ride	21	22 8:00am-Noon Farmers Market – Elmwood Park
23 9:00am Worship Service – M  10:35am Worship Service - E	24	25	26	27 10:30am & 1:00pm Reading Program	28	29 8:00am-Noon Farmers Market – Elmwood Park
30 9:00am Worship Service – M  10:35am Worship Service – E 11:30am 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday Potluck - E	31					

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**Address Service Requested**



<b>10:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Team Tractor Pull</b>	<b>Main Street</b>
<b>11:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Murdock Parade</b>	<b>Main Street</b>
<b>11:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Lions Club Lunch</b>	<b>Old Fire Hall</b>
<b>12:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Pie and Ice Cream Social</b>	<b>United Methodist Church Basement</b>
<b>Dusk</b>	<b>Fireworks</b>	<b>Murdock Ball Field</b>