

The Messenger

AUGUST 2025



St. Paul United Methodist Church
P.O. Box 130
400 West G St.
Elmwood, NE 68349-0130
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Ebenezer United Methodist Church
P. O. Box 307
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We held two remarkably successful Pie Ride fundraisers this 2025 summer due to many people supporting these events. We were blessed with wonderful weather for both evenings, which helped with attendance.

Those serving hear so many compliments about the pies/desserts that you provide. "look at this, oh, this is beautiful, so delicious, you make the best, hard to decide" and the compliments go on and on. Your talents, efforts and gifts are noticed and appreciated.

We were pleasantly surprised with ten more pies for the evening of July 17th with maybe 3 pies remaining. The number of thirty-two pies requested jumped to forty-two pies which was fantastic!

Offering root beer floats, Rice Krispie bars, and brownie sundaes provides options for those who prefer something different. Over the years Shirley Bornemeier has become well known for her home-made chocolate sauce.

You hear about a sugar high, sky high, and if you talk to anyone who worked Thursday July 17, you will see their face light up with a Happy High! Everyone worked hard but talk about tired, happy volunteers. Thanks to incredible people like you; the goal for July 17th was not only met but surpassed by an amazing \$132.

June 4th- \$1,308.05

July 17th-\$1,440.00

Thank you again for supporting this summer fundraising event. Proceeds will be going to the Elmwood Cultural Arts and Learning Center, Bess Streeter Aldrich Learning Mural project and the Great Plains Conference's Disaster Relief Fund. We are very grateful for the St. Paul United Methodist Church family.

You are the best!
Linda Blunt

UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

Cass County Food Pantry Distribution

Saturday, August 16, 2025, 9:00–11:00 a.m.
Location: Old Village Town Hall Building
113 West E Street, Elmwood

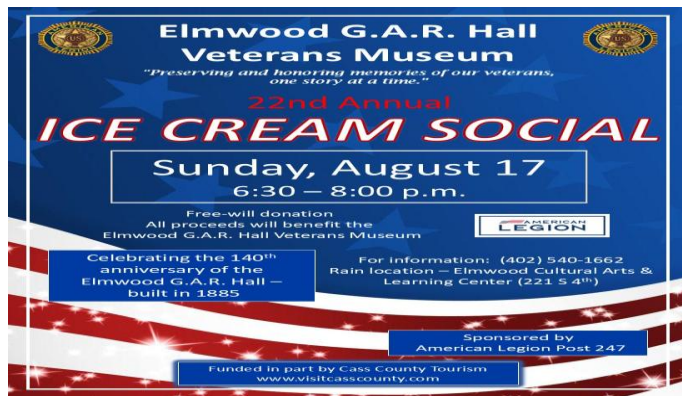
Elmwood Community Center

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. Grab 'N Go Meals are still happening every Friday during the summer, from 4:30 – 6:00 p.m. First Come, First Go.

UPCOMING FCCLA BLOOD DRIVES

12:00 – 6:00 P.M. EACH DATE

Friday, August 22nd, Murdock High School
Monday, October 20th, Elmwood Fire Hall
Tuesday, December 16th, Elmwood Fire Hall



UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH CORNER

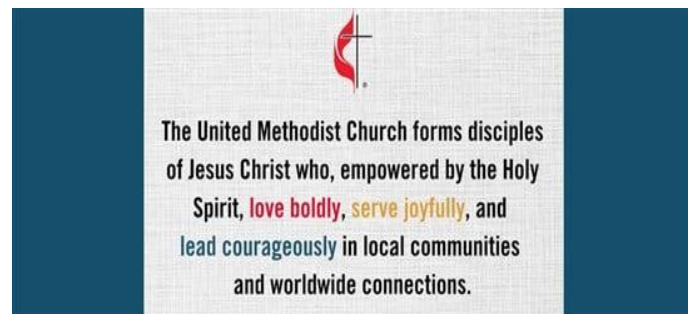
The Elmwood UWF will not meet in August.
Next meeting will be on Monday,
September 8, 2025.

The Murdock UWF will not meet in August.
We will start again on Wednesday,
September 3rd at 5:30 p.m.

Mat Weaving sessions will begin again on
August 13th and 27th.

We have finished one mat and will be
removing it from the loom and starting
again one in August.

Thanks to everyone who has helped with
assembling this one mat.



August Birthdays-Elmwood



Barbara Leefers – August 4
Cassie Vogt – August 5
Damicka Stephens – August 7
Curt Backemeyer – August 8
Saranne Vogt – August 11
Joshua Bornemeier – August 12

Bill Fleischman – August 15
Gary Wheeler – August 13
Delaney Frahm – August 18
Troy Callaway – August 19
Megan Childers – August 21
Sherry Vogt – August 21

Joyce Vogt – August 22
Payton Frahm – August 24
Lyla Fritz – August 25
Maela Vogt – August 25
Lori Kerns – August 27
Austin Meisinger – August 29
Drake Spohr – August 30



August Birthdays-Murdock



Carla Olson – August 1
Spencer Koehn – August 4
Tom Brewer – August 6

Julie Synovec – August 12
Sherry Farmer – August 14
Angie Friesell – August 17

Brooke Butler – August 24
Vivian Rase – August 27
Annie Miller – August 28
Julie Backemeyer – August 29

Here is a way to help you clean out your garage/storeroom/basement/attic!

Midwest Mission in Illinois has a good list of items they could use when they send needed items to some third world countries. If you have already donated these items from your “collection”, another way to find them is to go to a local auction or thrift store and purchase them for only a little!

Medical Equipment: Foldable Walkers, Wheelchairs, Crutches, Canes

Lawn Tools and Hand Tools: Metal Rakes, Hoes, Shovels, Saws

Sports Equipment: Soccer balls, Soccer Cleats, Volleyballs, Basketballs

Bicycles, Fabric (over 1 yard), Sewing Notions, Sewing Machines.

A group from Nebraska is going to Midwest Mission on October 6-10, 2025 and could take donations with us. They would be happy to take items along when they go. Kelli Brewer is the best contact regarding your contribution.

SUMMER MISSION PROJECT TEACHING SUPPLIES FOR MRS. DRUEKE



Elmwood-Murdock First Grade Teacher Vanessa Drueke's family lost everything in a recent house fire. Mrs. Drueke also lost her teaching supplies in the fire. Our summer mission project for the Elmwood and Murdock churches is to collect donations to help Mrs. Drueke replace some of her teaching supplies. School starts soon, and Mrs. Drueke and the Elmwood-Murdock First Graders would have a more successful year with new teaching supplies. You can help by making a cash donation to purchase teaching supplies by Sunday, August 17th.

SCHOLASTIC BOOKS



Once again, we will be collecting cash donations for purchasing Scholastic Books for school children. This mission project will begin the middle of August and continue through September, 2025. The children are always excited to receive a new book each month. Each book would cost \$3 to \$5 each of the nine months of school. Please consider donating to help put books in the hands of elementary students. Thank you for your support in the previous years and your willingness to help this year.



I have a distinct memory of sitting at a pep rally, I don't remember what the overall reason for the pep rally was for, but I know there was at least one adult that was not a teacher there to talk to us. As I remember it, the message was that we should enjoy our time in high school because it is the best time of our lives. At the time, I felt that it was such a terrible message. High school was fine for me. I had a good selection of friends, I was involved in a bunch of activities, and it was a fine time. But I know at that time that this adult whom I was sure was like in his 50s, but was really probably in his 30s, said this message and I remember looking at my friends and saying "if this is as good as it gets, I might as well end it now because what is the point?" I didn't really mean it; but really, why do we say those types of things? I remember hearing the same sentiment in college. And although I liked college and I had a great time, I really hoped it was not the best it ever got.

I understand now in hindsight why people say that to young people. There are a lot less responsibilities. You most likely don't have to worry about paying bills, deciding what to make for dinner every night, and going to work. But I know for me at least that the structure of having to go to class every day, doing assignments that I didn't care about, and listening to the directions my parents gave me did not give me the excitement of these being the best days of my life.

I can honestly say that I enjoyed my time in high school and in college as well. Overall I did enjoy learning and the environment that I was in. I had a loving home, supportive parents, and a really easy overall existence. I didn't have to work while I was going to school, I didn't have to worry about buying a car or paying for my cell phone. But were they the best years of my life? I don't think so. They were great years; but as I look at my 20s, those were great years, too. They were hard, I was starting off on my own, trying to really figure out who I was, I got married, moved like 6 times but I loved those years as well. My 30s were also great years as I reflect back. They also were not easy. We were having babies and moving and starting a new career. And now as I have solidly entered my 40s, I can say so far these years have been pretty good too.

Which years have been the best? That is hard to say and hopefully I have many more to reflect on before this life is over. Each year has good and bad. Each year has lessons learned and great adventures experienced. Each year has not gone the way I thought it would but rather the way it probably was supposed to.

Of course, August marks the beginning of a new school year. I am sure it is a time where kids will hear that they should enjoy it because it is "the best years of their lives." But rather than thinking of it that way, what if we try to find the joy in our lives today. Yes, as adults it is full of bills, work and responsibilities. Yes, there are stressors that are far beyond our control but what if we focused on the good instead? In worship we will be looking at the Book of Philippians and how we can find the joy of God in all aspects of our lives and share it with others. So, this month I invite you to find the joy in each other. You all bring me great joy and help to make these some of the best years of my life. Paul opens the Book of Philippians up in the way that I am going to leave you today saying: "I'm thankful for all of you every time I pray, and it's always a prayer full of joy." May you also lift up prayer of joy this season.

Until next time,
Pastor Michelle

SAVE THE DATE
Sunday School starts on Sunday,
September 7, 2025, 9:30 a.m.

August 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 9:00am Worship Service – M 10:35am Worship Service - E	4	5	6 CASS	7 COUNTY	8 FAIR	9
10 9:00am Worship Service – M 10:35am Worship Service - E	11 7:00pm Church Council – M	12	13 1:30pm Mat Weaving - M	14 First day of School 5-8:00pm Pie Ride – Christian Church	15	16 9-11:00am Food Pantry Distribution
17 9:00am Worship Service – M 10:35am Worship Service – E 6:30-8:00pm Ice Cream Social - Legion	18 7:00 pm Church Council - E	19	20	21	22 12-6:00pm Blood Drive High School	23
24 9:00am Worship Service – M 10:35am Worship Service - E	25	26	27 1:30pm Mat Weaving - M	28 5-8:00pm Pie Ride - Community Center	29	30
31 9:00am Worship Service – M 10:35am Worship Service – E 11:30am Potluck Dinner - E						

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Address Service Requested



Thursday, August 14, 2025