

INSIDE IMMANUEL



Faithful to God's Word – we receive, celebrate and share Jesus Christ.

Give No Opportunity to the Devil

So Cain was very angry, and his face fell. – Genesis 4.5b

Cain was angry. It simply wasn't fair that Abel's offering was accepted and his wasn't. God didn't seem very fair to Cain. And his anger boiled over. The consequence of that anger was the murder of Abel. It seems odd that Cain was so angry, but Cain was. How do we explain that rage in Cain's heart? Cain could have, should have relied on the mercy of God. God was trying to show Cain that Cain's heart wasn't in his offerings (and Abel's was). But Cain wouldn't listen, he would not trust or love God. His anger was too powerful and consumed him.

It is easy to feel like Cain. Isn't it? Frustration with people or situations can lead to anger. Often, like Cain, we don't speak to the people we are angry with. Instead, we imagine the worst and our anger flairs. Couldn't Cain have spoken to Abel? Couldn't they have worked out this issue with their sacrifices? Couldn't Cain have worked on himself to trust the Lord and give out of love?

Consider Saul that first earthly king of Israel. Saul was known for anger also. Saul was told, by God, to destroy all of Amalek's forces and all that they had. Saul attacked Amalek and won the victory, but Saul didn't destroy all the goods. He kept some of the best sheep, oxen, lambs, and fattened calves. Can't blame Saul, can you? Why kill all those good animals when they would be very useful to the Israelites. God really didn't mean to destroy everything, did He? When confronted with what happened Saul got angry (1 Samuel 15.11). This anger festered and festered against God and David.

David was Saul companion and military commander. David won incredible victories for Saul, but Saul became jealous of David and his success. This jealousy led to anger (1 Samuel 18.8). Couldn't Saul have talked to David? If he had, Saul would have found that David did all for Saul and the kingdom. David had no evil designs on Saul or his position. Even after David proved this many times Saul couldn't see the trust and the anger remained.

Looking back such anger seems foolish. But it is simple to fall into such a trap ourselves. To think ill of someone else or assume their motivation seems human nature. We fail to put the best construction on what someone does and it's easy to fall into this trap. Perhaps talking to our brother, as Cain should have, would help. Perhaps worshiping God rightly (as Saul should have) would help. But these things are easy to neglect in anger. Paul reminds us to, "Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger and give no opportunity to the devil (Ephesians 4.26-27)."

Anger is an opportunity for the devil. As anger drives a wedge between brothers and sisters in Christ the devil delights. As anger keeps one away from worship the devil feels like he's won. So don't give the devil this opportunity. Jesus warns us of the seriousness of anger in Matthew 5.22, "But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, 'You fool!' will be liable to the hell of fire." How quickly our anger can bear eternal consequences! Jesus' advice is found in the next verses, "So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother and then come and offer your gift (Matthew 5.23-24)."

Jesus teaches the seriousness of this problem and reminds us to seek our brother quickly so that such anger will not consume us. It is difficult to admit our feelings to our brother. It may not be easy to confess that we assumed the worst about his or her motivations. It may be difficult to seek our brother out and confess our sin of anger. But what would have happened if Cain sought out Abel forgiveness and help? Would Abel not have given it and forgiven his brother? What would have happened if Saul sought out David's love and forgiveness? Wouldn't David have gladly forgiven Saul and willingly worked with him in Israel?

Put all anger and malice away. Love covers this sin. Think the best of your brother. Speak the best of him. Expect the best of him. Let not anger put a wedge between you and a neighbor. Let not anger drive you from Jesus. Don't listen to those who spread gossip and encourage you to hate your neighbor. Don't listen to those who speak ill of another. Guard yourself from this sin as Jesus warns. Hear the Psalmist, "Refrain from anger, and forsake wrath! Fret not yourself; it tends only to evil (Psalm 37.8)." Put away all anger and replace it with love.

In Christ Crucified, Pastor Boyer

G.L.U.E **“God Loves Us** **Eternally”**

1 Corinthians 13:4-7

Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Imagine how Jesus loves us. His love is patient, is it not? How else would we be able to exist here on earth if Jesus did not love us the way He does with His patience and kindness? He doesn't boast about His love for us, instead he gave His life for us. What greater gift can we expect than one who gives up His own life for our benefit?

Jesus' is not irritated by giving His love even though we don't deserve it because of our sin. He is not resentful that He had to die on the cross to save us from our sins. Jesus does not rejoice at our wrongdoing, but He rejoices with the truth that through Him we will be saved.

Jesus' love bears all things no matter how much we spend our lives sinning, over and over again. He loves us still. We believe all things Jesus has promised. That is our love for Him! His love for us is beyond belief. We can never repay Jesus for His love. He does not seek repayment; only that we believe in Him and that through Him we will reach our home above.

Jesus' love hopes all things; hopes that we will believe in God the Father Almighty and makes it so easy for us to believe that Jesus is our Saviour. All we have to do, is believe.

Jesus' love endures all things. Nothing we can do in this life will ever change His love for us. Our love and belief in Jesus gives us everlasting life. What more can we

ask, that when we leave this world, we will be with Him for the rest of eternity!

We know that God Loves Us Eternally! No greater love has any man, than Jesus has for us!

God's blessings to all!
Jim Bratton

September **Newsletter** **Deadline:** **Wednesday,** **August 19, 2026**

Treasurer's Report

MONTH OF JUNE 2026

Cash, Deposits & Invest.	\$ 427,870.89
Designated Funds	<u>-209,499.59</u>
Operating Cash & Deposits	\$ 218,371.30

MONTHLY – June 30, 2026

General Fund Receipts	\$51,195.31
General Fund Expenses	<u>-66,203.95</u>
Deficit reduction collection	<u>800.00</u>
Net Income	\$ -14,208.64

YEARLY TO DATE – June 30, 2026

General Fund Receipts	\$808,946.90
General Fund Expenses	<u>- 849,409.96</u>
Operating Income	<u>- 40,463.06</u>
Deficit reduction collection	41,140.00
CTK giveback 2024-2025	<u>60,540.68</u>
Net Income	\$ 61,217.62

Official Acts

DEATHS

June 12	Frances Balzer
June 16	Harold Engelhardt
July 20	Gilbert Sprague

Why Are the Church **Doors Locked?**

The Church is a place of welcome. A place where its members should feel comfortable to go in time of need, to pray or just sit with God in His house. A place with “open” doors. The place where families gather weekly for worship and fellowship. A secure church, with doors locked for the safety of all its members, is still the same place.

The decision to lock the church doors was not made lightly or easily. Security became a bigger thought after the most recent, and closest, church shooting. Talking about securing our church was no longer enough, action needed to be taken. While looking at our beautiful church through eyes trying to formulate a plan of defense in case of the unthinkable, you find the vulnerability of the openness of the past. Doors that aren't easily seen and monitored but wide open. A basement not checked regularly with hundreds of places to hide and wait with evil as the plan.

If these thoughts have never entered your mind as you sit here on Sunday morning with your family, consider yourself extremely blessed. Be especially thankful to those who have to see what you have never even imagined. God has given these individuals an extraordinary strength to carry this incredible burden of being a protector against evil intent and acts.

The church doors are locked; not only for the safety of our students while they are here for worship and music classes during the school year, but for everyone who enters every day. The doors are locked, but they will still open. So come, in times of celebration and joy. Come in times of sadness and despair, and in times when you just want to sit with God in His house for a while. The church welcomes you and will hold you safely in its arms while you are here.

175th Anniversary Notes

The anniversary committee is hard-at-work organizing events and souvenirs for our 175th. Included are three services of celebration with guest speakers, a float for next year's Sugar Festival, a history booklet, bookmarks, sweat shirts, T-Shirts, and community outreach events. The community outreach focus will include a pop-up pantry/truck in the spring and a second effort which we are still working on. If you are interested in having an anniversary cap, please let Kelly Dufty know. She is working on this right now.

We appreciate everyone who has donated money to help us with the events we are planning. Your continued support is necessary, both in prayer and with donations. Immanuel has been a part of this community for a long time, and we want the work of the Holy Spirit to continue through us as our church reaches out to the world around us. Our 175th anniversary is not only a time to give thanks, but also a time to look to the future. Please pray for Immanuel and the work of the 175th committee as we move forward. Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

Barbara Bleck,
Anniversary Committee Chair

Council Meeting July 13

Elders: Christmas in July outdoor service will happen July 26.

Trustees: The heating project is slated to begin August/September.. One Trustee resigned, we are looking for a replacement.

Stewardship: The cookbook is going in the mail Saturday!

Evangelism: We will be out a Kohl Farms for their "Jesus Freak" music festival on August 15 from 1-8.

Youth: The ice cream social during the Sugar Festival was very well attended! It was noted that kids are active with summer events and travel sports so Collide is in its quiet season.

School Board: School board elections will happen during the July meeting. Discussion is being had on putting anonymous funds into a CD.

Principal's Report: School is being deep cleaned and floors waxed for the new year. New doors – 4 in Unionville and 4 in Sebewaing – are being installed as well as a new roll up door in the kitchen.

Pastor's Report: Pastor will be with Peter in Phoenix, AZ for a conference, Pastor Wensky will cover service the Sunday we will be gone. Bethlehem crafters were here this week. If anyone missed out and would like to purchase, please reach out to Pastor. New officers were installed June 28/29.

President: Discussion was held on making sure church keys are accounted for and security is upheld.

Vice President: Discussion on the Constitution's statement that "board members must attend 1 Voters Meeting every 2 years." This is not being enforced due to low board numbers and difficulty getting volunteers to help on boards. Should we be making a change to the constitution to reflect this?

**Next Council Meeting: Monday,
August 10 at 7:45pm.*

CTK School News

Greetings from CTK!

We hope that everyone has a wonderful summer break, filled with rest, relaxation, and family time! It is hard to believe that we are gearing up for our 26-27 school year already!

A big thank you to our custodians who have spent many hours deep cleaning the schools and getting the

floors waxed for the upcoming year. Another thank you goes out to the grounds' crews who continue to keep our school yards looking great.

Thank you to the group of people who have spent several hours working on the area south of the Unionville school, where the old portable classroom sat. It looks much better!

Over the summer, Ms. Engelhard stepped away from teaching. We thank her for her many years of ministry to our school and appreciate all she has done!

Mrs. Christina Bedore will be teaching the first grade this school year. She is excited to join our team and has been working to get the classroom ready to welcome her class.

Preschool has their meet and greet set for August 5 from 6-8pm, with the parent meeting being at 6:30pm. K-8 registration will take place on August 12 from 11am-6pm. Students may bring in their classroom items at that time, if they would like.

The first day of school for K-8 is August 18, with opening Chapel in Sebewaing at 8:05 and in Unionville at 9:30. The first day for Preschool is August 31. We are excited for another great school year!

We are truly blessed here at CTK, to have all the continued prayers and support for the staff and students! We greatly appreciate all that our congregations do for our school! Thank you!

God's Blessings,
Jen Yoder
Principal

Memorial & Gifts

IMMANUEL GENERAL FUND

IN MEMORY OF MARY KLEIN

Dave & Janet Sharpsteen

IN MEMORY OF KATHY VOLZ

Don & Pat Holland

IN MEMORY OF GINA GASKILL WEAVER

Roger & Deb Bloomfield

IN MEMORY OF FRANCES BALZER

Rod & Lois Bohn
 Brandenburg Farms
 Joyce Jahr
 Fran Davis
 Joan Walz
 Roger & Dorothy Gremel
 Jim & Rhonda Klann

IN MEMORY OF HAROLD ENGELHARDT

Lou LaPrairie
 Jack Buehler
 Sherry Liberacki
 Harley & Ruth Birsching
 Neal Gettel
 Willa Dee Bitzer
 Rod & Lois Bohn
 Vic & Kathy Engelhardt
 Tim & Sandy Irion
 Dave & Janet Sharpsteen

IN MEMORY OF GILBERT SPRAGUE

Alan & Peggy Licht
 Linda & Greg Ware
 Terry & Cindy Volz
 Nancy Layher
 Jim Bratton
 Linda Guillitein
 Joyce Jahr
 Troy Strieter

Pat & Amy Gruehn
 Mike & Lorene Zagata
 Ron & Wendy Tabor
 Don & Pat Holland
 Sharon Engelhardt
 Jeanette Bach
 Kerry & Gloria McKellar
 Ken Engelhardt
 Randy & Dennis Dubs
 Dick & Denise Neumann
 Kathryn Southworth
 Ken & Judy Fuerst
 Garry McKellar
 Mike & Janet Horst
 Dennis Ropp
 Roger & Linda Engelhardt
 Jack Buehler
 Rod & Loid Bohn

DECORATING

IN MEMORY OF MATTHEW SOKOLOSKI

Steven & Ursula Gangler
 Carol Mammel

IN MEMORY OF MARY KLEIN

Carol Mammel

ENDOWMENT

IN MEMORY OF FRANCES BALZER

Kristine Koch

MUSIC

IN MEMORY OF LYNN ZUZGA

Janet Sharpsteen
 Sherry Rybkowski

IN MEMORY OF LYNN RUNDELL

Dave & Janet Sharpsteen

COLLIDE

IN MEMORY OF MARY KLEIN

Mike & Lorene Zagata

IN MEMORY OF LYNN ZUZGA

Mike & Lorene Zagata

CHRIST THE KING

IN MEMORY OF JEFFREY CHEATHAM

Tom & Jan Sting

IN MEMORY OF GINA GASKILL WEAVER

Larry & Lois Dressler

IN MEMORY OF FRANCES BALZER

Rich & Vera Wroblewski – scholarship

IN MEMORY OF DOUG STEELE

Kristine Koch – scholarship



Scrip Order Form, Christ the King Lutheran School

Has Cards

☐

Order Cards

☐

5

Name: _____ Account to Apply to: _____ Phone: _____

Chain Stores	Profit	Amt	Quantity	Total		Gas	Profit	Amt	Quantity	Total
Ace Hardware	6%	\$25				Marathon	3%	\$100		
Amazon	1.5%	\$100				Marathon	3%	\$25		
Amazon	1.5%	\$50				Shell	1.5%	\$25		
Amazon	1.5%	\$25				Speedway	4%	\$25		
American Eagle	10%	\$25				Sunoco	1.5%	\$50		
Auto Zone	7%	\$25				Miscellaneous	Profit	Amt	Quantity	Total
Barnes & Noble	8%	\$25				Best Western	10%	\$25		
Barnes & Noble	8%	\$10				Delta Airlines	4%	\$250		
Bath & Body Works	12%	\$25				I Tunes	5%	\$15		
Bath & Body Works	12%	\$10				Pet Smart	6%	\$25		
Best Buy	4%	\$25				Restaurants	Profit	Amt	Quantity	Total
Cabelas	9%	\$100				Applebees	8%	\$25		
Cabelas	9%	\$25				Arby's	8%	\$10		
Dicks Sporting	8%	\$25				Biggby Coffee	7%	\$25		
Disney	3%	\$100				Bob Evans	10%	\$25		
Disney	3%	\$25				Bob Evans	10%	\$10		
Dunhams	8%	\$25				Buffalo Wild Wings	8%	\$25		
Famous Footwear	8%	\$25				Buffalo Wild Wings	8%	\$10		
Gap/Old Navy	14%	\$25				Burger King	7%	\$10		
Gordon's Food	4%	\$25				Happy Moments	8%	\$25		
Home Depot	4%	\$100				Chili's	10%	\$25		
Home Depot	4%	\$25				Chipotle	9%	\$10		
Kohls	7%	\$100				Cracker Barrel	8%	\$10		
Kohls	7%	\$25				Crumbl	7%	\$25		
Lowe's	4%	\$25				Crumbl	7%	\$10		
Macy's	10%	\$25				Dairy Queen	6.5%	\$10		
Marshall/TJ Maxx	6%	\$25				Dardens/Olive Garden	8%	\$25		
Maurices	7%	\$20				IHop	8%	\$25		
Meijer	3%	\$100				Jimmy Johns	8%	\$25		
Meijer	3%	\$50				KFC	6%	\$25		
Meijer	3%	\$25				McDonalds	3%	\$25		
Menards	3%	\$100				McDonalds	3%	\$10		
Menards	3%	\$25				Little Ceaser's	8%	\$20		
Micheals	7.5%	\$25				Omaha Steaks	11%	\$25		
Sephora	6.5%	\$25				Outback Steakhouse	10%	\$25		
Staples	5%	\$25				Panda Express	8%	\$25		
Target	2.5%	\$25				Panera Bread	8%	\$25		
Tractor Supply	4.5%	\$25				Panera Bread	8%	\$10		
Tractor Supply	4.5%	\$100				Pizza Hut	8%	\$10		
Ulta	7%	\$25				Red Lobster	8%	\$25		
Under Armour	11%	\$25				Starbucks	4.5%	\$25		
Wal-mart	2.5%	\$100				Starbucks	4.5%	\$10		
Wal-mart	2.5%	\$50				Subway	6%	\$10		
Wal-mart	2.5%	\$25				Taco Bell	5%	\$10		
Visa	1.25%	\$100				Texas Roadhouse	8%	\$25		
Visa	1.25%	\$50				Uno Chicago Grill	12%	\$25		
Visa	1.25%	\$25				Wendy's	6%	\$25		

Other: _____ Amt: _____

Total: _____ \$

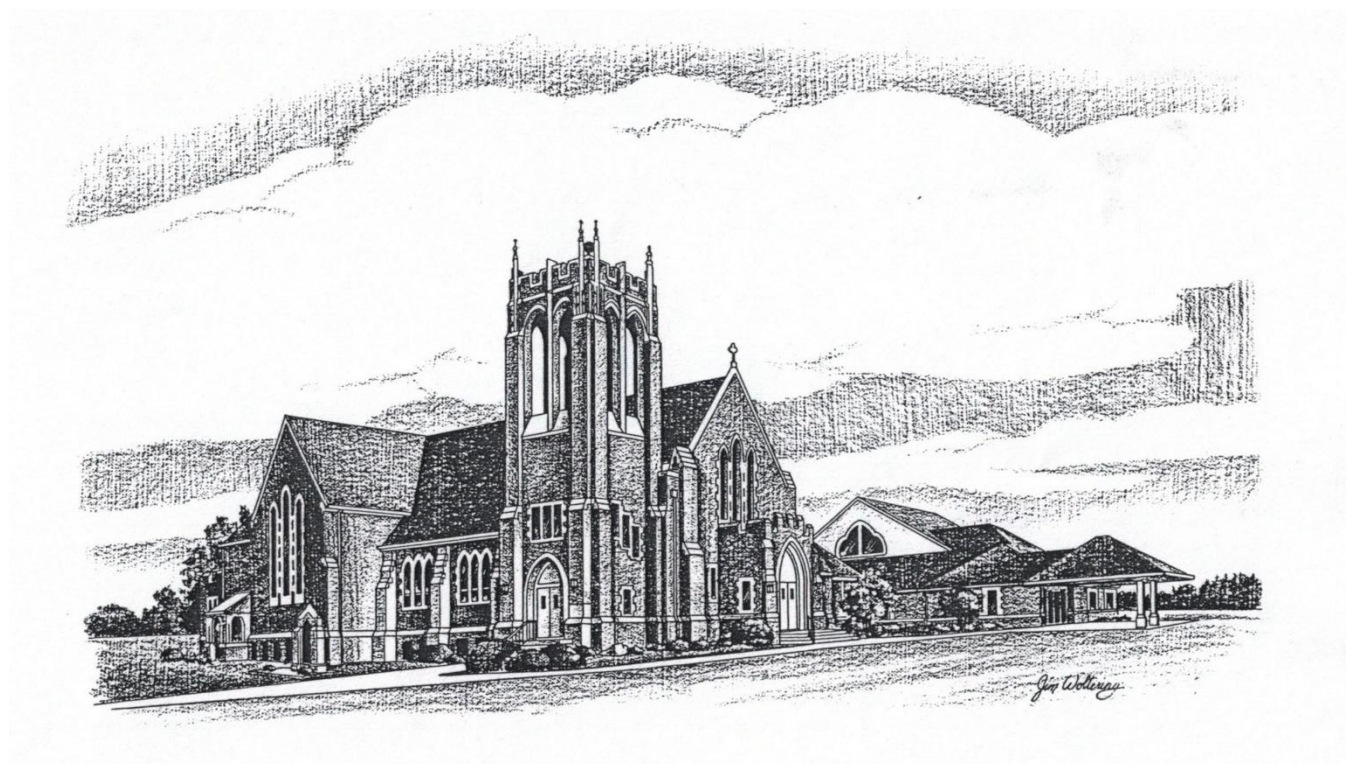
For a complete list, download the RaiseRight App

Cash: _____ or Check # _____

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
800 E BAY ST
SEBEWAING, MI 48759

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

BULK RATE
US POSTAGE
SEBEWAING, MI 48759
PERMIT #32





August 2026



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2 7:15 Elders 9:00 Worship/C – 7 10:15 Bible Blass	3 5:00 Finance 6:30 Worship/C	4 10:30 Devotions at Bay View Gardens	5 7:00 Men Bible Study 4:30 Evangelism Pre-School Open House 6-8pm	6 12:00 Bulletin Deadline	7	8
9 8:00 ELF Breakfast 9:00 Worship/C – 8 10:15 Bible Class 7:30 Youth	10 5:00 Finance 6:30 Worship/C 6:30 Trustees 6:30 Stewardship 7:45 Council	11	12 CTK Registration 11-6	13 12:00 Bulletin Deadline	14	15
16 9:00 Worship/C – 9 10:15 Bible Class	17 5:00 Finance 6:30 Worship/C	18 8:00 Opening Chapel & First Day of School	19 4:00 Newsletter Deadline	20 12:00 Bulletin Deadline	21	22
23 9:00 Worship/C – 1 10:15 Bible Class	24 5:00 Finance 6:30 Worship/C	25 7:00 Board of Ed	26 8:00 Chapel	27 12:00 Bulletin Deadline	28 CTK – No School	29
30 9:00 Worship/C – 2 10:15 Bible Class	31 5:00 Finance 6:30 Worship/C First Day of Preschool					Flower Chairman Lorene Zagata

August Birthdays

AUGUST 1

Janet Ewald
Feather Reige

AUGUST 2

Gary Loeffler
Joanna Matthews

AUGUST 3

Gregory Lupp
Alexdria Walz

AUGUST 4

Darwin Nitz

AUGUST 5

Eleanor Matthews
Nancy Pommerenke

AUGUST 6

Wyatt Heckroth

AUGUST 7

Mark Krauss
Gloria McKellar

AUGUST 8

Lincoln Bloomer
Charlotte Lewis
Theresa Nitz
Patrick Stecker

AUGUST 9

Gregory Eremia

AUGUST 10

Lincoln Haag
Aaron Krauss
Hunter Zuzga

AUGUST 11

Joanne Eremia

AUGUST 12

No birthdays

AUGUST 13

Harlon Neumann Sr
Ally Sweetman
Adam Vogel

AUGUST 14

Chloe Beringer
Leighton Fritz
Luke Gremel
Michael Gremel
Paul Kemp
Emmeline Kotenko
Ethan Pommerenke
Zachary Weeks

AUGUST 15

Jessica Dressler
David Mammel
Toby Stock
Jennifer Millerwise

AUGUST 16

Susan Gremel
June Richards
David Wildner
Pamela Winter

AUGUST 17

Lawson Weber

AUGUST 18

Jake Fiebig
Bethany Hornbacher

AUGUST 19

Lacie Eurich
Ralph Maurer
Bradley Sting

AUGUST 20

James Bohn
Natasha Dubs
Knox Millerwise

AUGUST 21

Sarah Kemp
Preston Pitt

AUGUST 22

Erica Hartman
Ella Vermeersch

AUGUST 23

Jacob McDaid
Cane Weinlander

AUGUST 24

Jodi Smith
Lynette Walz

AUGUST 25

Erin Jubar

AUGUST 26

Nicole Bauer
Cindy Wildner

AUGUST 27

Mya Sweetman
Michael Walz

AUGUST 28

Noel Cain
Grady Gainforth
Arlene Gremel
Vickie McDaid

AUGUST 29

Suzanne McGathy
Austin Nieschulz

AUGUST 30

Laura Abke
Addison Pommerenke

AUGUST 31

Beth Gainforth
Dee Haag