

St. John's Lutheran Church

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July 2026 Newsletter



Serving in Worship during July

Acolytes:

5: Quinn Shoup
12: Braxton Smith
19: Community Service
26: Kenley Smith

Lesson Readers:

5: Marilyn Parrish
12: open
19: open
26: open

Greeters:

5: Sue Dewire, Deacons
12: open, Deacons
19: open, Deacons
26: open, Deacons





July Birthdays

- | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| 6 – Sue Dewire | 19 – Doris Todd |
| 7 – Lexy Robson | 23 – Anna Burt |
| 14 – Stacy Sapp | 25 – Jaxton Brancheau |
| 16 – Julie Carlson | 25 – Greg Scott |
| 16 – Bennett Michael Hill | 27 – Jamie King |
| 19 – Katelyn Brigle-Dye | 27 – Riki Timbrook |
| 19 – Kennedy Brigle-Dye | 29 – Mike Timbrook |
| 19 – Blake Bumb | 29 – Holly Willson |

July Anniversaries



- 2 – Doran & Stacy DeMara
- 2 – Keith & Melissa Martin
- 3 – Merlin & Mary Wright
- 7 – Bill & Megan Hill
- 14 – Rob & Nikki (Gillen) Precord
- 15 – Lee & Laurie Steinke
- 16 – Andy & Julie Carlson
- 17 – Tom & Susie Mick
- 23 – Matt & Alysha Sloan

From the Pastor's Desk

“God Keep our Land”

The first week of July is filled with celebrations. On July 1st, Canadians celebrate the day on which three territories constituted themselves into the nation of Canada in 1867. I was born in Canada and I consider myself blessed to call Canada my home. Our national anthem includes this prayer for God to keep our land glorious and free.

The first weekend of July also includes the 250th anniversary of the day on which the thirteen American colonies of the British Empire formed the nation of the United States of America on July 4, 1776. In 1814, Francis Scott Key published a poem which would later inspire the Star-Spangled Banner. In the fourth stanza, he included the words “and this be our motto – ‘In God is our trust.’” In 1956, congress considered adopting “In God We Trust” as the national motto of the United States of America. Amongst the many secular festivities, take time to reflect on this great land that you call home and the God who keeps our lands.

When I consider the freedom and blessings that our two nations have experienced living in these lands, I hope and pray that my grandchildren will continue to experience those same opportunities. Both of our great lands were founded on principles that recognize the supremacy of God in the lives of our nations – but I sometimes feel that these beliefs are being eroded away beginning at the highest levels of elected officials. Our schools either reject religious instruction completely or allow a multiplicity of ideas to be propagated. There is no absolute truth as it is now relative to the individual. Your belief is your truth.

But I must wonder if this absolute truth still lives and resides in our nations, our communities, our homes, and our hearts.

Absolute truth is found only in the supremacy of God. He shaped this glorious land and it is only the eternal God who gives us life and who determines the length of our days. This supreme God provides our daily bread and the eternal bread of heaven which sustains us into eternal life. For everything He does He is worthy of our worship. And so, supremacy means that God is above all else. He is above all opinion and above all interpretation. When we pray “thy will be done on earth as in heaven” God exists and governs our lands - whether we acknowledge Him or not.

I ask you, as both our nations look to the future, would it be wise to disregard our supreme God, to dismiss some (or all) of our foundational principles, and then attempt to establish ourselves as supreme? Will we be better off when we decide what constitutes a human life or what value we place on a human being? Should we simply throw away God’s Word and re-define marriage? Are we going to be happier and better off by deciding what is true, and good, and right for us rather than a Creator who already knows what is good and best for us. As we celebrate, let’s ask ourselves, no – let’s ask God for the answers.

Think about it. If God has kept His lands - our lands glorious and free, is it wise and prudent to start to ignore Him and go against His Will? I can’t help to think about what the children of Israel went through in the Book of Judges each time they shunned God and tried to do things their own way. There are consequences in making ourselves supreme.

As you celebrate, remember to pray to our supreme God that our governments might be steadfast in putting their hope in Jesus and to rule His great land in the name of, in behalf of, and according to the laws of our supreme God. We all have to agree, north and south of the 49th parallel, that our nations have been a wonderful place and a blessing to grow up under the foundational principles that acknowledge the supremacy of

God. Let’s remember to worship him during the secularity since it is God who gives us the true freedom to worship.

**THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HELPED
WITH VBS!**



2026 NALC Convocation

The North American Lutheran Church Online Convocation is scheduled for Friday, August 7, 2026 from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time.

St John’s Lutheran Church, Montpelier, Ohio is approved to have two (2) lay delegates and one (1) clergy delegate. Congregations are encouraged to commit to having their full number of delegates present for the NALC’s “highest decision-making body” as a congregationally based organization.

Please let Pastor Marc know as soon as possible if you are able to participate.

Building Project Restarted

The Trustees want you to know that Building Project Fund donations are still being accepted now. The new Building Committee members are Ryan Burt, Andy Carlson, Dale Gearhart, and Matt Sloan. More information will be shared with the congregation soon. You can use the green envelopes located in the pews for any donations you wish to give as it has been decided to increase the size of the elevator.



WOTC is Collecting Kitchen Kits in July (Pack kits in a 2-gallon plastic storage bag or drawstring backpack)

can opener cookbook (sm-med.) dish cloths
dish towel spatula(turner) measuring cups
measuring spoons storage container (2-cup w/lid)
garbage bags (a few, mixed sizes) hot pad
another helpful kitchen item of your choice (i.e.,
mini cutting board, peeler, tongs, etc.)



WOTC Board Meeting Minutes June 14, 2026

Present: Brenda Athy, Janice Thompson, Julie Carlson, Lexy Robson & Stacy DeMara

Devotions were done by Janice.

Treasurer's Balances: Checking \$4,519.28 Funeral Fund \$2,468.34

President – Brenda & her husband went down to the NALC warehouse in Caldwell to help putting kits together. They have these workdays twice per year.

Vice President – Janice & Julie have gotten both of our CD’s renewed. One comes due for renewal June 2027 & the other December 2027.

Secretary of Mission – Lexy has been putting the kits together & needs large boxes. The completed quilts are being stored in a new area in the Women’s Room. Lexy is going to ask Mike’s church to possibly donate diapers for the warehouse. Lexy will be ordering 14 containers of ice cream for the root beer float stand.

Secretary of Community –

Old Business

March 15th when Mary Bates spoke at both services, she was given a check for \$1,320 & also donations of \$880 in cash & checks.

Bible school begins June 22nd, Julie will be getting snacks. We are to buy green grapes.

New Business

Brenda is going to ask Jeanne to get around the sign-up sheet to volunteer to work the root beer float stand. We are also going to ask people to sign up to donate root beer & orange pop.

Next meeting will be July 12, 2026. Stacy will do devotions.

The meeting closed with the Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully submitted Stacy DeMara



NO St. John’s Lutheran Church Council Meeting minutes from May or June. They have decided to meet quarterly. Next meeting, July 12 at 11:30 a.m.