

WINDS OF THE SPIRIT

Nordland Lutheran Church | Paynesville, Minnesota | August 2024

Nordland's 4th Annual BBQ Blues Bash

This year's BBQ Blues Bash is coming up! Sunday, August 11 from 3:00 - 7:00 p.m. in the Nordland Park. Live music, good food, and a great time raising funds for Nordland's Prayer and Meditation Gardens.

Music this year will be by Jeff James from 3:00 - 5:00, and the West Addison Blues Band from 5:00 - 7:00. Food will be served beginning at 4:00 - the menu includes burgers, smoked chicken, chips & sweet corn.

Nordland community - please park in back of the church building area until full to help save parking spaces for elderly & other visitors closer to the park. Also, volunteer sign up is in the entry way at Nordland. We need you - thank you!

On a related but also different note, here are some thoughts about how Blues music and our faith intersect.

Historically, in many ways, the blues has given voice to the lament of a suffering people. For example - "Crazy Blues" by Mamie Smith, which was recorded in the wake of horrific violence against African-Americans in the early 1920's. Lament is also reflected throughout the Bible. Read Psalm 13, for example.

Like many stories in our Scriptures, people can relate to the blues. And as singer and guitarist Susan Tedeschi says, "It moves you. It can help to heal you. I think the blues can be very beneficial on a medicinal level."

Today, the focus of much of our culture has been about making life as easy as possible, and in turn, we have a tendency to become desensitized to the cry of pain and lament from others whose lives are scarred by injustice in our own communities and around the world.

Our calling as people of faith is to rediscover those parts of our rich faith and our sacred text that awaken us to the lament of the world. We need to

hear Jesus' blessing of those who mourn, for example. Mourning for the cry of pain in the world is an essential part of our faith. And so, the blues can help awaken us to that cry of pain, not only from African Americans and others in our own country, but from communities all around the world.

But that's not the whole story. The blues also point us to a hope for a better day. "There Must Be a Better World Somewhere" by B.B.

King, for example. And that's where we have another intersection with the blues and the gospel. It's not a hope for a kind of escape to some celestial place when we die. It's the hope that God is constantly in the business of transforming the world...today - with hope, joy, compassion, peace, love. This is what the New Testament talks about, AND of which we get to be a part, in both little and big ways - co-creating a world where that becomes more and more a reality. This is what Jesus meant when he told his followers to be peace-makers, shalom-makers - those who will embody and demonstrate God's work of peace, justice, wholeness for all people. May it be so with us.



NLCW Notes

July was a busy month and August is full of fun events too! On July 10 we had a great Bible Study on "community" with Pastor Mark. July 13 was rainy but the Tractor Run turned out great. July 16 the NLCW Executive Board met to discuss future plans & projects. July 17 the Sisters at Heart had a wonderful time at Audrey Stulen's. Now we're looking forward to hearing the stories from the youth trip to Montana, and hearing results of Green Lake Quilt auction. Other dates we are looking forward to: Aug. 11 - BBQ Blues Bash; Aug. 14 - Last Summer Bible Study & Supper with Pastor Donna Putney; Aug. 21 - Green Lake Cruise with Sisters at Heart; Sept. 4 - Christian Service Day starts again; Sept. 11 - NLCW & Bible Study; Sept. 18 - Sisters at Heart at Tammy Knicks; Sept. 25 - Harvest Sale (not the 26 as printed in NLCW Booklet); Oct. 13 - Honored Member & Congregational Pot Luck.

We always need volunteers to help shop for our Family of God, help play Bingo, help cut/sew quilt blocks, and buy school supplies for school kits during the "back to school" sales. Many blessings. Many rewards. - Judy Deadrick, NLCW Secretary

Summer Bible Study Series

The last Wednesday in this monthly series will be held on August 14 beginning with a light supper at 5:30 and study to follow. The series is entitled "After certainty: A biblical guide". A global pandemic, political upheaval, a changing climate... these days, the future is more uncertain than it has ever been. Or is it? For the people of the Bible, life was often shaped by deep uncertainty. Encounters with God sparked awe, confusion or courage, but rarely certainty. Instead, God's people have always been called to follow God into the unknown, trusting in God's certain grace and love. This three-session summer Bible study has been exploring God's invitation to the people of the Bible and to us, to take the holy journey beyond certainty to curiosity, community and compassion, where we find abundant life in Christ.

August's Bible Study theme: After certainty - Compassion. When certainty becomes judgmentalism, it contributes to divisions between people and within communities. The teachings of Jesus and the writings of the apostle Paul sometimes urge people to choose compassion over 'correctness' – a model that can offer Christians guidance in a polarized time. Can this be any more timely?! The August study will be led by Pastor Donna Putney from Trinity Lutheran in Grove City. We meet in the Fellowship Hall at Nordland. Everyone is welcome!

August Serving Group

Chairs: Jeff & Karen Roos
Andy & Jenna Streling

W & C = work/ serve, start coffee
& bring 3 dozen cookies.
C = bring 3 dozen cookies only

Please have coffee & cookies
ready by 10:15 am

August 4

W&C Jerome & Lori Nygaard
Jenna & Alyssa Streling
C Anita Hagen

August 11

W&C Brad & Lindsay Nygaard
C Jake & Ashley Moline

August 18

W&C Jeff & Karen Roos
C Loren & Vicky Pearson

August 25

W&C Corey & Bethany Wendlandt
C Larry & Melanie Powers

September Chairs: Diane Christle
Duane & Terry Davidson

Please have schedule in Winds box by August 15.
Thank you everyone!

August Birthdays and Anniversaries

2. Mark Dahmes, Ruth Hanson
Steve Haagenson, Bentlee Fernkes
3. Kathy Chesness
4. Jenna Streling
5. Juliet Brutger, Anthony Clark
7. Scott & Tara Thompson
8. Brad Bruntlett
10. Colin Wendlandt
11. Kayla Hemingson, Dylan Peterson
12. RaNae Martinson
13. Karl VanDorsten, Lori Hemingson
16. Jeff Hunt, Mary Lou Percival
Tim & Lisa Wendlandt
17. Nathan Bork
19. Shonda Nohner, Beau Pearson
Kasey & Erin Schoumaker
20. Justin Jenniges, Kalya Richards
Marli Hagen-Grau
21. Dina Hengel
22. Madisyn Ellevold
23. Peggy Moline, Jeb & Amy Johnson
Andy & Jenna Streling
24. Kris Guptill, Travis Garland
Richard Johnson
25. Ashley Moline, Tim Wendlandt
Paige Nygaard
26. John Thompson
27. Greg Chesness, Brooke Hemingson
Ross Jenniges
28. David Clark
29. Nicole Humbert, Todd & Pat Holm
Brian Roos

Youth Trip to Valley Fair

All youth who have completed grades 6-12 are invited to spend a day at Valley Fair on Saturday, August 10. We will leave Nordland at 9:00am and return by 9:00pm. The cost will be \$35 per person. If you are interested in going, please sign up on the youth board at church. Friends are always welcome! We will also need parents to help drive.

August Events

Sunday Schedule:

Worship, 9:30 am

Fellowship, 10:30 am

3 Men's Group, 8 am

8 Church Council, 6:30 pm

10 Youth Valley Fair, (Gr. 6-12) 9 am- 9 pm

11 4th Annual BBQ Bash, 3 - 7 pm

Jeff James 3 - 5 pm

Food at 4 pm

West Addison Blues Band 5 - 7 pm

14 Summer Bible Study Series, Session Three
5:30 pm Light Supper, 6 pm Study I

15 Winds Newsletter Deadline

17 Men's Group, 8 am

20 Service at Koronis Place, 10 am

21 Sisters at Green Lake Cruise (tickets sold out)

