

Shalom Community Lutheran Church August 2022 Newsletter



Every year August rolls around faster than the one before. Did the summer fly for you as it did for me? The picture above is what we will see around here soon. I think August begins harvest time and preparing for the coming fall. We still have hot days, but we know cool days are coming. We harvest our gardens and fields; We put up stores to get us through the months ahead. We thank God for his generous gifts.

Through the ages, God has guided us in good times and bad. You may think the world is chaotic, but remember, God is in control. Follow his Word and do what you can to show God's love to everyone. As Christians, we look forward to the future. Be it here on earth or with God for eternity. Through his Son Jesus Christ, God brought eternal life to everyone who believes in Jesus.

THOUGHTS FROM PASTOR MIKE!

When we were growing up our parents taught us to return a cake pan with something in it, to return a borrowed vehicle with more gas than it had, to clean a borrowed tool and return it in a better state. In short, we were taught to leave something better than we found it. This principle should be followed in many other ways as well.

We have a responsibility to steward the planet. Do we treat God's creation with respect? Farmers are always striving to improve the land to make it more fertile and productive. They are leaving it better than they found it. The next generation won't have as many rocks to pick or stumps to clear. I would hope that we don't take for granted the efforts of those who went before us.

Our opportunities to make a difference are not just confined to stewardship of resources. We can also leave people better than we found them. We can make a positive or a negative difference in the lives of those around us. As Christians we are ambassadors of Christ and can let Him work through us to help others. Jesus always left people better than He found them. He found them sick, broken and caught up in sin. He left them healthy, whole and free.

Let us take the time to be there for others, to listen to them, to serve them, and to bring them hope. May God's presence and love work through us to bless others and to build them in their faith. May we leave this world and the people in it better than we found them.

Pastor Mike

UPCOMING SUNDAYS

For the next 3 Sundays, we will be working through James chapter 5.

The topics will be:

Possessions – July 31

Patience – August 7

Prayer – August 14

August 2022

Sun	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat
31 9:30am - Worship @ 10:30am - Bible Study	1	2 9:30am - Text Study 4:30 p.m. - Prayer Meeting	3	4 Deacons Meeting 7 p.m.	5	6 8:30 a.m. - Men's Bible Study
7 9:30 a.m. - Worship 10:30 a.m. - Bible Study	8	9 9:30am - Text Study 4:30 p.m. - Prayer Meeting	10	11	12	13 8:30 a.m. - Men's Bible Study
14 9:30 a.m. - Worship 10:30 a.m. - Bible Study	15	16 9:30am - Text Study 4:30 p.m. - Prayer Meeting	17	18	19	20 Shooting/Grilling 8:30 a.m. - Men's Bible Study
21 Shooting/Grilling 9:30 a.m. - Worship 10:30 a.m. - Bible Study	22	23 9:30am - Text Study 4:30 p.m. - Prayer Meeting	24	25	26	27 8:30 a.m. - Men's Bible Study
28 9:30 a.m. - Worship 10:30 a.m. - Bible Study	29	30 9:30am - Text Study 4:30 p.m. - Prayer Meeting	31	1	2	3 8:30 a.m. - Men's Bible Study

August 4 at 7 p.m. Board of Deacons meeting

Contact Pastor Mike, Dorothy, Dalen, Jerrid, Lowell, Richard, or Roger with questions, concerns, or praise/prayer requests.

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Weekly Shalom Events held at Shalom Church

Tuesday – 9:30 a.m. Text Study led by Jill

Tuesday – 4:30 p.m. Prayer Meeting

Saturday – 8:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study

Sunday—9:30 a.m. Worship Service

Bible study following service

We will be studying the Gospel of Mark.

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National Day of Prayer: <http://www.nationaldayofprayer.org/>

Friend --

"You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you. Trust in the LORD forever, for the LORD, the LORD himself, is the Rock eternal." Isaiah 26:3-4 NIV



This weekend marks the anniversary of "In God We Trust" becoming the motto of the United States of America. On July 30, 1956, the 84th Congress unanimously passed the joint resolution and President Eisenhower signed this faith-filled motto, that had been declared throughout our history, into law. "In God We Trust" had already been proclaimed on our currency, in our national anthem and various documents, flags, military regiment mottos, and more

– but in 1956 we honored God by, and established our trust in Him, as our national belief guiding America throughout history.

While this powerful motto is important to proclaim it is even more important that we put it into practice. As I began to think about writing this message, I was compelled to ask myself if I am *really* trusting God in all things concerning my nation, neighbor, and life. This is one of the few things in life that is not, or at least should not be easier said than done. Trust is a verb, so why is it that some days we seem so frantic and panicked? I am part of the "we" in this declaration, so I asked the Spirit to search me and convict me in areas of my life where I am not fully trusting God.

A lack of trust will cause us to hesitate and often manipulate the situation. As I have been leaning into what it means to trust God, I keep coming to these thoughts: Do I trust God when He says "WAIT"? *and* what am I thinking and doing as I wait? Proverbs 3:5-6 says, "*Trust in the LORD with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He will make your paths straight.*" The word "acknowledge" means "*to know by experience and instruction.*" This is how we can, "*Be still and know that I am God.*" (Ps 46:10) Trusting God means I anticipate His wisdom, purpose, love and glory in the process, timing, and outcome of every situation whether my wait is five minutes or five decades. The danger zone begins the minute I start leaning on my own understandings and acting in my agenda and timing. How can I possibly believe that I can hurry the Creator of time? How absurd to think for a moment that I know better than the King of Kings! But I must confess I am still an imperfect human still in the sanctification process and I have run ahead of God and asked Him to follow and bless me instead of waiting and anticipating the greatness and glory He has already prepared before I was even born.

The second point the Spirit pointed out to me was when I say I am "waiting" but the truth is that I am hesitating. There are many occasions in our lives when God's character, commands, and confirmation have clearly pointed us in the right and righteous direction, but our lack of trust causes us to hesitate and resist obeying Him. Fear, pride, insecurity, inconvenience, discomfort; whatever our excuse, at the root it is disobedience and a lack of trusting God to guide and provide all we need for the life and assignment He has prepared and purposed uniquely for us. When we hesitate, we do not anticipate God's authority and affection to prevail. Instead, we resist God and manipulate the perception of the situation by saying we are waiting on God when the reality is that He is waiting on us.

Trust comes before we have all the answers and can see the end and the outcome. Trust yields to God and lets Him decide and direct. Trust comes from the heart and calms the heart, so I knew as the Spirit revealed unsettled areas of my heart that I was not fully trusting God in every situation and need.

Do you have any unsettled areas in your heart? Declare your trust in Jesus and walk in the security of your Savior. Let's not hesitate. Would you please begin to pray about this with me right now?

Lord Jesus You are the One True God, Creator of heaven and earth, and all it contains belongs to You. You have given me life and came to give life more abundant. Your love, Your strength, wisdom, thoughts and ways are higher than mine or any man and so I ask You as Your child to lift me in Your arms in my weakness and let me glimpse life through Your attributes and abilities that I know from Your Word and walking with You. Great is Your faithfulness; You are God Almighty, sustainer, redeemer, beginning and end. I love you and trust You with every breath You have put in my lungs and the path that You have prepared and purposed me to walk for Your honor and glory! In God I Trust! In Your beautiful, Holy, powerful Name we pray, Amen!

Serving Him with Gladness,



Kathy Branzell President, National Day of Prayer Task Force

I thought this was an excellent piece highlighting our need to trust God.

Happy Birthday to:

Marla Watson - August 5
Richard (Swede) Syverson - August 7
Florence Polfus - August 8
Rosalyn (Roz) Johnson – August 19
Gene Hacker - August 25
Mary Danielson – August 26

Happy Anniversary to:

Dennis and Carrie Jepma August 15
Eric and Mary Danielson August 21

Gathering for Widows and Widowers: Please join with others who have experienced the loss of their spouse, partner or significant other for a wonderful time of fellowship and conversation. We will meet for lunch, 12:00 noon, at Old #1 in Morris August 7. Order and purchase your lunch and enjoy the company of others. For questions, please call Pedersen Funeral Home (320)-589-3220. Listen to KMRS/KKOK for schedule changes.

LCMC Annual Gathering and Convention

Registration is open online and by mail for our [22nd Annual Gathering & Convention](#), a four-day event designed to bring people from across the association together for a time of fellowship, worship, learning, and more.

The event takes place **October 2-5** at **Hosanna Church** in Lakeville, MN. More information and online registration can be found on our website.

For the best possible experience, we recommend signing up by **August 15** to receive the discounted rate, then booking your accommodations as soon as you have registered to guarantee your spot.

We look forward to seeing you there! Copy and paste the link below to your browser for more information.

<https://www.lcmc.net/annual-gathering>

Dear Friends,

We are proud to announce that **Terebinth Refuge** will be hosting its 5th Annual RISE fundraiser on September 15th from 7:30 - 9:00 AM at the Park Event Center in Waite Park.

The theme for the event this year is restoration. Our inspiring program will highlight what is necessary for restoration of the body, mind, soul and spirit to take place in the lives of survivors of sexual exploitation and trafficking.

You will hear from key Terebinth Refuge staff as well as survivors who have personally experienced the power of restoration and have willingly agreed to share their profound testimonies at this year's event.

This is your chance to thoughtfully and prayerfully join their journey.

While this event is free, registration is required and can be done online through the link below.

[Terebinth Refuge's RISE Fundraising Breakfast Tickets, Thu, Sep 15, 2022 at 7:30 AM | Eventbrite](#)

Financial Report as of July 28, 2022

2022 General Budget	\$ 109,000.00
Year to Date Needed	\$ 63,000.00
Year to Date Received	\$ 57,666.78
Last Week's Offering	\$ 1,135.00

Funds allocated for the 2nd Quarter Missions are as follows:

Compelled Ministries	\$1,075.00
SON Food Program	\$ 575.11
Terebinth Refuge	\$ 475.00
Assemblies of God Missionaries	\$ 350.00
LCMC	\$ 150.00
School Scholarship for Alex	<u>\$ 450.00</u>
Total 1st Quarter Missions	\$3,075.11

Shalom Community Lutheran Church

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ShalomCommunityLC.com

You can find us on Facebook and YouTube. Our website address is www.shalomcommunitylc.com You can watch our Sunday services on YouTube Live. Follow the link on our website. An edited version of the service will be online by Tuesday. If you need someone to talk to or need pastoral care, don't hesitate to contact Pastor Mike, a deacon or another congregation member. We are all called to help one another. You may also call the Ministry Center and leave a message. We'll respond as soon as possible. Here is the Deacon's contact information:

Pastor Mike – 320-766-5592

Dorothy Carlson, President – 320-239-4283

Lowell Hacker – 320-333-3511

Richard Syverson, Secretary – 320-760-6719

Jerrid Jepma – 320-349-0728

Roger Anderson – 320-808-8967

Dalen Gosseling, Vice President – 320-239-4411