**The Monthly Newsletter of Good Shepherd Evangelical Lutheran Church**

**Lindy, Nebraska**

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**The Rod and Staff**



**June and July 2019**

**Summer break?**

***And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.***

* **Colossians 3:16 ESV**

As much as our calendar year begins in January and ends in December, the real rhythm of our life in this part of the world is based on our school calendar. Our “year” begins in late August or early September when children begin school, and it ends when elementary, high school, and college students conclude their studies toward the end of May.

And then we come to this odd time called “summer break.” While many people continue working as usual during the months of June, July, and August, the fact that children are generally no longer in school during this time means that our schedules change. Writing as a father myself, a good amount of my time this summer will be spent driving to and attending my son’s baseball games. The summer also brings with it a host of other things: hot weather, swimming, grilling, fireworks, and the like. There is nothing wrong with these things. Recreation is a good and important part of life.

For many, a part of summer recreation is spending time away from the normal routine. My family and I plan on spending some time away to travel and relax at times this summer. Many families enjoy camping and traveling as well during this time. This can be a great gift from God, an opportunity to rejuvenate, make memories, and connect with family more deeply.

Unfortunately, however, because we tend to think of summertime as a “break,” it is easy to take a break from church as well in the summer months. We often speak of the “summer slump” when it comes to church attendance. Of course, sometimes travel and other commitments prevent us from being in worship, but I encourage everyone to remember that our relationship with God continues even in the summer months, and our need to be fed and nourished with God’s Word through proclamation and sacrament is the same as ever. Even if traveling, I encourage you to take the opportunity wherever you happen to be to spend time in worship as we are commanded to do in the third of God’s Ten Commandments. Family time and time in church do not have to compete with each other. In fact, they can and should be integrated. The websites of our organizations of the NALC and LCMC have maps that show the location of congregations around North America: thenalc.org and lcmc.net.

While we think of this time of the year as a break and often use this time for recreation, we are called to remember the faithfulness of God, and we can be comforted with the promise that God does not ever take a break from us. Living in that promise, we have the call, expressed by Paul in his letter to the Colossians, to remember that whatever we do in word or deed, even when on “break,” we should do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him (Colossians 3:16).

Below are some prayers for those who find themselves travelling this summer. They are from an Eastern Orthodox Christian website, but valid for any Christian. I enjoyed them and thought you might as well:

*“Lord Jesus Christ my God, be my companion, guide, and protector during my journey. Keep me from all danger, misfortune, and temptation. By your divine power grant me a peaceful and successful journey and safe arrival. In you I place my hope and trust, and you I praise, honor, and glorify, together with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.”*

*“Lord Jesus, you traveled with the two disciples after the resurrection and set their hearts on fire with your grace. Travel also with me and gladden my heart with your presence. I know, Lord, that I am a pilgrim on this earth, seeking the citizenship which is in heaven. During my journey, surround me with your holy angels and keep me safe from unseen dangers. Grant that I may carry out my plans and fulfill my expectations according to your will. Help me to see the beauty of creation and to comprehend the wonder of your truth in all things. For you are the way, the truth, and the life, and to you I give thanks, praise, and glory forever. Amen.”*

* Pr. T. E. Jacobson

**Commemoration of the Saints**

Lutherans do not pray to special people called “saints.” Our Lutheran confessional documents speak against that practice. However, those same documents that prohibit the veneration of saints encourage Christian people to look to the lives of significant Christians of the past as a source of encouragement for our lives in the present.



This June and July, we remember the life of the Bohemian (Czech) priest named **Jan (John) Hus** (ca. 1369 – 1415 AD). He is often commemorated on July 6.

Jan Hus was a controversial figure in his era, as he challenged the church of his time, rebuking the corruption he saw within the hierarchy of the church. He spoke against theological errors that he felt had crept into the life of the church concerning the Lord’s Supper. Notably, he believed that laypeople have the right to receive both the bread and wine in the Lord’s Supper. At that time, it was generally the practice to distribute only the bread to laypeople and leave the wine for the priests. Hence, his followers became known as “Utraquists,” meaning “in both kinds” as well as “Callixtines,” standing for the word “chalice.” He also insisted that the true Christian Church on earth is found wherever the faithful gather around God’s word, independent of the hierarchy of the Roman Church. Hus was called to the Council of Constance in 1415 to explain himself, but his safe passage was revoked, and he was condemned and burned at the stake for his views, which were judged by the council to be heretical.

The Czech word “Hus” means “goose.” The legend says that Jan Hus said to his executioners before his death, “If you kill this goose, a hundred years later, God will raise up a swan.” Almost a hundred years after Hus’ death, Martin Luther began his public work in Germany, and many people considered Luther to be the fulfillment of Hus’ statement. Many of Luther’s insights were identical to those of Hus, and so Hus is often considered a forerunner of the Lutheran Reformation. This is why many Lutherans in Germany have images of swans on their church buildings. The Moravian church movement, which exists as a close cousin to Lutheranism, considers itself to be rooted in the reform movement of Jan Hus in Bohemia.

* Pr. T. E. Jacobson

**Monthly Watchwords for June and July 2019**

“Gracious words are like a honeycomb, sweetness to the soul and health to the body.”

* Proverbs 16:24 ESV

“Let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger.”

* James 1:19

**Ushers for June:**

* Head Ushers:
	+ Ed and Tina Sage
* Ushers:
	+ Richard and Phyllis Beckmann
	+ Jerry and Sandy Ziegler
	+ Dennis and Judy Friedrichsen
	+ Trenton Guenther
	+ Makenna Guenther

**Ushers for July**

* Head Ushers:
	+ Keith and Donna Nielsen
* Ushers:
	+ Melvin Barger
	+ Brandon Barger
	+ Stella Branstiter
	+ Riley Eckmann

**Website:** The web address is as follows:

* **www.gselclindy.weebly.com**

**Featured Hymn for June and July 2019**

***Go Forth, My Heart, This Summer Day***

*Lutheran Hymnal for Church and Home, 264*

1. Go forth, my heart, this summer day, go forth and seek your joy today with thanks for all these pleasures! See all around the earth is new, God has adorned the world for you, with wonderful green treasures, with wonderful green treasures.
2. I cannot keep my own heart still when I see all that God has willed to waken all my senses. So I can sing with all who sing. Let all the highest good now ring which in my heart is dancing, which in my heart is dancing.
3. I think how great my blessings are which you so lovingly impart upon your great creation. And how much greater blessings wait above in heaven’s rich estate. Where golden streets await us, where golden streets await us.
4. O Holy Spirit, dwell in me so I become a living tree with roots so deeply grounded. O grant that I will sing your praise and bear rich fruit through all my days by all your love surrounded, by all your love surrounded.
* Paul Gerhardt, 1607-1676

*Note: Written by the famous hymn writer Paul Gerhardt, this hymn remains a favorite in Germany today. The season of summer becomes an image of what heaven will be like.*

**From Martin Luther’s Small Catechism:**

**The Lord’s Prayer: The Conclusion**

*For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.*

***What does this mean?***

*It means that I should be certain that such petitions are acceptable to our heavenly Father and are heard by him, for he himself has commanded us to pray in this manner and has promised to hear us. So we pray with confidence: “Amen,” meaning “Yes, it shall be so.”*

**Birthdays for June and July**

*Note: This list of birthdays is a work in progress, as we are currently trying to gather membership information from the old congregational record into an electronic form. If your name is not listed in the appropriate month, please let pastor know your birthday so that it can be added in the future. If you would not like your name to be listed, simply let pastor know. The birthdays are provided here as a way of giving thanks for the lives of members of the congregation. Happy birthday to all!*

* June 16: Makenna Guenther
* June 24: Christine Eisenhauer
* June 26: Gary Ermels
* June 28: Bonnie Paulsen
* July 10: Tara Barger
* July 12: Addison Barger
* July 12: Ashley Guenther
* July 14: Jake Eckmann
* July 16: Summer Guenther
* July 20: Scott Eisenhauer
* July 30: Lacey Barger

**Baptismal Anniversaries for June and July**

*Note: Just as it is important to acknowledge the beginning of our earthly lives with our birthdays, it is even more important for us as Christians to remember the day when God has given us a new birthday, a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead (1 Peter 1:3). Lutherans confess that baptism is the means by which God gives us as a part of sinful humanity a new relationship with him, a promise that our faith can look to all our lives. In turn, we are called to a life of repentance and faith that trusts in Christ as our salvation. As with the birthdays, this list is a work in progress. Blessed baptismal anniversaries to everyone!*

* June 4: Roger Guenther
* June 12: Sherri Ermels
* June 15: Alice Carlow
* June 19: Dennis Friedrichsen
* June 21: Lavonne Koltermann
* June 21: Nolan Poppe
* June 25: Donna Nielsen
* July 1: Annie Jessen
* July 10: Darci Barger
* July 18: Hudson Barger
* July 24: Natalie Peetz
* July 29: Jamie Doerr
* July 30: Gary Ermels

**Worship Schedule**

June 2: The Seventh Sunday of Easter (Ascension Day observed) with Holy Communion at altar rail (White)

June 9: The Day of Pentecost (Red)

June 16: The Sunday of the Holy Trinity with Holy Communion continuous line (White)

June 23: The Second Sunday after Pentecost (Green)

June 30: The Third Sunday after Pentecost (Green)

July 7: The Fourth Sunday after Pentecost with Holy Communion at altar rail (Green)

July 14: The Fifth Sunday after Pentecost (Green)

July 21: The Sixth Sunday after Pentecost with Holy Communion continuous line (Green)

July 28: The Seventh Sunday after Pentecost (Green)

**Important Announcements**

* As you probably noticed, the newsletters for June and July have been combined, so no newsletter will be provided at the beginning of July
* We will continue, once a month on the fourth Sunday of the month, having a time of adult education during the Sunday school hour, starting at 9:30 AM. For June, it will be held on June 23, and July will be July 28. Pr. Tom will begin in June with a series discussing American Lutheran history. Come for coffee and a time of learning about our heritage!
* The Church council meetings will be held on Wednesdays, June 12 and July 10 at 7:00 PM.
* The Women of the Word/Women of the North American Lutheran Church will meet at the usual time of 10:00 on Wednesdays June 19 and July 17.
* The annual ice cream social will be held on Sunday July 28, beginning in the afternoon.
* Pr. Tom will be away traveling with family from June 13 to 19, and Pr. Larry Jerke from Sioux Falls will be filling in on June 16. If there is an emergency during that time, contact Pr. Dani Jo (Ninke) Bierwagen at Christ the King Lutheran Church in Yankton (605) 665-8848 (church number) or (605) 661-2796 (cell).
* As the basement restoration project nears completion, we are turning our attention to the setup of the basement. We have planned on putting a church library in the basement. If anyone is looking for a new home for books, DVDs, or other appropriate materials or would like to donate any such items, please contact Pr. Tom.
* Looking ahead to the coming fall, Good Shepherd will need some volunteers to teach Sunday school. This is an important part of congregational life. Paige Poppe has faithfully served for some time now, and others are now needed to serve in this way. Please give prayerful consideration to participating in the life of the church in this way. Contact Pr. Tom or council members.

**Martin Luther on the Holy Spirit**

On the Day of Pentecost (June 9), we remember the coming of the Holy Spirit on the disciples of Jesus. Martin Luther had this to say about God the Holy Spirit in the life of a Christian:

*The believing man has the Holy Spirit; and where the Holy Spirit dwells, He will not allow a man to be idle, but stirs him up to all exercises of piety and godliness, and of true religion, to the love of God, to the patient suffering of afflictions, to prayer, to thanksgiving, and the exercise of charity towards all people.*

**June 2019**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|  |   |  |    |  |  | 1 |
| 2Worship, 10:30 with Holy Communion (altar rail)White | 3 | 4 | 5Pr. Tom in Lindy | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 9Worship, 10:30 Day of PentecostRed | 10 | 11 | 12Pr. Tom in LindyChurch council meeting, 7:00 PM | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 16Worship, 10:30; Holy Communion (continuous)Holy Trinity SundayPr. Larry Jerke presidingWhite | 17 | 18 | 19Pr. Tom awayWomen’s meeting, 10:00 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 23Adult education, 9:30Worship, 10:30Green | 24 | 25 | 26 27 28 29 |
| 30Worship, 10:30Green |  |  |  |

**July 2019**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|  |  1 |  2 |  3 Pr. Tom in Lindy   | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 7Worship, 10:30 with Holy Communion (altar rail)Green | 8 | 9 | 10Pr. Tom in LindyChurch council, 7:00  | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14Worship, 10:30 Green | 15 | 16 | 17Pr. Tom in LindyWOW/WNALC meeting, 10:00 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21Worship, 10:30; Holy Communion (continuous)Green | 22 | 23 | 24Pr. Tom in Lindy | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28Adult education, 9:30Worship, 10:30Green | 29 | 30 | 31 |
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Good Shepherd Evangelical

Lutheran Church of Lindy

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Bloomfield, Nebraska 68718

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