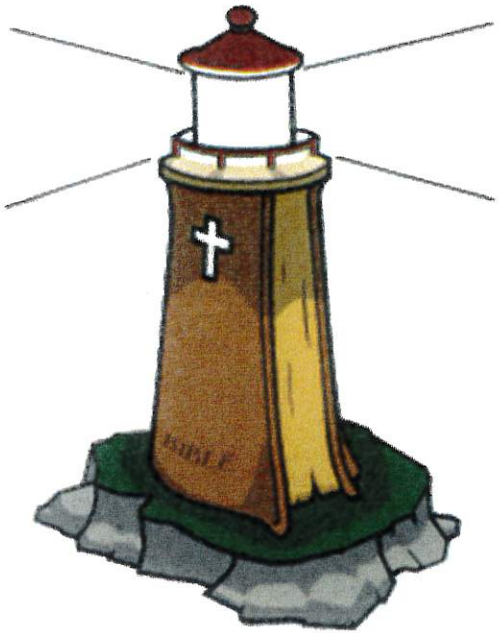
Bethany and East Lemonweir Lutheran Churches
618 West River Street
New Lisbon, WI. 53950

RETURN SERVICES *REQUESTED*

The Beacon

Bethany / East Lemonweir Parish
August 2026



Psalm 46:1 – "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble."

Just Breathe...some summer thoughts on the importance of breathing

Over the last month or so I've received many reminders to be patient with myself, to give myself time when I need it—to feel grief, to see beyond it, to notice the strength I have to see hope. And these reminders have been helpful (and so has the patience I have received as I take the time) in so many ways. They are definitely helping me as I grieve but also as I continue to deal with the busy-ness of life.

We often think of summer as a time when life slows down. And it does when we take time for vacations, retreats and fun at cabins and campgrounds. But I also think summer brings its own kind of unique hectic schedule. We go and leave our houses more, visit with friends or family (or have them visit us). Those with kids and grandkids know that there is nothing like the summer sport season added onto camp, swimming lessons, summer school, summer fun, summer jobs, etc. I'm already finding myself wishing that the routine of a new school year would be here sooner rather than later (and it will be only one more month!). So—summer as a time to slow down, that isn't the truth for everyone...I think in some ways we need more reminders to breathe deep and find peace and rest.

In the first creation story in Genesis chapter 1, verses 1 and 2 say, "When God began to create the heavens and the earth, [2] the earth was complete chaos, and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters." And then God used that breath to speak, "Let there by light." Light came into the world along with the darkness. And then God used God's breath and voice to speak creation into being—ordering and conquering the chaos that used to be. God's breath is powerful.

In the second creation story in Genesis chapter 2 God also uses God's breath to create. Verse 7 says, "then the Lord God formed man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being." In this story, humankind has the very breath of God—giving action and understanding to humanity.

These two texts were the focus of one of the speakers at the ELCA's Rostered Ministers Gathering that I went to in Indianapolis, IN. The Rev. Dr. Theresa Smallwood reminded us that in each breath we take we can remember several things. We are incredibly close we are to God. God's breath is the breath that gives us life to our bodies and our souls. God's breath is powerful. It spoke creation into being and gives life to humankind. As sharers of God's breath we have the power to be co-creators with God—to be part of God's change for the world—to be part of renewal and beginning a new—not only for ourselves but all the world. We are never far from the very essence of God. God's breath is powerful, indeed!

Breath of God (A reminder of spirit) by poet Joe Davis

We believe in the breath of God,
a rhythm in our chest,
a movement from heaven to heart
and outward to everyone else.

We believe in the breath of God,
that hovers over the face of the deep,
that moves until every captive is freed,
that gives until no one is left in need.

We believe in the breath of God,
we will use this breath to speak
for those who can't breathe,
to seep with those who weep,
to grieve with those who grieve.

We will use this breath to practice what we preach,
to become God's hands and feet
in the church and in the street.

We believe in the breath of God,
creating justice, revealing love
beyond buildings, but the resilience God builds in us.

To confess, repent, and repair
not in guilt, blame, or shame
but through courage and compassion
until our humanity is reclaimed.

We believe in the breath of God,
to help our unbelief,
that we might give our every breath,
until we all can breathe.

August 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
AA Meetings 6:30 PM Tues @ East Lemonweir Thu @ Bethany	Worship 9 am Bethany 10:30 East Lemonweir					1
2 Bethany Council Mtg	3	4 Rachel Circle @ 4 pm	5 9 am Quilting @ Bethany	6	7	8
9 BINGO after Bethany worship	10	11	12 9 am Quilting @ Bethany	13	14	15
16	17	18 Sept Beacon Articles due. W-ELCA Visit to our Shut-ins.	19 9 am Quilting @ Bethany	20	21	22
23	24	25	26 9 am Quilting @ Bethany	27	28	29
30 Back to School Blessing.	31				September 5th 10:30 am Joint Worship @ Bethany	Grandparent Day September 13th

Sugar Creek Day Camp

What a beautiful day for our children and parents to attend Day Camp at Sugar Creek! Bible study, games, crafts, snacks, and songs made for a day of fun and learning. Of course, pony rides and water activities were part of the experience, too. (The adults also did some exploring and learning about Sugar Creek from Pastor Lucy.) It's safe to say that everyone is looking forward to a return trip in the future.

At Bethany

August 9th

Hint for the big prize game:

Cross your fingers for good luck.

** Donations are being accepted at this time. Thank you to all who make donations to the prize basket.

Mark your calendars:
September 13th is Grandparents' Day!

Bring your grandkid or any kid to church day & kids can bring a grandparent or any friend/adult. Let's play a game and enjoy some treats together following service!

2026 August Worship Assistants

East Lemonweir

Readers

8/2 – Diane Clark
8/9 – Roger Nelson
8/16 – Jennifer Sarnow
8/23 – Bret Haschke
8/30 – Dawn Nelson

Greeters

8/2 – Connie Wolfgram
8/9 – Bret & Billie Jo Haschke
8/16 – Audrey Scholl
8/23 – Diane Clark
8/30 – Jennifer Sarnow

Bethany Assistants

8/2
Assistant Minister – Mark Hansen
Reader – Debby Hansen
Communion Assistant – Mark Hansen
Usher – Tim Parker & Karl Katuin

8/9
Assistant Minister – Beth Preuss
Reader – Deanna Smith
Communion Assistant – Beth Preuss, Inger Kirkwood, Judy Zobal, Ross Hardie
Usher – Mark & Debby Hansen

8/16
Assistant Minister – Michaele Korbein
Reader – Ross Hardie
Communion Assistant – Michaele Korbein
Ushers – Shane Gesler & Collette Schultz

8/23
Assistant Minister – Galen Lingl
Reader – Sheila Stark
Communion Assistants – Galen Lingl, Betty Krotzman, Beth Preuss
Ushers – Larry & Kathy Thome

8/30
Assistant Minister – Larry Thome
Reader- Barb Parker
Communion Assistants – Larry Thome, Barb Parker, Inger Kirkwood
Ushers – Karl Katuin & Tim Parker

** If you cannot meet the schedule, please exchange and if you aren't able to find someone let the OFFICE know.

W-ELCA News

Mission statement: To mobilize women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ
All women of Bethany are members of W-ELCA and can enjoy the fellowship, programs and activities.

Our summer Bible Study from the *gather* magazine is "I Am Worthy". The first session speaks to our core understanding that we are made in God's image. Our August Bible study focuses on session two of this 3-part study and centers on how our identify encompasses our experiences, values, relationships and social location. This study so far is thought provoking and provides interesting ways to look at our worth. Please consider attending this study on Tuesday, August. 4th at 4:00 at the church.

There are cards and our cookbooks available to purchase in the narthex.

Consider attending our annual visit to our shut-ins which is scheduled for Tuesday, August 18th. This is a time for fellowship with those who aren't able to attend church and a time for fellowship for those who travel together for the visit.

Please check out the purses in the narthex and if you find any you like, the money can be given to Helen York, our W-ELCA Treasurer.

Thank you to everyone who helped make our salad luncheon/silent purse auction a success.

Please donate to the Baby Care Kits. There's a donation tote and list of items that are needed in the coat room.

Upcoming events:
Tues., Aug. 4th at 4:00 - Rachel Circle meets at the church (all women invited)
Tues., Aug. 18th – Annual W-ELCA visit to our shut ins.

A thought: Let the word of God dwell in you richly

nnou

East Lemonweir Lutheran Church
Council Meeting
July 19, 2026

Present: Pastor Lucy Hardie, Roger Nelson, Roger Pitcel, Kathryn Pitcel, Marlene Pelton, Connie Wolfgram, Audrey Scholl, and Gayle Hempel.
Absent: Bret Haschke

Roger Nelson called the meeting to order at 11:30 am. Pastor Lucy led us in prayer.

Motion to approve secretary report made by Gayle Hempel and second by Kathryn Pitcel.

Motion to approve treasurer report made by Audrey Scholl and second by Gayle Hempel.

There will be three interviews for the Administrative Assistant position starting this week.

Roger Pitcel discussed the prepay for 1,250 gallons of fuel.

Audrey Scholl shared tombstone cleaning information and company that would clean the stones.

Pastor Lucy enjoyed the time for renewal and learning at the ELCA's Rostered Ministers Conference and at Sugar Creek Bible Camp. She also discussed the request to use East Lemonweir for a wedding, October 10th. The wedding charge will $275 for Pastor and $300 for usage of the church.

Marlene Pelton reported that $104.22 was spent for buns and meat for our July 5th Joint Worship in the park. The Wa Du Shuda stand proceeds was $951, the expenses were $562, leaving a profit of $389. The year end Thrivent balance is $415,263.49.

We received a call from Kulpe regarding the repairs to the steeple. They estimate it will probably be this fall before repairs begin.

A cooler is available from Leers.

A donation will be made for the Sugar Creek Camp Horse in the amount of $1000.

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:30 pm was made by Roger Pitcel and second by Marlene Pelton.

Respectfully submitted,
Connie Wolfgram, Secretary

Bethany Lutheran Church – New Lisbon, Wisconsin

Church Council Meeting Minutes

Sunday, June 28, 2026

Council Members Present:	Mark Hansen, Pastor Lucy Hardie, Debby Hansen, Glenda Swinehart, Galen Lingl, Michaele Korbein, Tim Parker, Larry Thome
Council Members Absent:	Inger Kirkwood
Guests:	None

Agenda

Call to Order:	President Mark Hansen called the Council meeting to order at 11:58 AM
Agenda Approval:	Mark Hansen presented the agenda for approval. There were no additional updates. ***Galen Lingl made a motion to accept the meeting agenda as presented, seconded by Glenda Swinehart; motion passed 7-0.***
Devotion:	Larry Thome shared a devotion about praying for our country. When we hold political and civic leaders in prayer, we do so not to endorse particular earthly powers or political parties, but to pray that they are granted a "Spirit of wisdom" so that policies reflect justice, protect the vulnerable, and honor the dignity of all human beings.
Secretary's Report: *(Larry)*	Larry Thome presented the minutes from the May 3, 2026 Council Meeting. There were no questions on the report as presented. ***Debby Hansen made a motion to accept the May 3, 2026 Council Meeting minutes as presented, seconded by Galen Lingl; motion passed 7-0.***
Treasurer's Report: *(Michaele)*	Michaele Korbein presented the General Fund Checking Register, the Statement of Financial Position, and the Statement of Financial Income and Expense Report as of May 31, 2026 and June 27, 2026. There were no questions on the reports as submitted. ***Tim Parker made a motion to accept the Treasurer's reports as presented, seconded by Glenda Swinehart; motion passed 7-0.***
Pastor's Report:	Pastor Lucy just said... "THANK YOU". Thank you to the Council and thank you to the congregation for the outpouring of support and prayers during a very difficult time.

Committee Reports

Discipleship: *(Glenda and Larry)*	Planning for Wa Du Shuda days continues and initial planning for discipleship education which will start in September has begun.
Education: *(Debby)*	The last Family Sunday School of the season was held on May 17th with seven children attending. Debby is planning a one-day camp for Bethany children at Sugar Creek on July 21st to have fun and experience what Sugar Creek can provide.
Property: *(Tim)*	There is an issue with the fuse box that is interfering with the sound system. Tim will be calling Grey Electric to troubleshoot and fix.
Social Concerns: *(Inger)*	No updates as Inger was absent, but continuing to gather items for Baby Care and Health Care kits.
Worship: *(Galen)*	Galen is going to meet with Pastor Lucy to get updates on her time off for the rest of the year to determine worship leaders.

Old Business

Secretary Position:	The secretary job description was posted on Facebook on a number of pages. No candidates received yet. Mark Hansen suggested posting on Indeed and Pastor Lucy also suggested sending the job description to the Synod for their job board. Larry Thome will look into both of these.

	Bethany Lutheran Church – New Lisbon, Wisconsin
	Church Council Meeting Minutes
	Sunday, June 28, 2026

Wa Du Shuda:	Glenda and Larry provided an update on Wa Du Shuda parade planning: • Registration complete • 25 cases of water were donated • Labels created – Pastor? • Nobody from congregation with truck available – Rudig Jenson donated one • Still need sign for truck, wagons to carry water and labels created and applied to water bottles
Church Road Sign:	Mark Hansen mentioned that the new Bethany road sign was installed at the intersection of Bridge and Washington streets and how it was much improved over the old sign.
New Business	
Worship in the Park:	The joint worship in the park will be held Sunday, July 5th at 10:30 AM at Heritage Park in New Lisbon. Bethany, East Lemonweir and Winding Rivers UMC will worship together. East Lemonweir will provide pulled pork, Bethany will provide tables, cutlery and drinks. Worship participants are being asked to provide a dish to pass.
September 5 Worship at Bethany:	The September 5th worship will be a joint worship with East Lemonweir and will start at 10:30 AM. Bethany will be hosting a lunch afterwards. Discussions for the lunch will be discussed at the August Council meeting.
Next Meeting:	The next Council meeting will be held on August 2nd. Inger Kirkwood will provide the devotion for the June meeting and will provide the announcements during worship for June.
Prayer/Adjourn Meeting:	Pastor Lucy led the Council in a prayer. The meeting adjourned at 12:38 PM.

Submitted by Larry Thome, Council Secretary

Needed monthly for Bethany's budgeted expenses: $11,075

Actual at month end:	May	June	Yr-to-date
Offerings+Other Income received	$ 13,863.47	$ 13,339.12	$ 76,356.41*
Expenses paid	$ 13,398.85	$ 11,598.70	$ 90,828.20**

* includes reimbursements from East Lemonweir

**includes power to roof heat tape, insurance work, AED purchase

Bethany Lutheran Church
General Fund Checking Register
As of May 31, 2026

Type	Date	Num	Name	Memo	Paid Amount	Balance
10000 · BANK ACCOUNTS						554.91
10100 · GENERAL FUND -CHECKING						554.91
Deposit	5/1/2026			Deposit Vanco	50.00	604.91
Check	5/2/2026	144	Augsburg Fortress (prev.1...	inv#84869675 baptism supplies	-59.06	545.85
Check	5/3/2026	10535811	BETTY KROTZMAN	40.75 April	-827.92	-282.07
Deposit	5/3/2026			Deposit sunday	2,930.00	2,647.93
Check	5/3/2026	3783428	Amazon.com	EXIT light, kitchen supplies	-51.85	2,596.08
Check	5/3/2026	8089862	Amazon.com	low clearance stickers	-18.96	2,577.12
Deposit	5/10/2026			Deposit sunday	3,148.94	5,726.06
Check	5/10/2026	Lynxx-CH	LYNXX Networks	acct 186100 church phone/internet	-171.31	5,554.75
Check	5/10/2026	Lynxx-P	LYNXX Networks	ACCT143100 parsonage phone	-34.55	5,520.20
Check	5/11/2026	alliant	Alliant Energy	acct#8063850000 parsonage nat.gas	-71.10	5,449.10
Check	5/11/2026	alliant	Alliant Energy	acct#5162200000 church nat gas	-278.19	5,170.91
Check	5/13/2026	synod	Synod ELCA	2 East, 2 Bethany, Pastor to synod	-1,160.00	4,010.91
Check	5/14/2026	i8X17NSVJ6	Rhyme	018-1709957-000: Inv#41823957	-319.41	3,691.50
Check	5/14/2026	3450	Tim. Parker	REIMB lawn mower parts for repair	-251.51	3,439.99
Check	5/14/2026	3451	New Lisbon Hardware	4' FL bulbs for basement	-10.99	3,429.00
Check	5/14/2026	3452	New Lisbon, City of	acct 10430.00 church swr/wtr/elec	-339.02	3,089.98
Check	5/14/2026	3453	New Lisbon, City of	Acct 10435.00 parsonage swr/wtr/elec	-161.65	2,928.33
Check	5/14/2026	3454	Synod ELCA	ID#14762 Apr	-784.58	2,143.75
Check	5/15/2026	VANCO	Vanco	Apr inv#16302874	-2.20	2,141.55
Check	5/15/2026	145	LUCY A HARDIE	PR 5/15	-1,821.57	319.98
Deposit	5/15/2026			Deposit Vanco	50.00	369.98
Check	5/16/2026	146	Red Maple Cleaning and ...	4/30,5/7 cleanings inv#5613A	-170.00	199.98
Deposit	5/17/2026			Deposit sunday	945.00	1,144.98
Check	5/21/2026	147	Red Maple Cleaning and ...	5/14, 5/20 cleanings inv#5617A	-170.00	974.98
Check	5/22/2026	Amazon	Amazon.com		-4.09	970.89
Check	5/22/2026	Amazon	Amazon.com		-52.74	918.15
Check	5/22/2026	Amazon	Amazon.com		-24.77	893.38
Check	5/23/2026	3455	Larry Thome -REIMB	REIMB: 2 new road signs	-233.12	660.26
Deposit	5/26/2026			Deposit Vanco	25.00	685.26
Deposit	5/30/2026			Deposit East	3,348.41	4,033.67
Deposit	5/30/2026			Deposit Sunday	2,575.00	6,608.67
Check	5/31/2026	3456	Lutheran Campus Ministry	Pr Kathryn Thompson Mileage to LuMin	-95.04	6,513.63
Check	5/31/2026	3457	void	void ck	0.00	6,513.63
Check	5/31/2026	3458	void	void ck	0.00	6,513.63
Check	5/31/2026	3459	void	void ck	0.00	6,513.63
Check	5/31/2026	3460	Synod ELCA	synod assembly offering #1 split w/East	-150.00	6,363.63
Check	5/31/2026	3461	Synod ELCA	synod assembly offering #2 split w/East	-150.00	6,213.63
Check	5/31/2026	3462	Synod ELCA	synod assembly offering #3 split w/East	-150.00	6,063.63
Check	5/31/2026	146	Augsburg Fortress (prev.1...	inv#99371135 Christ In Our Home	-33.60	6,030.03
Check	5/31/2026	149	LUCY A HARDIE	PR 5/31	-1,821.57	4,208.46
Check	5/31/2026	portico	Portico	Employer ID 14762 -mAY	-3,842.89	365.57
Deposit	5/31/2026			Interest	0.23	365.80
General Journal	5/31/2026	TF060926		5/3 CntrSht bldg & grnds	-425.00	-59.20
General Journal	5/31/2026	TF060926		5/3 CntrSht quilting	-100.00	-159.20
General Journal	5/31/2026	TF060926		5/3 CntrSht outreach em.aid	-105.00	-264.20
General Journal	5/31/2026	TF060926		5/3 CntrSht savings	-10.00	-274.20
General Journal	5/31/2026	TF060926		5/10 CntrSht bldg & grnds	-35.00	-309.20
General Journal	5/31/2026	TF060926		5/10 CntrSht quilting	-50.00	-359.20
General Journal	5/31/2026	TF060926		5/10 CntrSht savings	-10.00	-369.20
General Journal	5/31/2026	TF060926		5/17 CntrSht bldg & grnds	-90.00	-459.20
General Journal	5/31/2026	TF060926		5/17 CntrSht savings	-10.00	-469.20
General Journal	5/31/2026	TF060926		5/31 CntrSht bldg & grnds	-10.00	-479.20
General Journal	5/31/2026	TF060926		5/31 CntrSht quilting	-50.00	-529.20
General Journal	5/31/2026	TF060926		5/31 CntrSht savings	-20.00	-549.20
General Journal	5/31/2026	TF060926		5/31 CntrSht outreach em.aid	-5.00	-554.20
General Journal	5/31/2026	TF060926		5/26 Vanco bldg & grnds	-25.00	-579.20
Total 10100 · GENERAL FUND -CHECKING					-1,134.11	-579.20
Total 10000 · BANK ACCOUNTS					-1,134.11	-579.20
TOTAL					**-1,134.11**	**-579.20**

Bethany Lutheran Church
General Fund Checking Register
As of June 30, 2026

Type	Date	Num	Name	Memo	Paid Amount	Balance
10000 · BANK ACCOUNTS						-567.63
10100 · GENERAL FUND -CHECKING						-567.63
Deposit	6/1/2026			Deposit Vanco	50.00	-517.63
Deposit	6/4/2026			Deposit penny pole	168.09	-349.54
Check	6/4/2026	online	Rhyme	003-3260079-000: Inv#41968078	-341.33	-690.87
Deposit	6/7/2026			Deposit Sunday	2,210.00	1,519.13
Check	6/8/2026	alliant	Alliant Energy	acct#8063850000 parsonage nat.gas	-35.12	1,484.01
Check	6/8/2026	alliant	Alliant Energy	acct#5162200000 church nat gas	-111.63	1,372.38
Deposit	6/9/2026			Deposit Vanco	301.10	1,673.48
Check	6/10/2026	Lynxx-P	LYNXX Networks	ACCT143100 parsonage phone	-34.55	1,638.93
Check	6/10/2026	Lynxx-CH	LYNXX Networks	acct 186100 church phone/internet	-171.45	1,467.48
Check	6/14/2026	3463	BETTY KROTZMAN	47.50 hrs May	-964.96	502.52
Deposit	6/14/2026			Deposit sunday	4,070.00	4,572.52
Check	6/14/2026	3464	Synod ELCA	May ID#14762	-994.19	3,578.33
Check	6/15/2026	150	LUCY A HARDIE	PR 6/15	-1,821.57	1,756.76
Check	6/15/2026	3465	New Lisbon, City of	acct 10430.00 church swr/wtr/elec	-327.87	1,428.89
Check	6/15/2026	3466	New Lisbon, City of	Acct 10435.00 parsonage swr/wtr/elec	-177.44	1,251.45
Deposit	6/15/2026			Deposit Vanco	50.00	1,301.45
Check	6/15/2026	VANCO	Vanco	May inv#16376849	-3.10	1,298.35
Check	6/16/2026	151	Red Maple Cleaning and ...	6/4,6/11 cleanings inv#5630A	-170.00	1,128.35
Check	6/17/2026	I89Y77D4QQ	Rhyme	018-1709957-000: Inv#41823957	-60.19	1,068.16
Check	6/17/2026	M DrCard	One License	inv#458132	-309.00	759.16
Deposit	6/18/2026			Deposit East	3,147.04	3,906.20
Deposit	6/21/2026			Deposit Sunday	985.00	4,891.20
Check	6/27/2026	152	LUCY A HARDIE	PR 6/30	-1,821.57	3,069.63
General Journal	6/27/2026	6/27/26R		stirrers were in ckg to pay, so did not ne...	-11.57	3,058.06
Deposit	6/28/2026			Deposit sunday	1,132.94	4,191.00
Check	6/28/2026	3467	Mark Hansen. -REIMB	REIMB: flowers Pr.Lucy on death of dad	-81.76	4,109.24
Check	6/29/2026	153	Red Maple Cleaning and ...	6/18, 6/24 cleanings inv#5635A	-170.00	3,939.24
General Journal	6/29/2026	6/29 signs		2 signs from Magnus & Fish undes.mem...	233.12	4,172.36
Check	6/30/2026	portico	Portico	Employer ID 14762 -June	-3,842.89	329.47
Deposit	6/30/2026			Interest	0.24	329.71
Total 10100 · GENERAL FUND -CHECKING					897.34	329.71
Total 10000 · BANK ACCOUNTS					897.34	329.71
TOTAL					**897.34**	**329.71**

August 2026

BETHANY	EAST LEMONWEIR
Birthdays	
4 Freida Hutchins	5 Brent Stoughtenger
18 Brenda Benson	10 Gayle Hempel
23 Christy Tolle	16 Julette Onsager
24 Mark Toelle	21 Ashley Nelson
27 Louise Schulz	23 Edward Groskreutz
27 Helen York	27 Roger Nelson
28 Lucie Wyss	28 Billie Jo Haschke
	30 Roger Pitcel
Anniversaries	
3 Scott & De Ann Gollmar	N/A
10 John & Helen York	
10 Ethan & Danielle Benson	
11 Garry & Yvonne Olson	
15 Daniel & Glenda Swinehart	
18 Lynn & Brenda Benson	
31 Mike & Inger Kirkwood	

If your name is missing on the Birthday and Anniversary page or if you prefer not to be on the celebration list, please call the Church Office (#562-3807), and let us know. Thank you!