

AUGUST
HELLO

2026



We all go through seasons in life. Raising a child. Caring for a parent. Building a career. Strengthening a marriage. Ecclesiastes 3:1 says, "There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens."

Seasons are part of God's grand design for this earth: summer, spring, winter, fall. They are also part of God's grand design for you and me: joy and sadness, struggle and peace, highs and lows, birth and loss. But no matter what season we find ourselves in, we can be sure God is not absent from it - He is always there.

The word "season" implies a time that will pass. If you're in a tough season, know that it won't last forever. Even hard seasons have a reason; in them we sink our roots deep into the soil of faith, spread wide the branches of trust, and sprout new growth. Even in the dormancy of winter, we rest to catch our breath before the next season begins. As we enter the season of fall, may we invite God to guide us in finishing things begun and see the harvest He has prepared for us.

Prayer: Dear God, thank you for the wisdom found in seasons. Thank You that You never ask us to bloom every day of the year, but instead invite us into rhythms of planting, tending, harvesting, and resting. Help us trust Your timing instead of rushing ahead of it. Teach us that boundaries are not barriers to Your work, but often the very way You protect it. May we build our lives, our relationships, and our work with the same intentional care You have always shown us.

And may every season draw us closer to You. Amen.

(Credits Purpose and Grits Marketplace, Sharon Jaynes, and iStock photos)



Car Wash Fundraiser

Come and bring your dirty car to church with you on Sunday August 9th! Following worship the youth will be washing cars for a free will donation. The money will be used to send them to the National Youth Gathering in Minneapolis next year.



Council Highlights

- The new security system is up and running.
- Floor repairs will be starting August 7th in the basement.
- Sunday, July 26th will be Pastor Wayne's last day and a new interim will begin August 1st.



Let's Go Eat!

On Tuesday August 18th we will join together for Supper Club at Gil's in Hanna City! We will meet at the restaurant at 6pm. Please sign up on the bulletin board so Bev can send them a count of how many to expect.

October Fest Help Needed

On Sunday September 27th from 4-6pm we will host our second October Fest! We are looking for people who are willing to serve on a planning committee and or will be available to help on that Sunday. Please sign up on the bulletin board. If you have any questions please contact Karen Rocke.



Church Staff

- Linda Murray, Interim Pastor
- Bev Fordham, Administrative Assistant
- Eric Coffey, Custodian
- Kyle Burkholder, Groundskeeper
- Deborah Garmers, Organist
- Michael Helgeson, Celebration and Praise Music Coordinator

Church Council

- Abigail Williams, President
- Michael Helgeson, Vice President
- Linda Lowery, Secretary
- Penny Post-Freeman, Financial Officer
- Karen Rocke, Service Ministries
- Mary Jane Moder, Worship
- Morgan Wertz, Education/ Youth
- Brian Sharp, Property



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

AROUND THE GROUNDS



Books and Sensory Toys

We are in need of some new sensory items for our fence around the playground. These items can include gears, gadgets, old phones, calculators, things that move and make sounds, click or have different textures.

We are also looking for new books for the StoryWalk. These books need to be no more than 32 pages. It takes a total of 3 copies of each book to complete the story walk. These books do not have to be in perfect condition as they will be cut apart for the displays.

If you have any of these items or books please drop them off in the basket in the gathering space.



Women's Circle Dates

Quilters: August 3rd and 17th

JoAnna: Summer Break

Esther: August 25th in the Bishoff Room

Thank You!

Thank you to all of the women who took the time to thoughtfully complete and return the Women's Group survey. We appreciated your comments and suggestions moving forward. The Board has met and discussed the survey results and will be making some changes to our schedule due to your input. We are in the process of making arrangements for the upcoming months, so please watch for the schedule in the next couple of weeks. Thank you.

The Women's Group Board (WELCA)

Tanner's Outing

A women's outing is scheduled for Thursday, August 20th to go to Tanners Orchard. We will meet at Church at 11:00 AM and carpool to Tanners. There will be time to eat lunch as a group (lunch on your own) and shop their bakery, fresh market, and other items. Please sign up on the bulletin board and also indicate if you could drive. Hope you can join us.

We Pray For:

Shirley Barber, Rob Hackett,
Susie Ney, Jeff Williams,
Abby Mundwiller, Jim
Chamberlain, Terri
Montgomery, Nina Marquart,
Elijah Bolden and Tom
Schreiner

Our Shut-ins:

Nina Marquart, Tom
Schreiner and Sam Kahl

Prayer Chain Contacts:

Cindy Lee 309.635.9691

Eileen Cunningham

309.685.0720

Article deadlines

Please submit articles for the weekly bulletin no later than **10am Thursday mornings.**

Articles for the June newsletter need to be submitted no later than **10am on August 23rd.**

Notification

Please if you are in the building for **any reason**, or **any length of time contact** the office so we know who is in the building.

Please place any documents that you have for Bev or Pastor in the box outside their doors.

We don't want to get things misplaced when they are just set on the desk.

Thank you!

LWGP Fall Fundraiser

Lutheran Women of Greater Peoria is sponsoring a Fall Mum Fundraiser in conjunction with the Picket Fence and Blue Ridge Foundation, which is a nonprofit organization that provides employment and training opportunities to people with disabilities. The mums come in an 8-inch pot in a variety of three colors -yellow, red, and orange for \$12 each. \$25 gift cards for the Picket Fence and Blue Ridge Foundation are also available which can be used on anything and at any time. (They never expire.) The deadline to order is Sunday, August 31 and money MUST accompany your order. Please see the envelope on the bulletin board which contains the order forms. You can fill one out and either give it to me or place it back in this envelope along with your payment. Mums will be available Friday, September 19 at the LWGP meeting at 9:00 am at St. John Lutheran Church in Bartonville, or by making arrangements with Mary Conrad. Thank you for your support of both of these organizations.

It is greatly appreciated. Mary Conrad

Central/Southern Illinois Synod
Women of the ELCA Northern Conference

WOMEN'S SUMMER GATHERING

New Mercies Every Morning (Psalm 86:5)

"You, Lord, are forgiving and good, abounding in love to all who call on you."

SATURDAY, AUGUST 8, 2026
9AM - NOON

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
200 COLONA AVENUE
BARTONVILLE, IL 61607



JOIN US FOR AN UPLIFTING MORNING TO...

- Enjoy fellowship, fun, and good food. Meet old and new friends.
- Worship, led by Pastor Kara Wiechmann (Bethel Lutheran). A free-will offering will be taken, and divided equally between the Peoria Historical Society, Lutheran World Relief, and WELCA.
- Learn. Local historian and history teacher Corey Curtis will discuss Moses Pettengill and the Underground Railroad in Peoria.
- Shop Fair Trade, hosted by WELCA President Pat Caley.
- Participate in a brief conference business meeting.
- Support the Center for Prevention of Abuse in Peoria. Please bring new socks for those in need, as able.

REGISTRATION DETAILS

- \$10 registration fee includes morning refreshments and lunch. Pay in advance, or at the door.
- Scan the QR code or visit welca-csis.org to register, OR:
- Contact Bev Gross at (309) 256-6650, b.gross26.49@icloud.com to register.



Worship Assistants

8/2: Linda Lowery and Tilly Fordham

8/9: **Need Volunteer**

8/16: **Need Volunteer**

8/23: **Need Volunteer**

8/30: **Need Volunteer**

Fellowship Treats

8/2:

8/9: Lowerys

8/16: **Need Volunteer**

8/23: **Need Volunteer**

8/30: **Need Volunteer**

Birthdays and Anniversaries

8/2: Heather Robinson

8/5: Mike Coffman

8/7: Teri Chamberlain

8/7: Mark Guy

8/8: Sophia Heerman

8/9: Scott and Cindy Lee's anniversary

8/11: Sharon Robinson

8/11: Sandra Wertz

8/18: Boyd Conrad

8/23 Karen Davis

8/24: Elias Fordham

8/24: Susie Ney

8/25: Kathy Niu

Counters

8/2: Mike Coffman and Roger Conrad

8/9: Kyle Burkholder and Amber Lowery

8/16: Scott Lee and Julia Coffman

8/23: Gerry Bloom and Hal Fordham

8/30: Brian Sharp and Mary Jane Moder