



the **Oasis**

Monthly Newsletter of Elim Lutheran Church

June 2017

Elim Lutheran Church
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Marshalltown, IA 50158
641-752-4213

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Elim Children's Center
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Children's Center Email
director@elimchildrenscenter.org

Worship Times: Saturday at 5:00 p.m.
Sunday at 9:00 a.m.

Radio Ministry: Sunday at 11:05 a.m.
KFJB AM dial 1230

Bible Study: Every Wednesday Morning
8:00 a.m. at The Brew House
and
First Wednesday Each Month
at Smokin' G's
6:00 p.m. - Dinner
7:00 p.m. - Bible Study



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www.elimlutheranmarshalltown.org

Pastor's Pen...

"To [Christ] all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name." Acts 10:43



Pastor Karen Cluts

Wouldn't it be great if we were perfect people! We would never judge anyone who is different than ourselves or on standards we ourselves could not maintain. We would never hurt another person, by intention or inadvertently. We would never act rashly but make appropriate decisions at the appropriate time. There would be no neighborhood disputes, no family arguments, no church conflict.

Alas, that is not the world we live in and that is not who we are as humans. Everyone of us, from the CEO to the mail clerk, from the President to the beggar on the street, from the clergy to the laity, we all fail to live as God had imagined for us. As Romans 3 states: "...all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

One of the things that is a gift from God to our faith is the weekly practice of confession and absolution. I have said before that when I turn toward the altar for confession, I am praying for all the ways that I have failed as a child of God. I think about the times I have not been understanding, not shown compassion, been resentful or stubborn. I trust that God will be forgiving of those failures even if they are the same failures I listed the last ten times I prayed for forgiveness.

Then we encounter that phrase from the Lord's Prayer: "Forgive us our sins **as we forgive** those who sin against us." [emphasis mine] Where am I blocking my own forgiveness because I must continue to hold on to unforgiving feelings towards others? OUCH! But we have the assurance which is expressed in Peter's sermon in Acts 10. The whole of scriptures point us to the one who brings forgiveness of sins—Jesus Christ. That is why we gather weekly, confess our sins and participate in the Eucharist, knowing that our faith in Christ has sent us free from the bondage of our imperfections. Blessed are all of you who do a better job of forgiving others than I ever will.

Your partner in ministry,

Pastor Karen

Reflecting the name "Elim"

We commit ourselves to be an oasis for our time, where we are refreshed by the Holy Spirit, that we may praise and serve God, loving all people, using Christ as our model. Exodus 15:27



Mark Your Calendar!!

Marshalltown Men's Chorus

The Men's Chorus will be our guests in worship on Sunday, June 25. Each year we are delighted to have the Chorus enhance our worship service with a number of selections from their repertoire. Invite friends to worship with you this Sunday and come and enjoy the music that glorifies God.

Summer Bible Study Opportunity

In keeping with the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation, I am offering a summer Bible study on the Book of Romans. Romans was one of the key books of the Bible that helped Luther better understand God's grace as a free gift. I would like to offer both a noon session and an evening study on Wednesdays beginning June 7th. In order to have enough resources available, it would be helpful to know who plans to attend which session. In the next couple of weeks please indicate on your communion registration slip in the comment section which time you will be attending. I would like to have at least three people for the noon study to make it a good discussion. Hope to see many of you participate in this learning opportunity. You don't have to be a Bible expert to participate!

Vacation Bible School

SAVE THE DATE!

Vacation Bible School will be held on Sunday, July 23 - Thursday, July 27 from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Quilt Show

As most of you know by now, I love to create quilts in my spare time. I have been a member of the Jewel Box Quilt Guild in Grinnell for at least twelve years and this year am president of the guild. We have a biennial show of the quilts we have made since the last show. I would like to invite members to come and view our quilts. Our show this year will be held at the Faulkner Gallery on the Grinnell College Campus and will run from June 10 through June 17. I have 8 quilts in the show, but you will surely enjoy other amazing pieces of fabric art our guild members have created.

ELIM'S ANNUAL SPRING CLEANUP DAY

Saturday, June 10th will be the Annual Spring Cleanup Day beginning at 9:00 am. We have lots to do so we need lots of help! There is a list of things posted in the foyer that need attention, from cleaning chairs in the fellowship hall to polishing the pews in the sanctuary, so please sign up to do what you prefer. We ask that you bring the appropriate cleaning supplies needed to do the job(s) you choose (buckets, rags and cleaning supplies, etc.). A lot was accomplished last year and the whole building smelled fresh and clean. Please sign up, mark your calendars, and come enjoy the fellowship as we spruce up our facility.



PRAYER CONCERNS

B.O. Bryngelson, Dennis Ray, Shirley Smith, Adam Wolken, Marv Ott, Connie Arnold (Kris McKibben's sister-in-law), Mary Moore (Royce Hickie's mom), Jerry (Peg Kelly's friend), Barb Beecken (sister of Melinda Wolken), Teri Hawkins (Herizen Rose's grandma), Amanda and baby Boggs (JoEllin's niece), Laura Loney Gould, and for those who are not gathered with us because of illness, disability or inactivity.

We pray for Conrad Mandsager and his friend Mark as they travel to Nigeria. (See article later in this publication.)

We pray for Craig Brandenburg, as he is deployed to Afghanistan.

We pray for others in the military, past and present, including Michael Adams, Erick Eggers, James McKibben, and Justin Schade.

HOC VOLUNTEERS

Those serving at the House of Compassion on Wednesday, June 7, 2017, are Kathy Clawson, Nancy Dickkut, Nora Rico, and Kris McKibben.

WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY

Wednesday evening Bible study will meet on Wednesday, June 7, 2017, at Smokin' G's. Dinner at 6:00 p.m.; Bible study at 7:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

SECOND SUNDAY FOOD DRIVE

We collected 70 items on May 14 for the Emergency Food Box. June 11 is the next collection Sunday. The Food Box needs 2 lb packages of spaghetti, canned fruits, vegetables and soups. Monetary donations are also welcome. Help stock the shelves next door!

ELIM CHILDREN'S CENTER PRESCHOOL GRADUATION

The Children's Center invites you to the preschool graduation on Friday, June 9 at 10:30 a.m. in the sanctuary.

RADIO MINISTRY

Thank you to everyone who has already signed up to sponsor a week of our 2018 Radio Ministry program. There are many that appreciate our program each Sunday at 11:05 a.m. on KFJB. There are only 5 spots left! If you haven't already signed up, take a look at the sign-up sheet found on the table in the narthex. The cost is \$75 per week. Help us fill up the slots! Thank you!

ELIM ACTIVE RETIREES

Active Retirees will meet on Thursday, June 15. Sub sandwiches will be served at 11:30. Garry & Bobbi Brandenburg will give a presentation about their trip to Europe at noon. A free-will donation will be collected with any balance over the cost of the food given to the Emergency Food Box. Everyone is welcome. Please sign up if you plan to attend. The sign-up sheet is on the table in the narthex.

CHILDVOICE

Conrad Mandsager, son of Dorothy and the late Robert Mandsager, M.D., and his friend Mark Hoffschneider are traveling in Nigeria May 4th - 30th. They are looking at establishing ChildVoice in that area. This is in a dangerous place, so they must travel with security men and drivers. They are assessing the situation there and have met with Queen Aisha who is anxious to see ChildVoice established in that area to help the traumatized Nigerian girls.

ChildVoice was founded in 2006 by Conrad. The following is an excerpt from their website explaining what they do:

We build therapeutic communities by creating a village of refuge for children and youth traumatized by conflict – war orphans, former child soldiers, and members of displaced families.

For more information on ChildVoice, visit <http://childvoiceintl.org>.

Please pray for them as they proceed with this journey.



Mark Hoffschneider pictured on the left, Queen Aisha in the middle, and Conrad Mandsager on the right.

A note to Dorothy from her son on May 25...

We were invited to meet with Queen Aisha this morning at the Adamawa Emirate palace. This kingdom has a fascinating history which goes back into the 1700s. Before the colonialization of West Africa, this kingdom stretched across this part of northern Nigeria, northern Cameroon, and into Chad. A very gracious woman, the queen is a strong champion of women and children's rights and is anxious to see ChildVoice established here. She apologized for not meeting us inside the palace, but it seems that apart from the Lamido (king), only women are allowed inside. So she met us in a receiving room just inside the palace gates.



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY



Celebration Time

- 06/01 Garry & Bobbi Brandenburg
- 06/06 Larry & Ann Pfantz
- 06/09 Daryl & Pauline Bennett
- 06/10 Herb & JoEllin Dickkut
- 06/11 Jim & Royce Hickie
- 06/12 Ted & Joyce Kallestad
- 06/15 Pete & Marilyn Diggins
- 06/21 Larry & Barbara Runneals
- 06/21 Howard & Carolyn Messerer
- 06/22 Bud & Rosie Struble
- 06/27 Kevin & Jennifer Sharp



HAPPY JUNE BIRTHDAY!

IT'S TIME TO CELEBRATE

Come to the fellowship hall after worship next Sunday, June 4, to celebrate June birthdays and enjoy a piece of delicious cake!

- | | | | |
|-------|------------------|-------|-----------------|
| 06/04 | Scott Hanford | 06/19 | Ann Nasalroad |
| 06/04 | Ethan Zednichek | 06/20 | Teresa Lang |
| 06/05 | Teresa Gray | 06/21 | Aubrey Rico |
| 06/07 | Jennifer Sharp | 06/22 | Alissa Prusha |
| 06/09 | David Craft | 06/23 | Tammy Plowman |
| 06/11 | Dennis Harris | 06/24 | Lorine Collins |
| 06/11 | Wyatt Larsen | 06/24 | Jerry Danielsen |
| 06/12 | Karen Gale-Hazen | 06/27 | Talia Wolken |
| 06/12 | John Oetker, Sr | 06/28 | Earl Best |
| 06/12 | Norlin Rober | 06/29 | Rose Massa |
| 06/13 | Melinda Wolken | 06/30 | Steven Ryan |
| 06/15 | Louis Sharp | | |






Happy Father's Day!

THOSE ASSISTING WITH SATURDAY WORSHIP IN JUNE AT 5:00 P.M.

	June 3	June 10	June 17	June 24
GREETERS	Craig & Melinda Wolken	Gerald Jones	Marilyn Diggins	Deb Padilla
USHERS	Deb Padilla	Needed	Marilyn Diggins	Bill & Char Smothers
READER	Margaret Wolfe ?	Sue Clark ?	Marilyn Diggins	Dee Ryan
COMMUNION	Needed	Brian & Tammy Plowman	No Communion	Bud & Rosie Struble

THOSE ASSISTING WITH SUNDAY WORSHIP IN JUNE AT 9:00 A.M.

	June 4	June 11	June 18	June 25
FOYER GREETER	Allan & Iris Thoreson, Jan & Travis Wolken, Dorothy Mandsager, Ione Curtis			
USHERS	Vicki Bolen, Shannon Janssen, Mark Proescholdt			
READER	JoEllin Dickkut	Pauline Bennett	Allan Thoreson	Beth Grumstrup
PROJECTIONIST	Elias Youngman	Vicki Bolen	Austin Rico	Alex Rico
RECORDER	Eldon Ott	Herb Dickkut	Daryl Bennett	Bruce Grumstrup
ACOLYTES		Ashlyn Plowman	Emily Diggins	Carter Hunt
ALTAR GUILD SET UP	Kathy McCune	Kathy McCune	Kathy McCune	Kathy McCune
COMMUNION ASSISTANT	Kathy McCune	Kathy McCune	Kathy McCune	Kathy McCune
ALTAR GUILD CLEAN UP	Kathy McCune	Kathy McCune	Kathy McCune	Kathy McCune
FELLOWSHIP TREATS	Congrats Graduate & Confirmand	Donut/Food Box Sunday	Bev Rabbitt Amelia Wolken	Gene & Kate Hauptly
OFFERING	Iris & Barb	Peg & JoEllin	Nancy & Bonnie	Pauline & Carol
RADIO MINISTRY	Anonymous	Herb & JoEllin Dickkut	Herb & JoEllin Dickkut	Herb & JoEllin Dickkut

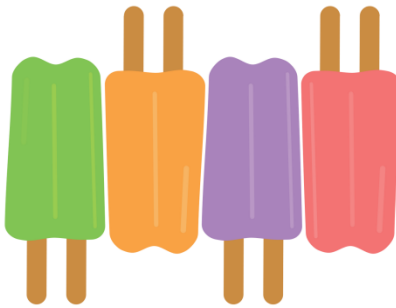
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Confirmation Sunday</p> <p>9 am - WORSHIP SERVICE</p> <p>10 am - Fellowship</p> <p>11:05am - Radio Ministry</p>			<p>8 am - Bible Study</p> <p>2 pm - Elim Serves @ HOC</p> <p>6 pm - Dinner before Bible Study</p> <p>7 pm - Bible Study - Romans</p> <p>7 pm - Bible Study @ Smokin' G's</p>	<p>9 am - Men's Coffee Group</p> <p>9 am - Quilting</p>		<p>5 pm - WORSHIP SERVICE</p>
<p>9 am - WORSHIP SERVICE</p> <p>10 am - Fellowship</p> <p>11:05am - Radio Ministry</p>	<p>6:30pm - ECC Board Mtg</p>	<p>5:30pm - Fellowship Committee</p> <p>6 pm - Property Committee Mtg</p> <p>6:30pm - Worship & Music</p> <p>7 pm - Committee Mtgs</p>	<p>8 am - Bible Study</p> <p>7 pm - Bible Study - Romans</p> <p>FLAG DAY</p> 	<p>9 am - Men's Coffee Group</p> <p>9 am - Quilting</p> <p>11:30am - Elim Active Retirees</p>	<p>2 pm - Women's Circle @ Elim</p>	<p>5 pm - WORSHIP SERVICE</p>
<p>Father's Day</p> <p>9 am - WORSHIP SERVICE</p> <p>10 am - Fellowship</p> <p>11:05am - Radio Ministry</p> <p>HAPPY FATHER'S DAY</p> 	<p>4:30pm - WELCA Meeting</p>	<p>6 pm - Stewardship & Finance</p> <p>7 pm - Council Mtg</p>	<p>8 am - Bible Study</p> <p>7 pm - Bible Study - Romans</p> 	<p>9 am - Men's Coffee Group</p> <p>9 am - Quilting</p>		<p>5 pm - WORSHIP SERVICE</p>
<p>9 am - WORSHIP SERVICE</p> <p>10 am - Fellowship</p> <p>11:05am - Radio Ministry</p>	<p>Oasis Deadline</p>		<p>8 am - Bible Study</p> <p>7 pm - Bible Study - Romans</p>	<p>9 am - Men's Coffee Group</p> <p>9 am - Quilting</p>		<p>5 pm - WORSHIP SERVICE</p>

3WRS

WORK DAY at the CHURCH

Elim Childcare Corner

June 2017



Summer at Elim has arrived and the children are ready to have some fun! There are going to be a lot of reminders and notes sent home, so please read them carefully! All activities will be listed by the sign in and out sheets on your child's door! Please read them as they are the main source of information!

Commin up!

Tuesday, June 6th – School Age to Adventureland! This will include children entering 1st grade and older only! **Cost will be \$10.00 per child as child care will be paying the rest!** Children will need to bring a sack lunch and drink! We need to know ASAP how many children will be attending to arrange transportation.
You must be signed up by Tuesday, May 30th!

Free swim will begin in June as well! As a reminder, your child must have a pass or a ticket. We will not pay in cash the day of. I have only received one sheet of tickets thus far, so please be sure to get some! We will be taking the preschool room along some days and will let you know when we get closer to those days!

I have 3 children signed up for swim! If you are signed up and I do not have papers, please get those to me! I have to arrange staff and need a count of children! Thank you!

The Orpheum has extended an invitation to attend movies on Friday's this summer! Cost will be \$2.50 for movie and popcorn box! There will be no sign up for these. We will be taking all of preschool and school age each week! I will try to get a list of movies so you know what one we are seeing! A BIG thank you to the Orpheum!

Please be sure to sign your child in and out! We have a lot of families not doing this! We will be calling parents to return to the center and sign the kids in daily. I don't want to disrupt your day however we are required to have this done every day for in and out times! Please be sure to ALWAYS make contact with a staff member at drop off and pick up. Do not ever leave your child in a room with no staff! We found a child downstairs last week that had been left there by a parent at 7:50 a.m. and preschool was outdoors till 8. Luckily the child sat and waited and all was ok. If there is no staff in the room, please take them to another room for drop off!

If anyone has any gently used outdoor toys that they would like to donate, please let me know or bring them in! We need big trucks and lots of playground balls! They get a lot of use!! I thank you in advance!



Monday, May 29th - Closed

Tuesday, June 6th - Adventureland (School Age Room Only)

Friday, June 9th @ 10:30 in Church - Preschool Graduation

Tuesday, July 4th - Closed

Monday, September 4th - Closed

Thursday, November 23rd and Friday, November 24th - Closed

Monday, December 25th - Closed

Monday, January 1st, 2018 - Closed

Melinda & Staff



Happy Father's Day!

At Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI), we strive to build up and empower Iowa kids and families. For us, Father's Day is a time to celebrate all the fathers and male role models we see every day.

In our Early Childhood fatherhood program, young men are learning to become dads. They're becoming confident and active in their child's life, and they are creating loving, bright futures for their families.

Many of the boys and young men that LSI serves in our residential programs have never had a positive male role model in their lives. But our volunteer mentors are there to help guide them.

At a gathering of mentors and mentees, a few of these children introduced their mentors to each other. When a boy from Beloit spoke, you could hear the quiet pride in his voice.

"This is Josh," he said simply. "And he's the mentor I've always wanted."

You are making all of this possible through your support of LSI. Thank you for responding to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service!

Our Mission: Lutheran Services in Iowa responds to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service. LSI is an affiliated social ministry partner of the Iowa congregations of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) and a member of LSA (Lutheran Services in America). We proudly serve people of all ages, abilities, religions, sexes, gender identities, national origins, ethnicities, races, and sexual orientations. Learn more at www.LSIowa.org and www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa.

Breaking Barriers

After years of living in fear, surrounded by violence in his home country of Burundi, Firmin wanted to create a better life for the family he and his wife, Emma, dreamed of.

They fled to Tanzania, where they lived in a refugee camp for 13 years. While there, Firmin worked as a principal in the camp's school and he and Emma welcomed two baby boys, Dan and Joshua. But when the Tanzanian government closed the camp, he and his family were sent to live in the U.S. as refugees. When he arrived in the U.S., Firmin came to LSI's Refugee Community Services to attend English classes and become familiar with his new home.

Firmin and Emma have spent the last 10 years raising their family in Des Moines, and Firmin is finding ways to give back and support more Iowa kids and families. During the school year, Firmin can be found in the halls and classrooms of public schools across the Des Moines district. He is one of several bilingual outreach community workers in the schools, translating for families who speak Swahili, Kirundi, Kinyarwanda, Kinyamulenge, and French.

In his free time, Firmin works as a direct support caregiver in the Des Moines area, and he spends his weekends as a pastor at a local church. He loves that he can help ease the congregation's daily stresses and lingering trauma through prayer and worship.

Dan and Joshua are now in high school and Firmin and Emma have welcomed two daughters, Grace and Selah, in Iowa.

PRAYER VENTURES

June 2017



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

1 We remember in our prayers the Southwest California, Western North Dakota, Nebraska and Central/Southern Illinois synod assemblies, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and excite their leaders and members for God's work and witness in the world.

2 We remember in our prayers the Greater Milwaukee, Indiana-Kentucky, Lower Susquehanna, Florida-Bahamas, Delaware-Maryland and Montana synod assemblies, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and excite their leaders and members for God's work and witness in the world.

3 We remember in our prayers the South Dakota, Northeastern Pennsylvania, Allegheny, West Virginia-Western Maryland, North Carolina and Eastern North Dakota synod assemblies, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and excite their leaders and members for God's work and witness in the world.

4 *Day of Pentecost* Give thanks and a sigh of relief, for no matter where we are, how we feel, what we are doing, where we hide or what circumstance we find ourselves in, God's Spirit is with us and working in us—for our comfort, guidance and encouragement.

5 Pray for the thousands of young adults, volunteers and ELCA outdoor ministry staff training for a summer of ministry with children, youth, families and adults.

6 We pray for leaders, volunteers, children and youth involved in vacation Bible schools and day camps this summer, that all may experience the contagious joy and liveliness of faith and life together in Christian community.

7 Ask for God's blessings on the many volunteers, staff and resource people who are busy planning and making final preparations for ELCA events and gatherings this summer and that participants will be enriched, equipped and inspired through their experiences and each other for their ministries and lives back home and in the world.

8 We remember in our prayers the Central States, Upstate New York, Grand Canyon and Northwestern Minnesota synod assemblies, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and excite their leaders and members for God's work and witness in the world.

9 We remember in our prayers the Southwestern Minnesota, Metropolitan Chicago, Northeastern Ohio and New England synod assemblies, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and excite their leaders and members for God's work and witness in the world.

10 We remember in our prayers the Western Iowa, Northeastern Iowa, La Crosse Area and Virginia synod assemblies, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and excite their leaders and members for God's work and witness in the world.

11 *Holy Trinity Sunday* Give thanks for our baptism in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit for being marked as children of God, welcomed to the body of Christ and set on our faith journey surrounded by the care and support of others.

12 More than 7 million people in South Sudan are suffering because of drought, famine and civil war. Pray for their relief, well-being and lasting, just solutions for the turmoil and challenges they face daily; give thanks for the ELCA's long-term commitment to work with church partners and agencies in the region to deliver life-saving assistance and develop future sustainability and resilience.

13 Pray that children, youth and adults with limited mobility, special needs or limited resources have opportunities to experience the beauty and enlivening spirit of outdoor summer activities in their communities and in nature.

14 Offer gratitude, praise and recognition for the majesty, love, mindfulness of humankind and handiwork of God reflected in the world and all creation.

15 We remember in our prayers the Northwestern Pennsylvania and Southwestern Pennsylvania synod assemblies, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and excite their leaders and members for God's work and witness in the world.



16 We remember in our prayers the Southwestern Washington, Northern Illinois, Upper Susquehanna and Metropolitan Washington, D.C., synod assemblies, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and excite their leaders and members for God's work and witness in the world.

17 Pray we learn to be generous, faithful, mature stewards of every gift God has entrusted to our care and use and that we pass on to every generation the best of our wisdom, what we've learned from our failings and mistakes, and a spirit of generosity and responsibility.

18 Pray for clarity of mission and the confidence of faith enabling each of us to be present in the world sharing the good news of Jesus Christ, bringing hope, serving our neighbor, working for an end to hunger and poverty, and discerning where we are most needed.

19 We thank God for the flourishing and abundant harvests of community gardens tended by congregations that help feed those who are hungry and teach new skills for growing food, cooking, self-sufficiency, caring for one another and the earth—in both urban and rural settings.

20 Give thanksgiving and praise to God, make a joyful noise, be glad and sing, for God's love and faithfulness embraces all generations and people.

21 Translators, missionaries and evangelists share the gospel in diverse languages and with respect for culture and context. We ask God to sustain their strength, wisdom and joy for ministry and teach us how to best support and encourage them in this challenging work.

22 We remember in our prayers the Caribbean Synod Assembly, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and excite their leaders and members for God's work and witness in the world.

23 We pray the Spirit will guide, equip and inspire our church as we move forward in implementing and living into the directions, goals and priorities of ELCA Strategic Directions 2025, confident about who we are in Christ and what God is calling us to do in the years ahead.

24 *John the Baptist* John was a bold, outspoken, hardworking witness preparing the world and announcing the promised Messiah, our Savior—Jesus Christ. We ask God to instill in us a similar spirit of enthusiasm, commitment, courage and joy in sharing our faith and the gospel wherever there is opportunity, and when we see no opportunity, the creativity and determination to create it.

25 Pray that in all we do we are not driven by fear, rather we live with the assurance that God loves and values us and has given us important life-giving good news to share.

26 Pray for the safety, well-being and care of men and women working as seafarers who often serve long periods of time in dangerous, isolated working conditions to help deliver food, goods and supplies across the oceans and throughout the world.

27 We remember in prayers our synod bishops and Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, that they are supported and encouraged in their leadership and ministries and that the Spirit will guide them and grant fresh insight and wisdom for serving and growing the church in an ever-changing world and culture.

28 Trusting in God's love and forgiveness, we confess our brokenness and renew our commitments to reconciling the body of Christ, celebrating the growing ecumenical relationship between Catholics and Lutherans over 50-plus years of dialogue and recognizing the gifts given and received in our journey together on the way to greater unity.

29 *Peter and Paul, apostles* We thank God for servants like Peter and Paul who confessed their faith in Jesus Christ, used their unique gifts to spread the good news and helped grow the early Christian church. We pray the Spirit will guide and stir us to continue the work of growing the church even today—especially today.

30 As many teachers, educators and school staffs begin summer breaks, we ask God to grant them rest and renewal and to stir their enthusiasm and creativity for serving young people and communities.