



The mini-Epistle

It was then that I carried you...

July 2026

7/1, 8, 15, 22, 29 – Bible Study at 10AM 12:30PM Prayer	7/15 – Mini-Epistle Deadline Bible Study at 10AM 12:30PM Prayer
7/4 – ★ Blessed Independence Day! ★	7/18 – Men's Breakfast/Study at 8:30AM 1PM Staff Meeting
7/5 – Sixth Sunday after Pentecost 8:30 & 11AM Holy Communion 9:45AM Sunday School for all!	7/19 – Eighth Sunday after Pentecost 8:30 & 11AM Holy Communion 9:45AM Sunday School for all!
7/8 – Bible Study at 10AM	7/22 – Bible Study at 10AM
7/12 – Seventh Sunday after Pentecost 8:30 & 11AM Praise Service 9:45AM Sunday School for all!	7/26 – Ninth Sunday after Pentecost 8:30 & 11AM Praise Service 9:45AM Sunday School for all!
7/12-17 – Vacation Bible School, 6-8:30PM	7/29 – Bible Study at 10AM
7/17 – VBS Closing Program at 7PM	

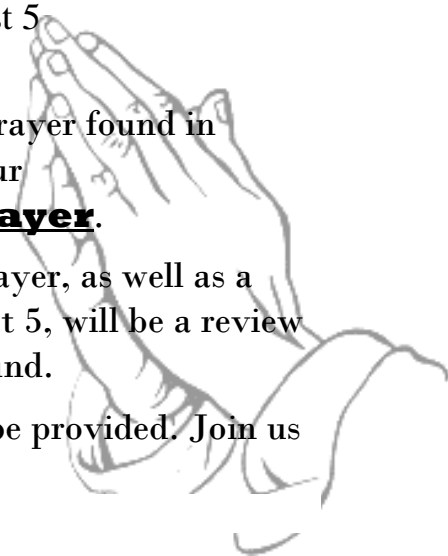
2026 Summer Study

Wednesdays, June 24, July 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, August 5
Praying the Lord's Prayer

The most well-known and beloved passage of Scripture is Jesus' prayer found in Matthew 6. Each **Wednesday at 10AM**, we will meet for our **Summer Bible Study of The Lord's Prayer.**

Each week we'll take a look at one of the seven petitions of the prayer, as well as a short Scripture study based on its theme. Our last meeting, August 5, will be a review of the book of Joshua, in preparation for our trip to Sight and Sound.

No preparation is needed, and light refreshments will be provided. Join us as we ask anew, "Lord, teach us to pray."



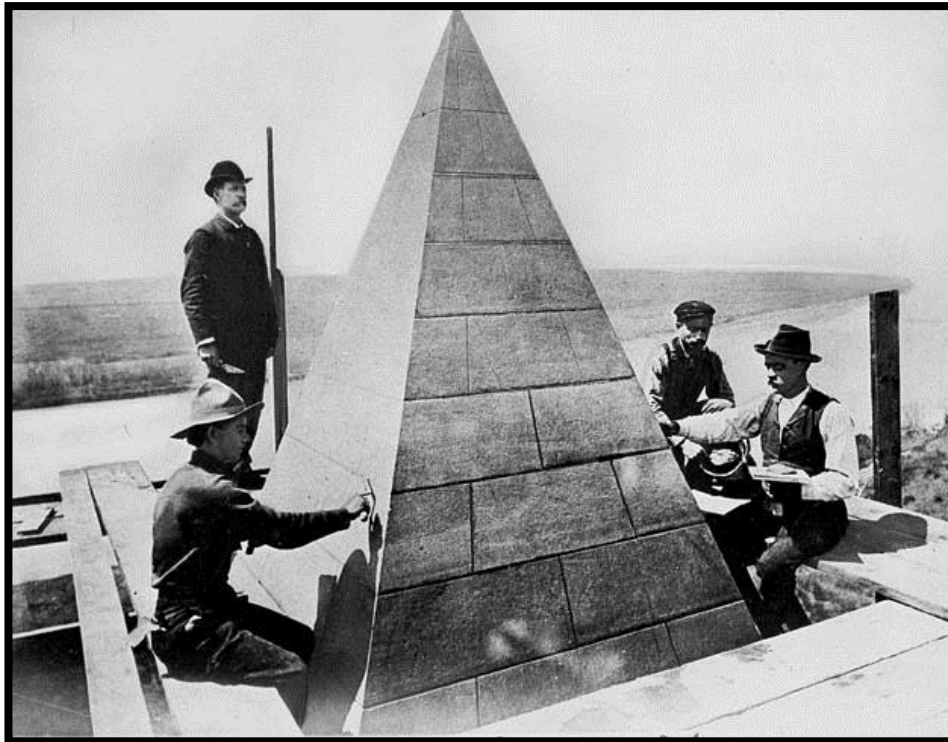


America's 250th Anniversary

Reading over a few of the chapters of the book, *One Hundred Bible Verses That Made America* has been inspirational for Mrs. Ruthann Kistler. In recognizing our **America 250** celebration, we will be including a small "Did You Know?" blurb that will help us see how our country was built on Biblical principles. Here's this month's contribution:

Freedom 250

Rising 555 feet above the ground, the capstone of the Washington Monument in Washington, DC, is crowned with an aluminum tip bearing the Latin phrase *Laus Deo*- "Praise be to God." When the sun rises every morning over our nation's capital, its first rays light up those words from Psalm 68:35. At the bottom is a 24,500 pound cornerstone with space hollowed out for a zinc case holding a copy of the Holy Bible. Washington has so many Scriptural quotations that the city is virtually a Bible engraved in stone!



Save the Date 2026!

Mark your calendars and save these important dates:

Tuesday, August 4—National Night Out at Hanover Community Center, 6-8pm

Tuesday, August 11—Bus Trip to see Joshua at Sight & Sound, Lancaster

Sunday, August 23—Backpack Blessing Sunday

Friday, August 28—Faith Night at the Iron Pigs

Sunday, August 30—5th Sunday Brunch (during Sunday School)

Sunday, September 6— Blessing of Vocations

Sunday, September 13—Sunday School Rally Day & Church Picnic

July 2026 Reformation Bible Reading Plan

If you are reading through the Bible this year, July's passages are listed, below. If you are just beginning this plan, it is recommended that you begin with the readings for the day (instead of starting from the beginning). Then when you have some extra time you can go back and read what you missed. Copies of the plan are available in the Gathering Place, or the plan may be downloaded here: <https://michigandistrict.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Reformation-Reading-Plan-Printable.pdf>

☐ 1: Catch Up Day	☐ 9: Matthew 6; 1 Kings 8	☐ 17: Matt. 12:1-21; 1 Kings 20-22	☐ 24: Matthew 15; 2 Kings 10-13
☐ 2: Matthew 1; 2 Sam. 21-23	☐ 10: Matthew 7; 1 Kings 9-10	☐ 18: Matt. 12:22-50; 2 Kings 1-2	☐ 25: Matthew 16; 2 Kings 14-15
☐ 3: Matthew 2-3; 2 Sam. 24	☐ 11: Matthew 8; 1 Kings 11-12	☐ 19: Matt. 13:1-35; 2 Kings 3-4	☐ 26: Matthew 17; 2 Kings 16-17
☐ 4: Matthew 4; 1 Kings 1-2	☐ 12: Matthew 9; 1 Kings 13-14	☐ 20: Matt. 13:36-58; 2 Kings 5-7	☐ 27: Matthew 18; 2 Kings 18-20
☐ 5: Matthew 5:1-32; 1 Kings 3-5	☐ 13: Matthew 10; 1 Kings 15-17	☐ 21: Prov. 14:1-19; Ps. 90-91	☐ 28: Prov. 14:20-25; Ps. 92-95
☐ 6: Matt. 5:33-48; 1 Kings 6-7	☐ 14: Prov. 13:18-25; Ps. 88-89	☐ 22: Catch Up Day	☐ 29: Catch Up Day
☐ 7: Prov. 13:1-17; Ps. 84-87	☐ 15: Catch Up Day	☐ 23: Matthew 14; 2 Kings 8-9	☐ 30: Matthew 19; 2 Kings 21-22
☐ 8: Catch Up Day	☐ 16: Matthew 11; 1 Kings 18-19		☐ 31: Matthew 20; 2 Kings 23-25

Council Actions

- ✝ On June 13th, Council had a retreat on renewing the congregation, and making goals for the future of Holy Cross.
- ✝ The June meeting was postponed due to not meeting a quorum.

Council's next meeting will be **Wednesday, July 8th at 6:30PM.** (Executive Committee will meet beginning at 6PM.)

Benevolence News

Thank you for helping in filling the food bank cart at church! Everlasting Life Ministries Provides food for about **120 families each week** throughout the year! Thank you for helping to make this possible.

Families in need benefit from our contributions of canned or packaged foods. Suggested donations for our food pantry: rice, cereal bars, pasta, crackers, pasta sauce, instant soups, canned chicken or tuna, macaroni and cheese dinners, instant oatmeal, peanut butter, jelly, granola bars, breakfast cereal, canned fruit.



July Birthdays and Anniversaries

BIRTHDAYS

1 - Dawn Mickelson
3 - Sarah Barlow, Crissy Stokes, and
Madison Wodzisz
10 - Amelia Judy
14 - Jan Stryker and Ed Tkacik
16 - Jonathan Miller
17 - Carol Royer
19 - Berlina Trapp
20 - Elijah Nunes
21 - Lily Bailey and
Carole Franceski

22 - Jeremiah Brown
24 - Ron Ballek
25 - Pastor Brown
26 - Bryan Himmelwright
28 - Dennis Gilbert

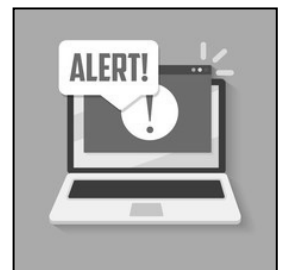
ANNIVERSARIES

Ken & Cynthia Yoxheimer - 7/19/75
Michael & Penny Miller - 7/20/96
Brian & Michelle Yeakel - 7/25/98



From the Office: Scam Alert

We get a fair amount of fake email “phishing scams” at church, and one recently prompted a call to our email provider to double check with them. The representative at RCN encouraged me to pass on the following information on how to detect a scam, for the benefit of the congregation.



There are several ways to check for a scam when it comes to an email.

1. **Something looks off.** Scammers steal company logos and try to make the email look official, but they often change something, misspell something, or in other ways alter the image. An obvious one may use a zero instead of an O, or something like that.
2. **Check to see who the email is being sent to.** Most scammers send general messages instead of specifying a person. Sometimes they are being sent to many people instead of addressing you by name.
3. **Check to see who the email is from.** Is the extension of the sender the same as the company? Sometimes it may look official, but if it isn't from the company, beware.
4. **Urgency/looming deadline.** Scammers try to make you panic. Instead, take your time to process the information, and pray about it.
5. **Is there a link to click?** Don't do it! These links take you to another page, and sometimes just clicking the link causes a virus to be downloaded. If you hover over the link, you should see on your screen the link's web address, which is often a bunch of letters, numbers, and symbols, not something specific to the company.

Still not sure? Find your latest bill, either electronic or paper, and contact the company directly to ask if this is legitimate.

Lifeline Screening Coming to Holy Cross

Holy Cross will be hosting a Life Line Screening (LLS) event on July 27, 2026, in our Fellowship Hall beginning at 8AM. LLS is known as the premier provider of stroke and cardiovascular disease risk screenings since 1993. There is a discounted offer to all Holy Cross members which will identify your risk level for Carotid Artery Disease, Peripheral Arterial Disease, Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm, and Atrial Fibrillation.

Click here www.llsa.social/habc or call 800-324-9458 to schedule your appointment! A simple screening can be worth a lifetime.

Special screening package for \$129 for our members includes:

- Carotid Artery Disease Screening
- Atrial Fibrillation Screening
- Peripheral Artery Disease Screening
- Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Screening

Call to schedule an appointment near you! **800-324-9458** and use code: **HABC001**



July Bible Memory Verses - VBS

This month's memory verses are from our VBS program, *Rainforest Falls*

Week of **6/28 Psalm 103:22 - Praise the Lord, all his works everywhere in his dominion. Praise the Lord, O my soul.**

7/5 Psalm 139:1 - O Lord, You have searched me and You know me.

7/12 Psalm 142:5 - I cry to You, O Lord; I say, "You are my refuge, my portion in the land of the living."

7/19 Psalm 136:1 - Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good. *His love endures forever.*

7/26 Psalm 115:18 - It is we who extol the Lord, both now and forevermore. Praise the Lord.

Praising God for the Parking Lot!

On June 15-17, Hicks Paving worked on resurfacing our parking lot and driveways.



They milled out the high spots, and filled in the low spots, and repainted all the parking spaces.



We are thankful


for those who gave donations for this project, thankful for the wisdom God gave the parking lot committee as they chose a company to use, and thankful that God preserved our previous road surface for almost 40 years!



This reminds us of God's protection of the Israelites in the wilderness (see Deut. 29:5). May our new parking lot last another 40 years!



JULY 2026

SUN.	MON.	TUES.	WED.	THUR.	FRI.	SAT.
6/28 Pentecost 5 8:30A Praise Service 9:45A Sunday School 11A Praise Service 12:30P Crew leader training (pizza lunch)	29 7P Scouts (TR)	30 6P Finance & Stewardship 7P Scouts (YR)	July 1 10A Bible Study (ASSR) 12:30P Rescue Bears (ASSR) 4P Worship & Music (Ofc) 7:30P AA (TR)	2 12N AA (TR)	3 10A Bulletins	 7:30P AA (TR)
5 Pentecost 6 8:30A Communion 9:45A Sunday School 11A Communion	6 7P Scouts (TR)	7 7P Property (Ofc) 7P Scouts (YR)	8 10A Bible Study (ASSR) 12:30P Rescue Bears (ASSR) 1:30P Outreach & Publicity 6P Executive Com. 6:30P Council 7:30P AA (TR)	9 12N AA (TR)	10 10A Bulletins	11 9A—3P Material Girls (ASSR) 7:30P AA (TR)
12 Pentecost 7 8:30A Praise Service 9:45A Sunday School 11A Praise Service 6-8:30P VBS	13 6-8:30P VBS	14 6-8:30P VBS	15 mini-Epistle Deadline 10A Bible Study (ASSR) 12:30P Prayer in the Parlor 6-8:30P VBS 7:30P AA (TR)	16 12N AA (TR) 6-8:30P VBS	17 10A Bulletins 6-8:30P VBS 7P Closing Program	18 8:30-11A Men's Breakfast (ASSR) 8:30A—3P Quilters' Sew Day (FH) 1P Staff Meeting (Ofc) 7:30P AA (TR)
19 Pentecost 8 8:30A Communion 9:45A Sunday School 11A Communion	20 7P Scouts (TR)	21 7P Scouts (YR)	22 10A Bible Study (ASSR) 12:30P Rescue Bears (ASSR) 7:30P AA (TR)	23 9A Material Girls (ASSR) 12N AA (TR)	24 FH Reserved 10A Bulletins	25 FH Reserved 7:30P AA (TR)
26 Pentecost 9 8:30A Praise Service 9:45A Sunday School 11A Praise Service	27 8A-5:30P Life Line Medical Screening 7P Scouts (TR)	28 7P Scouts (YR)	29 10A Bible Study (ASSR) 7:30P AA (TR)	30 12N AA (TR)	31 10A Bulletins	AUG. 1 7:30P AA (TR)

JULY 2026 SERVANTS OF THE LORD

		Pentecost 6 7/5	Pentecost 7 7/12	Pentecost 8 7/19	Pentecost 9 7/26
Communion Server	8:30 11:00	Patty Stein Lyn Stryker		Seth Miller Lyn Stryker	
Grass Cutters		Sam Glasmire Rich Stein	Gary Mosser Jim Steiner	Mike Miller Nick Wechsler	Rich Stein Jonathan Miller
Greeter	8:30 11:00	Diane Hahn Eileen Dunn	Sally Stein Sharon Branigan	Sharon Wagner Irene Graham	Sally Stein Sharon Branigan
Lector	8:30 11:00	Penny Miller Lyn Stryker	Patty Stein Karen Brown	Alyce Stein Kathy Ballek	Ruthann Kistler Lyn Stryker
Liturgist	8:30 11:00	Patty Stein Lyn Stryker	Seth Miller Karen Brown	Seth Miller Lyn Stryker	Pastor Dave Lyn Stryker
Live Stream	8:30	Jan Stryker	Jonah Kincaid	Jan Stryker	Jonah Kincaid
Prayer Care		Sharon Branigan	Ruthann Kistler	Pat Gilbert	Darlene Treisner
Song Leader	8:30 11:00	Nancy Cook Nancy Cook	Pastor David Pastor David	Karen Brown Nancy Cook	Nancy Cook Nancy Cook
Sound	8:30 11:00	Josh Miller Ken Yoxheimer	Josh Miller Ken Yoxheimer	Josh Miller Ken Yoxheimer	Josh Miller Ken Yoxheimer
Usher	8:30 11:00	Jan Stryker Irene Graham		Jan Stryker Irene Graham	

Altar Guild: Jan Stryker and *Volunteer needed*
 Children's Church: Ruthann Kistler
 Communion Visitors (7/19): Pastor David, Sharon Branigan
 Counters: Jan Stryker, Karen Brown
 Phonetree: Stephen Zeiner
 Prayer of the Church: *Volunteer needed*

Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church



a congregation of the
 NORTH AMERICAN
 LUTHERAN
 CHURCH



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PLUNGING into God's Word

No matter how **BIG** or small your contribution may be, there's a place for everyone to help with our largest outreach each year.

Maybe you can **pray**, or work on **preparations at home, help decorate** here at church, or **volunteer** the week of **July 12-17**. The **donation station** is full of monkey and frog reminders of some of the materials we need: take as many as you like! We are also looking for **donations of school supplies** for our outreach to disadvantaged students in both the D.C. area as well as the Lehigh Valley.

At **Rainforest Falls** students will learn more about the **nature of God**. Children are encouraged to bring a friend, and go bananas!

Prayer Points: We are dependent on God for a successful VBS this year. Please take some time each day to pray over the following:

Day 1

Bible point: God is our Creator.

Bible verse: Psalm 103:22.

Bible story: God creates the world.



Day 2

Bible point: God knows everything.

Bible verse: Psalm 139:1.

Bible story: David celebrates all God knows.



Day 3

Bible point: God is our safe place.

Bible verse: Psalm 142:5.

Bible story: David hides from Saul.



Day 4

Bible point: God is love.

Bible verse: Psalm 136:1.

Bible story: Jesus dies and comes to life to show God's love.



Day 5

Bible point: God is forever.

Bible verse: Psalm 115:18.

Bible story: God gives John a vision of heaven.





VBS 2026 REGISTRATION FORM

Child's name	Last Grade	Age	Birth day	M/F	T-shirt size (youth)
1.					XS – S – M – L – XL
2.					XS – S – M – L – XL
3.					XS – S – M – L – XL

Name of parent(s)/guardian: _____

Street address: _____

City: _____ State: ___ ZIP: _____

Home Church: _____

Permission to use child's image only (no names) on church social media (facebook, website...) YES NO

Primary phone number: (____) _____

Secondary phone number: (____) _____

Home email address: _____

Allergies/medical conditions: _____

Emergency contact (if primary contact cannot be reached):

Name: _____

Phone: _____ Relationship to child: _____