

PARISH PARTNER

Vol. 31 Issue 7
July 2026

“KEEP IT SIMPLE” WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Worship Services at 9:30 A.M.

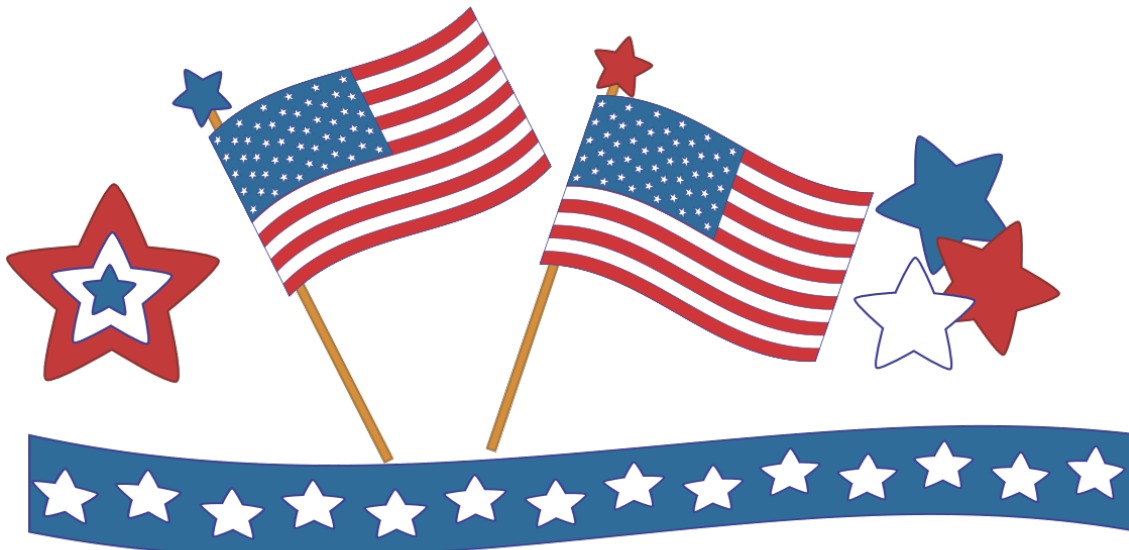
**First/third/fifth Sundays at Kongsvinger

**Second/Fourth Sundays at St. John's

Holy Communion Services:

**First Sunday of the month at Kongsvinger

**Fourth Sunday of the month at St. John's



P.O. Box 97

Donnelly, MN, 56235

Phone: 320-246-3211

E-mail: stjohns@runestone.net

Website: stjohnskongsvingerchurch.com

St. John's
+
Kongsvinger
Lutheran Parish
is a member of the
Glacial Ridge
Conference
of the
Southwestern Minnesota
Synod
of the
Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America

STAFF

Pastor Rochelle Anderson

Parish Secretary
Mary L. Werk

Kongsvinger Organist
Sue Erdahl-Nelson

St. John's Organist
Peggy Wilke

OFFICERS

President
Chad Smith (K)
_____ (SJ)

Secretary
Algene Larson/
Laura Lehman (K)
_____ (SJ)

Treasurer
Mary Werk (K)
Jan Greiner (SJ)

Financial Secretary
Nancy Thompson (K)
Judy Burner (SJ)

Women's Group President
KLCW - Co-led by Algene
Larson and Mary Werk
SJ WELCA - Donna Eystad

Women's Group
Council Representative
KLCW - Cork Loge
SJ WELCA - Della Dunn

COUNCIL MEMBERS
Chad Smith, Jody Loher,
Pat Smith, David Larson,
and Blake Flaten (K)

Donna Eystad, Greg
Greiner, Jack Kopacek,
and John Kopacek (SJ)

PASTOR'S REFLECTIONS

Two hundred fifty years ago the American colonists won the war and were set free from English rulers. This month we take time to reflect on 250 years of American history - honoring the soldiers that paid the price for the freedom we celebrate today. The Bill of Rights was added on to the Constitution. Men, who represented the people of our nation, added the 10 Amendments to the Constitution as a protection from the over-reach of the government. Fast forward to today. How is the American government doing? Are the people's rights being protected? Is the Constitution being the guide in ruling today? What is the Truth?

Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "if you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; and you will know the truth and the truth will make you free."

John 8:31-32 NSRV

Continuing in Jesus' words means to follow his commandment to "love one another as God has loved us." I wonder what that looks like for us celebrating our freedom today? A couple of our rights are Freedom of Speech and Freedom of Religion. Let us use these gifts to spread the gospel news. We are called to build one another up, not tear down one another. I wonder what it looks like — building one another up?

As Christians we believe that Jesus died and rose again to save the world from their sins. We praise Jesus for breaking the chains of sin! We are free!

We pray for those who have fought for our freedom over the last 250 years.

AMEN.

Pastor Rochelle



PARISH POPCORN

LIVE AND ON-DEMAND VIDEO STREAMING

**PLEASE NOTE CHANGES!*

Worship services originating from Kongsvinger will now be available to watch live – or watch later at your convenience – on our YouTube channel at:

<https://www.youtube.com/@st.johnskongsvinger>

To watch live, visit the link above and click on the 'LIVE' tab to access the next scheduled service. To watch a past worship service, click the 'HOME' tab and look for the date in the title. All worship services will be archived at this location. Broadcast of Kongsvinger worship services on Morris Access TV will be on first, third, and fifth Wednesdays at 1:30 p.m., AND ADDITIONALLY ON THE FIRST, THIRD, AND FIFTH SUNDAYS at 1:30 p.m. It is on **MediaCom channel 8 (OR on MediaCom channel 117-2 for users with a digital box).**

KONGSVINGER CHURCH 150th Anniversary is September 20, 2026.

We are encouraging committees (Food, History, Advertising, Program, Grounds, Decorating, etc.) to begin meeting as soon as possible. There is a committee worksheet in the church basement with committee members listed. If you have volunteered for a committee, please contact the other members listed and get your meeting scheduled. We have room for more volunteers.

WE DO NEED YOUR HELP!

If you have family/friends/former members in mind to invite to our Anniversary celebration, please get their names and addresses to Mary Werk at the Parish office as soon as possible.

JUST A REMINDER: If you or someone you know is hospitalized, in a nursing home, or homebound, and would appreciate a pastoral contact or Holy Communion, please contact the Parish Office at 246-3211. Even though you may be asked your religious affiliation during check-in, the hospital/nursing homes don't share that information with us - unless you specifically request that they do. Updates to the Parish Office are always appreciated.

***WEBSITE DISCLAIMER:** With our website active, we would like to know if any of our members prefer to not have pictures of themselves or their children included on the site. They would likely be group photos of activities of the churches without names attached. If you do not want pictures of you or your family included, please let the Parish office know. Thank you!

THANK YOU...

To all our prayer warriors for your continuing prayers. When we aren't able to do anything else — we can always pray!

To all those who continue to do quiet (and often unseen) acts—being God's hands and feet.

To the world you may be just one person, but to one person, you may be the world.

To our congregation members for remembering your church with your financial offerings. Your continued generous support is appreciated!

To ushers, musicians, lectors, altar guilds, deacons, trustees, coffee fellowship servers, and all who work to keep our worship services running smoothly.

"THANK YOU" seems inadequate to express our appreciation to all our members. You ARE God's church—caring for God's people!

THANK YOU!

MISSING! The green plastic inserts (sleeves) that fit inside the altar vases at Kongsvinger are missing. If you happen to have them or know where they are, could you please return them to the church? The metal sleeves are no longer water-proof. Thank you!

A NOTE OF *thanks*



Thank you to all who had me in their thoughts and prayers while I was in the hospital in Fargo and at West Wind Village. Love and Blessings to you all!

In Friendship, Gloria Larson

Baptismal Anniversaries

- 1 - Jason Stoneburg
- 2 - Lois Koehntop, Kristi Larson
- 3 - George Harstad, Justin Barber, Harrison Greathouse
- 4 - Elaine Harstad
- 7 - Jeanne Ennen
- 9 - Greg Greiner
- 10 - Nick Lehman
- 14 - Hannah Casselton
- 15 - Elroy Larson
- 16 - Clara Ennen
- 17 - Patrick Janachovsky
- 18 - Hayley Ennen
- 19 - Brittany Messner
- 21 - Joryn Hughes
- 22 - Chris Smith, Julie Bakken, Mackenzie Kaehler
- 24 - Brandon Pry
- 26 - Jill Winther, Quinn Waggoner, Mark Koepke
- 27 - Addison Cihak
- 28 - Clara Dunn
- 29 - Lacey Eystad, Keason Cihak, Josie Kurpierz
- 30 - Glenn Amundson



- 2 - Isabella Greathouse
- 4 - Quinn Waggoner, Victoria Jasper
- 6 - Ray Kill, Jenson Janachovsky
- 7 - Ben DeLong
- 8 - Bernice Erdahl
- 9 - Landon Cihak
- 12 - Aaron Erdahl, Scarlet Bergstrom-McKee
- 13 - Beth Jackson
- 14 - Leah Winther
- 16 - Bonnie Gulbrandson, Robyn Leegaard
- 17 - Della Dunn, Paul Thompson
- 19 - Marty Eystad, Jessica Oelke, Joe Kurpierz, Thorstein Larson
- 20 - Judy Burer, Becky Bergstrom
- 21 - Lowell Dunn, Mindy Schmidt, Steven Sax
- 24 - Laura Lehman
- 25 - Peggy Wilke
- 30 - Carrie Waggoner



- Family of Sandra Drevecky
- Family of Harvey Gillespie (Donna Eystad's brother)
- Renee Dahlen
- Cyndi Olson
- Bernice Erdahl
- Gertie Werk
- Gloria Larson
- The United States of America as we celebrate 250 years of freedom
- Governmental leaders around the world
- Conflicts around the globe
- Area military members and their families
- Our homebound members; residents of nursing homes and care centers



PARISH PRAYER CHAIN MINISTRY

OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

THE MISSION OF THE PRAYER MINISTRY IS TO PRAY, TEACH OTHERS TO PRAY, PROVIDE PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES, AND PARTICIPATE IN THE FULFILLMENT OF OUR CHURCH'S VISION AND MISSION AS WE ARE INSPIRED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT.

AMERICA'S BIRTHDAY

The 250th anniversary of the United States Declaration of Independence marks a powerful milestone in the nation's journey. It is a time to reflect on God's faithfulness, honor the sacrifices of the past, and pray for the future.

Prayer of Gratitude

Lord, thank You for 250 years of freedom and opportunity. May our hearts remain thankful for Your guidance.

Prayer for Unity

Father, unite our nation with understanding and compassion. Help us care for the vulnerable and those in need. Provide stability and opportunity for all.

Prayer for Wisdom

Grant wisdom to our leaders as they guide this country. Raise up leaders of integrity and humility.

Prayer for Peace

Let peace rule in our communities and cities. Bless every neighborhood in every city in every state.

Prayer for Service Members

Protect and strengthen those who serve this nation.

Prayer for Justice

Help our nation walk in fairness and righteousness. Teach us to use freedom wisely and responsibly. Give us courage to stand for truth and kindness.

Prayer for Healing

Heal divisions and restore broken relationships across this land. Help us love one another beyond our differences. Restore hope where discouragement has grown.

Prayer for Faith

Renew spiritual hunger throughout America. Revive churches across America. Empower churches to be beacons of light in their communities.

Prayer for Families

Strengthen families, homes, and marriages. Guide the next generation with purpose and hope.

Prayer for Protection

Protect this nation from harm and violence.

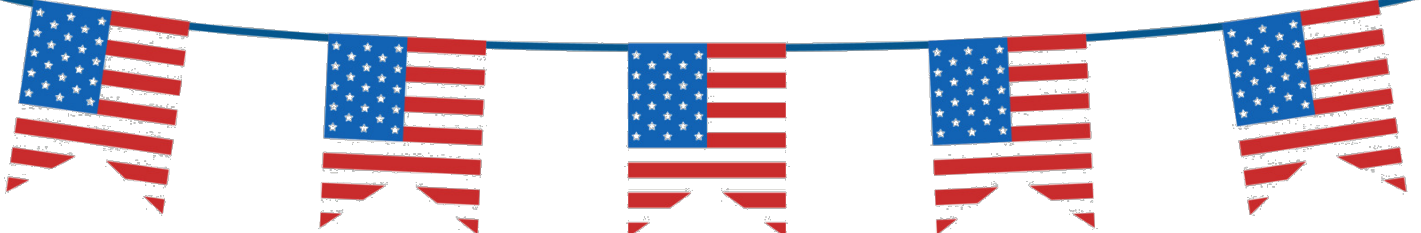
- 3 - Gary & Pat Smith; Greg & Dona Greiner
- 13 - Kirk & Taunya Loge
- 14 - Darren & Alycia Athey; Danny & Katie Ennen
- 18 - Jon & Toni Hughes

HAPPY
Anniversary!



JULY 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		Do-Days 9:30 a.m. (K)	1 Recorded Message	2 KLCW MEETING 1:30 p.m.	3	4 
5 JOINT Service of Holy Communion 9:30 a.m. (K) 4th of July meal following worship Rendsville 4-H Club meeting.	6	7 Do-Days 9:30 a.m. (K)	8 Recorded Message	9	10	11 Luther Crest Bible Camp Summer Fest and Auction
12 JOINT Service 9:30 a.m. (SJ) <i>Coffee fellowship</i>	13	14 Do-Days 9:30 a.m. (K)	15 Recorded Message	16	17	18
19 JOINT Service 9:30 a.m. (K) <i>Coffee fellowship</i>	20 August 2026 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	21 Do-Days 9:30 a.m. (K)	22 Recorded Message	23	24	25
Parish Office closed this week						
26 JOINT Service of Holy Communion 9:30 a.m. (SJ) <i>Coffee fellowship</i>	27	28 Do-Days 9:30 a.m. (K)	29	30	31	
Parish Office closed this week						



WORSHIP & PRAYER

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST JULY 12, 2026

Lessons

Isaiah 55:10-13;
Psalm 65:[1-8] 9-13;
Romans 8:1-11;
Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

Liturgy

JOINT Worship Service at St. John's 9:30 a.m.

Lector Jan Greiner (SJ)

Parish Challenge

To let God surprise us with his blessings this summer!

Church

The ELCA and Gustavus Adolphus College; the Northwestern and Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod; Christians in mission in Europe and the Near East; and Trinity and Holden Lutheran Churches (Clinton/Beardsley)

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST JULY 5, 2026

Lessons

Zechariah 9:9-12;
Psalm 145:8-14;
Romans 7:15-25a;
Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

Liturgy

JOINT Holy Communion at Kongsvinger 9:30 a.m.

Lector Jeanne Ennen (K)

Parish Prayers

For our country and for God's guidance for all local, state and national leaders in their decision-making.

Church

The ELCA and Concordia College - Moorhead; the Slovak Zion Synod; the United States of America and our leaders; and Our Savior's Lutheran Church (Chokio)

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST JULY 19, 2026

Lessons

Isaiah 44:6-8;
Psalm 86: 11-17
Romans 8:12-25
Matthew 13: 24-30, 36-43

Liturgy

JOINT Worship Service at Kongsvinger 9:30 a.m.

Lector Joan Kopacek (K)

Parish Prayers

For those involved in planning and preparing for our August VBS!

Church

The ELCA and St. Olaf College; the Allegheny Synod; Hispanic Ministries in SWMN Synod; and East Zion, West Zion and Our Redeemers Lutheran Churches (Hancock)

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST JUNE 28, 2026

Lessons

Kings 3: 5-12
Psalm 119: 129-136
Romans 8: 26-39
Matthew 12: 31-33, 44-52

Liturgy

JOINT Holy Communion Service at St. John's 9:30 a.m.

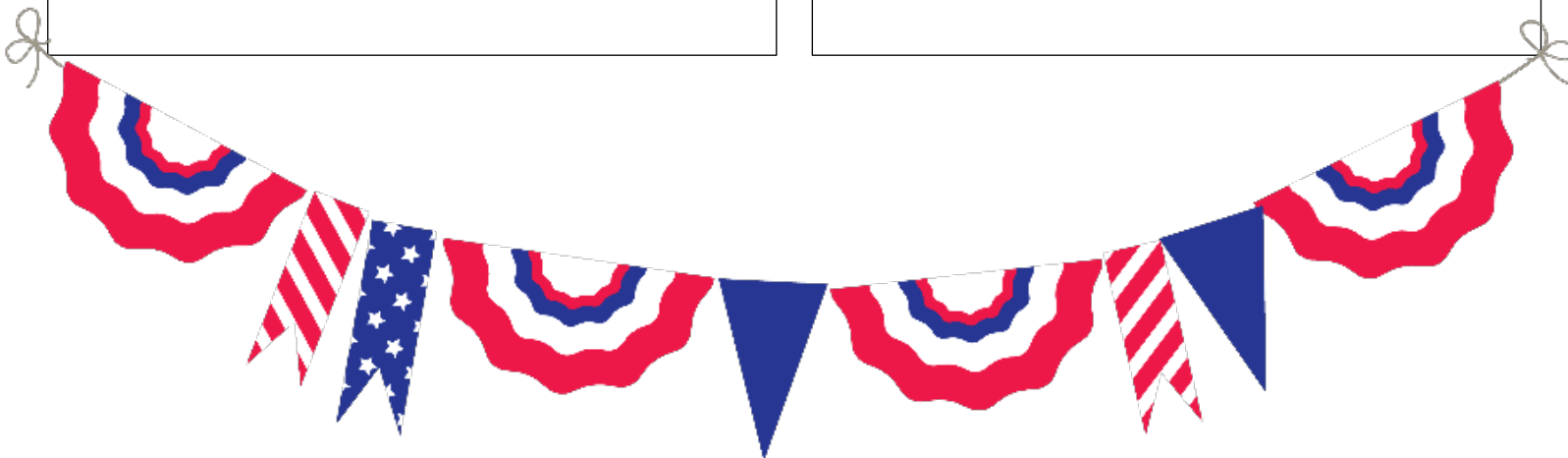
Lector Cork Loge (SJ)

Parish Prayers

That VBS be a time of nurturing, learning and fun for children, staff and volunteers!

Church

The ELCA and Augsburg College; the Upper and Lower Susquehanna Synod; SWMN Synod ministers and officers; and Faith and First Lutheran Churches (Morris)



WOMEN OF THE ELCA NEWS

St. John's WELCA NO MONTHLY MEETING

WANTED: Sheets or bedding for use as liners in quilts. Flat sheets preferred, but if Queen or King size – fitted is OK. May drop off in box in St. John's entry. Any questions, please call Joan Kopacek. (VFW/Legion sewing group)

Kongsvinger Women of the ELCA July 2, 2026 at 1:30 p.m.

CONTACT PERSON: Algene Larson

BIBLE STUDY THEME:

"The Call to Love Your Enemies" (Jonah)

BIBLE STUDY LEADER: Mary Werk

ALTAR COMMITTEE: Jeanne Ennen and Laura Ennen

BANNER COMMITTEE: Jon and Bev Larson

COMMUNION BREAD: Betty Kill

SUNSHINE LADY: Lois Koehntop

BULLETIN BOARD: Jennifer Dunn

HOSTESS: Pat Smith

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP for July will be served by Circle Two.

KONGSVINGER'S ANNUAL 4TH OF JULY CELEBRATION

- Will be held on **Sunday, July 5th**, in the church basement. We will gather after services and enjoy a *provided* meal and time of fellowship. Everyone is welcome to come and enjoy the day!

WOMEN OF THE ELCA TRIENNIAL GATHERING

will be held July 16-19, 2026, in Des Moines, IA. Please keep the gathering in your prayers.

COOKBOOKS: KLCW has received the re-print of our original "Blue" Cookbook - in time for our 150th Anniversary. The cost of the books will be \$12 each. Contact the Parish office if you would like to purchase one.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP: We have found a place where we can replace portions of the Confirmation picture display in the Parish Hall. If you are interested in financially supporting this project or working on updating the display in time for our 150th Anniversary, please contact the Parish Office as soon as possible.



PARISH HAPPENINGS

KONGSVINGER'S ANNUAL 4TH OF JULY

CELEBRATION will be held on **Sunday, July 5th**, in the church basement. We will gather after services and enjoy a *provided* meal (not potluck) and time of fellowship. Everyone is welcome to come and enjoy the day!

CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATE

Congratulations to Hunter Smith, son of Ryan and Angie Smith (and grandson of Gary and Pat Smith) who graduated Morris Area High School in May 2026.

KONGSVINGER DO-DAYS REPORT

Forty quilts were given to Stevens and Grant County Social Services, Benson Girl's Ranch, Someplace Safe in Morris, and Eagle's Healing Nest in Sauk Centre. In addition, we sent eleven school kits, ten personal care kits, and four fabric kits to Lutheran World Relief; and fifteen baby kits plus ninety-four pillow cases to Global Health Ministries. The Do-Days ladies thank you for your continuing support of this ministry.

LUTHERAN MEN IN MISSION BEST BALL

GOLF TOURNAMENT will be held on Friday, July 24, 2026, at the Redwood Falls Golf Club in Redwood Falls, MN. Registration begins at 2:30 p.m. and shotgun start at 3:00 p.m. Cost is \$85 per golfer (includes cart, green fees, meal, prizes, and a donation to LMM to support LMM's Fund for Leaders in Rural Ministry Endowment). Registration forms are available on the bulletin board in the narthex at each church. Deadline to register is Monday, July 20.

\$25 THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS DURING YOUR BIRTHDAY MONTH!

Thrivent is giving members an additional \$25 in their Choice Dollars account during their birthday month. These funds must be designated to an eligible non-profit by the end of your birthday month or they will expire. Log in to your Thrivent account to direct the funds to any non-profit organization of your choice.

PICTURES - Work has begun on the Kongsvinger History video. We are looking for any pictures or memorabilia you may have from the past as well as any suggestions of items/events you would like to see included to help us tell Kongsvinger's story. If you would share those items with the Parish Office (they will be returned so please label), we will use them in putting together our history. We are also looking for events/groups/happenings that you feel would be important to highlight (past, present, future) in the video. Please share your ideas with the Parish Office or with Pat Smith.

***AUGUST 2026 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE** is Monday, July 20, 2026.

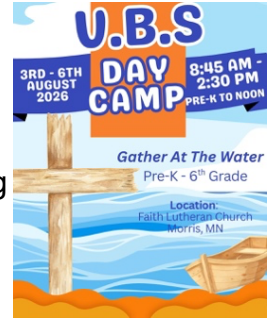
Community News and Events

"GATHERINGS" PEDERSEN FUNERAL HOMES - We are encouraging anyone who wants to attend the gatherings - that the meetings will continue but we will not be there to facilitate them. The meetings will continue to be held on the second Tuesday of every month (July 7) at noon at Old #1 in Morris.

STEVENS COUNTY FOOD SHELF supplies a five-day emergency or supplemental food package to residents of Stevens County. There is no fee for this service. Clients must provide proof of residency. The food shelf welcomes donations of foods or financial contributions to support our community. **PLEASE NOTE HOURS** (to accommodate the increasing after-work traffic) The Stevens County Food Shelf is open: Monday: 2:30-3:30 10:30-11:30 a.m.; p.m.; Tuesday: 5:30-6:30 p.m.; Wednesday: Thursday: 5:30-6:30 p.m.; and Friday: 10:30-11:30 a.m. The food shelf is located on the corner of Seventh Street and Iowa Avenue on the northeast side of Morris.

EDUCATION CORNER

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL “Gather At the Water” will be held August 3-6, 2026, from 8:45 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. (pre-kindergarten until noon only). Open to pre-school through sixth grade. Event will be held at Faith Lutheran Church in Morris. Registration begins on July 6, and we’ll have a QR code/link for families to use. Green Lake Lutheran Ministries will be leading VBS this year. If you have questions regarding Vacation Bible School, please contact Hannah Larson or Pat Smith.



ELEMENT CONFIRMATION is on summer break. Have a wonderful summer!

FUSION YOUTH MINISTRY is a multi-congregation ministry reaching out to 9th-12th grade youth in the Morris area.

LUTHER CREST BIBLE CAMP

LUTHER CREST BIBLE CAMP'S SUMMER FEST AND AUCTION will be held on July 11, 2026, from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Exciting live auction at the camp waterfront at 2 p.m. (dedicated to camper scholarships); on-line auction; day of viewing; camp fun like zip lining, tours, arts and crafts and beach time—just enjoying the fun of being at camp; camp meal served from 11 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. On-line auction will open earlier in the week. For more information, visit <https://luthercrest.org/summer-fest-and-auction> Bring the whole family and enjoy the day!

LUTHER CREST'S 25th ANNUAL GOLF SCRAMBLE will be held on August 3, 2026, at the Lake Milnora Golf Club. Check in begins at 11:30 a.m. and the day will conclude with a 5:00 p.m. dinner. Join us for a day of fun on the course, good company, friendly competition — all in support of life-changing camp ministry. Whether you are a seasoned golfer or just along for the laughs, this is a great way to enjoy a summer day and make an impact. Grab a team, swing a club, and help support Luther Crest. Go to www.luthercrest.org to register your team.

FAMILY CAMP - Make lasting memories together as a family! Enjoy classic camp activities, faith-building experiences, and time to unplug and reconnect with one another. Whether you join us for the full week or just the weekend, Family Camp is a special experience for all ages. Half-week Camp is June 28—July 1; and full week camp is August 2-7.



Call Luther Crest at 320-846-2431 or visit www.luthercrest.org for more information and to register. Camps fill up fast - so get registered TODAY!