

# God's Work Our Hands

## TRI COUNTY LUTHERAN PARISH AUGUST 2021 NEWSLETTER

*"I am with you always, even unto the end of the world."*

*Matthew 28:20 (KJV)*



I think that people get so busy just trying to get everything done every day in the summertime...I'm mostly referring to people that farm and ranch...that the days end up going by so fast and it ends up being August already and you can't figure out where the summer went. And I'm sure that it goes that way for everyone, especially the teachers and school kids. Just how did August get here so fast? How can it be that summer vacation is almost over and school will be starting in just a few weeks? When I was growing up, I would hear "old people" (who were probably younger than I am now) say that once the 4<sup>th</sup> of July was past, summer was over. I now understand that concept. June and July seem to go faster every year. This summer has been extremely hot and dry, although I'm so thankful for the moisture we received earlier. It was an absolute blessing and much needed. We made it through wheat harvest without too much trouble and are now focused on keeping everything irrigated. I think it's been more difficult to keep my lawn, garden and flowers watered than keeping the corn and alfalfa watered. This year must be the year for cucumbers, because I have a bumper crop! And our sweet corn is really close to being ready. Now if my tomatoes would just start turning! County fairs are everywhere and as we move through August, I'm looking forward to getting back to the routines that come with school starting. After Labor Day weekend, we will change back from the shortened summer liturgy to the traditional liturgy, Sunday school and confirmation classes will start again, and hopefully the temperatures will settle down to a bearable degree! In the meantime, we all need to count our blessings every day, make time to spend time in God's Word, and make time to share God's love every chance we get. And in the words of Psalm 134:3 "The Lord that made heaven and earth bless thee."

### **A Few Exciting Things Going on:**

**Teacher and Backpack Blessing:** We will be keeping all the students and teachers and parents in our prayers as summer draws to a close and a new school year begins. We will celebrate the students, their backpacks and the teachers with a Blessing during services on August 15<sup>th</sup>.

**The annual Old Settlers Day** celebration will be held at the beginning of September, running from Friday, September 3<sup>rd</sup> through Monday, September 6<sup>th</sup>. Lots of fun planned for the whole weekend, so be watching for more information on the Lodgepole Community Facebook page. Gloria Dei will once again have their pie stand and would appreciate volunteers to help set up, serve and clean up. Everyone is invited to bring 2 or 3 pies, which can be dropped off at the church or taken directly to the park.

**Prepare for "God's work. Our hands." Sunday**  
On **Sunday, Sept. 12**, congregations of the ELCA will come together for **"God's work. Our hands." Sunday**. As church, we are guided by our life in Christ to share the love of Jesus and serve our neighbors. This day is an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America – one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor. Service activities offer an opportunity for us to explore one of our most basic convictions as Lutherans: that all of life in Jesus Christ – every act of service, in every daily calling, in every corner of life – flows freely from a living, daring confidence in God's grace.



# DEVOTIONAL, PRAYER LIST AND BIRTHDAYS

## July 26, 2021 Our Daily Bread

### Devotional : Topic – Blooming for Jesus

(Taken from “Our Daily Bread” website)

A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. [John 13:34](#)

Today’s Scripture : [John 13:31–35](#)

**Insight:** [John 13:31–35](#) comes immediately after Judas leaves the scene of the Last Supper to betray Jesus (vv. 26–30). “When he was gone, Jesus said, ‘Now the Son of Man is glorified and God is glorified in him’ ” (v. 31). The form of the verbs used here indicates that glorification was present and had happened, even though Jesus’ death and resurrection hadn’t yet occurred. This is often referred to as “the prophetic perfect” verb tense, which describes future events so certain to take place that they’re referred to as if they’ve already happened. Throughout the Bible, prophets often stated prophecies this way to indicate the assurance of what would happen. It’s interesting to note that the gospel of John refers to these events differently than do the Synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark, and Luke). The Synoptics refer to Jesus’ death as His humiliation, rather than glorification, but John continually includes the cross as a part of Jesus’ glorification.

By: [Julie Schwab](#)

**Message :** I wasn’t truthful about the tulips. A gift from my younger daughter, the packaged bulbs traveled home with her to the US from Amsterdam after she visited there. So I made a show of accepting the bulbs with great excitement, as excited as I was to reunite with her. But tulips are my least favorite flower. Many bloom early and fade fast. The July weather, meantime, made it too hot to plant them. Finally, however, in late September, I planted “my daughter’s” bulbs—thinking of her and thus planting them with love. With each turn of the rocky soil, my concern for the bulbs grew. Giving their plant bed a final pat, I offered the bulbs a blessing, “sleep well,” hoping to see blooming tulips in the spring. My little project became a humble reminder of God’s call for us to love one another, even if we’re not each other’s “favorites.” Looking past each other’s faulty “weeds,” we’re enabled by God to extend love to others, even in temperamental seasons. Then, over time, mutual love blooms in spite of ourselves. “By this,” Jesus said, “everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another” ([John 13:35](#)). Pruned by Him, we’re blessed then to bloom, as my tulips did the next spring—on the same weekend my daughter arrived for a short visit. “Look what’s blooming!” I said. Finally, *me*.

**Reflect & pray:** Whom is God asking you to love, even if that person isn’t your “favorite”? What can you do to show that person more of the love of Christ?

Dear Jesus, prune my heart so I can learn to love others in Christ.

## PRAYER LIST

**Grace:** Neva Schmid

**Gloria Dei:** Lezlee Anderson, Kathy Buttle, Pat Kloberdanz, Virgil Frerichs, Cindy Bondegard’s mom (Great-Grandma Marlene Cruise), Marge Jones, DeAnn Larson, Andrea Nelson, Ernie Kahrs, Barb Namuth, Pat Rufenacht, Richard Bruns, Kimberly Valla Martinez, Rita Bartling, Dan Dickinson

## AUGUST LECTOR SCHEDULE FOR GD

August 1 – Tom Nelson

August 3 – Shanna Misegadis

August 15 – Bonita Dickinson

August 22 – Misty Michelman

August 29 – Children’s Service

**NOTE:** If you cannot read on your Sunday, please switch with someone if you can or contact Bonita @ (308) 254-3095 and she will find someone to switch with you.

## AUGUST BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

August 11<sup>th</sup>—Darrell & Jennie’s Anniversary

**NOTE:** If we missed your birthday or anniversary, please provide those dates to PMA Brenda so we can celebrate everyone’s special days!

## GD Cleaning Schedule/Altar Care

**August** – Toad/April; Dale/Bonita

**September** – Darrell/Jennie; Josh/Shanna; Pam/Tom

**The Church Council and I thank each and every one of you for all that you do to keep our church beautiful!**

**A special THANK YOU to GLENN FRAASS, LLOYD FRERICHS and DALE DICKINSON for lighting the candles and ushering every Sunday for so many years.**

## MISSION STATEMENT OF THE TRI-COUNTY LUTHERAN PARISH Grace and Gloria Dei Lutheran Churches

*“Tri County Lutheran Parish and the church exist so that all people may:*

*KNOW the love of God in Jesus Christ*

*GROW as disciples of Jesus Christ*

*GO share the love of God in Jesus Christ.”*

## Chappell/Lodgepole Food Pantry

Items needed for the community food pantry are: Paper products such as

- Toilet paper
- Paper towels
- Kleenexes
- Anti-bacterial soap.

Contact Bev Wright if you would like more information at 308-874-6419.



Lutheran World Relief  
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. LASTING PROMISE.

## Lutheran World Relief School Kits

Education is one of the strongest tools a community has for breaking the cycle of poverty. Ensuring that children attend school, especially in places where their access is deprioritized, has even stronger results. School Kits contain essential supplies to help children – and in some cases, adults – continue learning in the face of serious obstacles. That learning leads to a better life for them, their families and their communities.

For many students around the world, there are many barriers to getting a good education. Simply purchasing simple school supplies like pencils and paper can be too great a cost for many families. That's why it's so important that Lutherans in the United States put together [School Kits](#) that are distributed by Lutheran World Relief.

There will be a list of items needed for these kits at each church if you would like to donate school supplies. If you would rather donate money to help purchase supplies, that would be fine as well. You can also find information @ [www.lwr.org](http://www.lwr.org)

**We Do Mission!!**

## ELCA Youth Ministry/Programs

### Invitation to Participate in the 2022 ELCA Youth Gathering

Summer 2021 is here, and you may be working to finalize plans for this summer, but it's not too early to start thinking about summer 2022 and the ELCA Youth Gathering in Minneapolis **July 24-28, 2022**. Every three years, 30,000 high school youth and their adult leaders from across the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America gather for a week of faith formation known as the ELCA Youth Gathering. Through days spent in interactive learning, worship, Bible study, service and fellowship, young people grow in faith and are challenged and inspired to live their faith in their daily lives.

**Learn more online: [elca.org/gathering](http://elca.org/gathering). Registration opens September 22, 2021.** Amy Wagner, Nebraska's Gathering Synod Coordinator, will help you prepare and make this a great experience for you and your young people. Please contact Amy with any questions you might have at [awagnergsc@gmail.com](mailto:awagnergsc@gmail.com) or at 402-423-4769 (office).

### Save the Date- Faith Formation

Please save the dates for the return of an in-person Lutheran Youth of Nebraska (LYON) Assembly on Saturday, November 20, 2021, and an in-person Nebraska Synod Middle School Gathering on Saturday, January 15, 2022. Further details will come as the volunteer planning teams are formed. Do you know of a young person who will be in grades 9-12 who would like to serve on the LYON Leadership Team? If so, please share [this link](#) to the online application form. Do you know of a youth in grades 6-8 who would like to be part of the MSG Planning Team? [Here's a link](#) for them to apply. The deadline for both applications is July 27, 2021. Besides planning LYON or the MSG, team members will also take part in team building, listening for God in God's word and through God's people and leadership development. Questions? Please contact Lisa Kramme, Director for Faith Formation, at [lisa@nebraskasynod.org](mailto:lisa@nebraskasynod.org).

### Panhandle Cluster Retreat

The Annual Panhandle Cluster Retreat will be held at Sullivan Hills beginning the afternoon of Sunday, August 29<sup>th</sup> through Tuesday, August 31<sup>st</sup>. All are welcome for a get together with our brothers and sisters of the Panhandle Cluster for a time of prayer, fellowship and relaxation at the beautiful Sullivan Hills facility north of Lodgepole. Lisa Kramme will be leading the retreat. Feel free to join us for good fellowship, good food, good music and a great time!



*"The Lord is my rock, and my fortress...my strength, in whom I will trust."  
Psalm 18:2 KJV*

**Worship times are 9:00 a.m. at Grace in Chappell  
and 10:30 a.m. at Gloria Dei in Lodgepole  
Website: [netricountylutheran.com](http://netricountylutheran.com)**

### **Calendar Events**

- August 7<sup>th</sup>** --- Back to School Bingo at the Lodgepole library 2:00 p.m. (Sign up deadline is July 29)
- August 8<sup>th</sup>** ----- Gloria Dei Council meeting following service
- August 10<sup>th</sup>** --- Helping Hands on a Mission quilting @ Gloria Dei 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- August 11<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>** – Teacher Work Days @ Sidney Public Schools
- August 15<sup>th</sup>** ----Blessing of backpacks, students and teachers
- August 16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>**—Teacher In-service Creek Valley Schools
- August 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>** – Teacher In-service South Platte Schools
- August 16<sup>th</sup>** —1<sup>st</sup> day of school 7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> @ Sidney Schools; K-6 Open House Sidney
- August 18<sup>th</sup>** ----1<sup>st</sup> day of school @ South Platte Schools
- August 19<sup>th</sup>** ----1<sup>st</sup> day of school @ Creek Valley Schools
- August 22<sup>nd</sup>** --- April Misegadis leading service @ Gloria Dei – no service at Grace
- August 24<sup>th</sup>** ----Helping Hands on A Mission quilting @ Gloria Dei 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- August 29<sup>th</sup>** --- Children’s Service @ Gloria Dei – no service at Grace
- August 29-31<sup>st</sup>**—Panhandle Cluster Retreat @ Sullivan Hills
- Sept. 5<sup>th</sup>**—Old Settlers Day Community Service--NO CHURCH SERVICES at Grace & Gloria Dei

### **Contact Information**

**For any pastoral needs, questions or concerns you can contact me at:**

**PMA Brenda Tophoj  
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