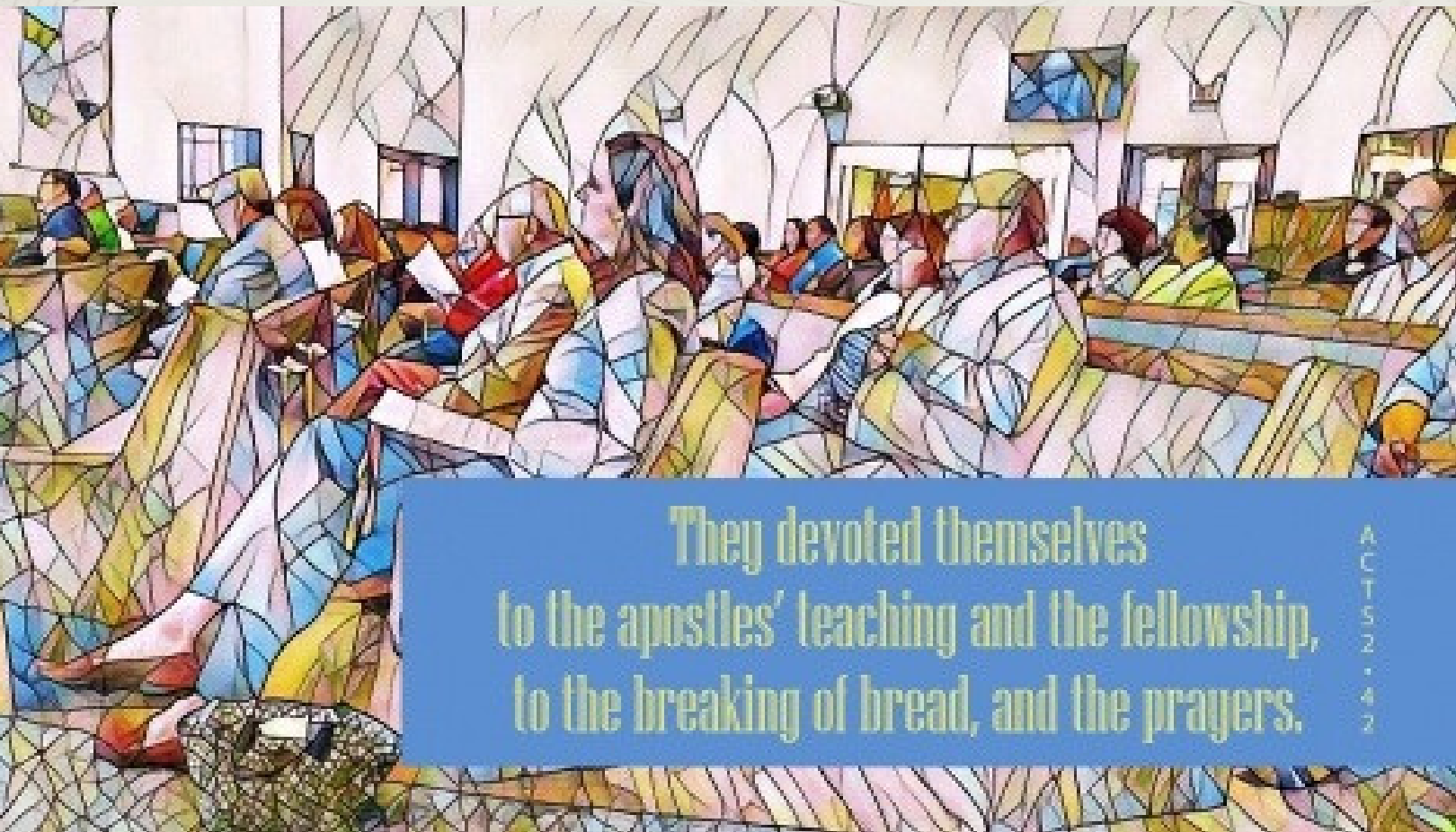




# WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

April 20th - April 26th, 2026

4th Sunday of Easter



They devoted themselves  
to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship,  
to the breaking of bread, and the prayers.

ACTS 2:42

# Youth Group

HELPED WITH PACH ON WEDNESDAY NIGHT!



Attending: Randy Rakness, chair; Duane Svalstad, Mark Wientjes, Don Farthing, Darwin Carlson, Roger Carter, Corey Mushitz

Staff: Earl Benson, treasurer; Pastor Craig Werling, Pastor Janine Rew-Werling,

Guest: Lori Storley

Order of Business:

- 1) Introduction of Corey Mushitz, new member
- 2) Opening prayer
- 3) Update on building repair progress; Randy informed the committee that the sanctuary lights will not be shipped until May 15th. This complicates matters since the pews are scheduled to arrive by April 27th. If pews are stored in the sanctuary, they would obstruct installation of the lights. Pews need to be stored in a temperature-controlled environment. Corey is aware of possible storage space on the LATC campus, so he will investigate that potential. With this delay, completion date for the sanctuary is pushed back to the end of June, if no other delays are encountered.
- 4) Cross raising is scheduled in the sanctuary April 8th, with a short ceremony scheduled at 6:30 PM.
- 5) Extra roof materials consisting of styrofoam sandwiched between OSB (Oriented Strand Board) are surplus. Corey will investigate whether the LATC building trades can use this. The committee discussed donating these materials in exchange for pew storage.
- 6) Update from Lori: Office furniture is installed, cabinets and altar furniture are completed by Laframboise woodworking; Lori will coordinate installation of these and also carpeting in sanctuary and fellowship hall, as one of the last steps.
- 7) Financial update: Earl notes that partial payment for electronics has been received, in the amount of just over \$49,000. Earl reiterated that receipts need to be turned in for documentation of damages to equipment for insurance purposes. Also volunteer hours should continue to be documented for the same reason.
- 8) Audio-visual items for the new sanctuary are being coordinated by Darwin Carlson, and plans are in place. Most of the equipment is already available.
- 9) Nick Hofer from Gil Haugan Construction will coordinate the final cleanup with Service Master, and assure that "punch list" items are completed.
- 10) Cleanup day for the church grounds is still tentatively scheduled for June 6th.
- 11) Repaired items include a new thermostat for the heater in the entry, new door closer in the men's bathroom, new door stop on front door, and motion sensitive light switches for the education office and storage room. It was mentioned that boxes should not be piled in front of the light sensitive switches, as they will not work if obstructed.
- 12) Next meeting date May 5th, 2026 at 6:30 PM in the chapel.
- 13) Closing Prayer.

Action items: 1) Corey to investigate pew storage and use of extra roof building materials at LATC.

2) Randy to coordinate pew shipping with Nick Hofer, once storage is located for them.

3) Lori to coordinate cabinet, altar and flooring installation at the proper time.

Submitted by Roger Carter, in the absence of Dick Nicolai

# Join Dick Nicolai



Even though every Christ-follower is called to regularly share their faith, few actually do. Conversations: A Simple Approach to Sharing the Gospel is a two-hour personal witnessing training course from The Gideons International where you will discover the simplicity of the Gospel and learn practical ways to share your faith with confidence.

LOCATION

Hosanna Lutheran Church


DATE

May 7, 2026

TIME

6:30 PM

**Thursday, May 7th  
at 6:30 pm in the Chapel**



**HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR  
RECOGNITION DAY  
IS SUNDAY, MAY 17TH  
DURING WORSHIP!**



## Youth Group Fundraiser

Funds will be used for Youth Group Faith-building experiences such as Quake (retreat weekend), Christian concerts, and local youth group activities.

### Option 1 Short Sleeve Tshirt



**\$20 Youth    \$25 Adult**

### Option 2 Long Sleeve Tshirt



**\$25 Youth    \$30 Adult**

### Option 3 Sweatshirt



**\$30 Youth    \$35 Adult**

### Option 4 Quarter Zip



**\$40 Adult**

### Option 5 Baseball Hat



Cash and Carry at the church or special order! **\$25**

**Order forms can be dropped off or mailed to the church office or emailed to:**  
[hosanafaitformation@gmail.com](mailto:hosanafaitformation@gmail.com)

Orders will be delivered in batches approximately 2-3 weeks after your order is placed with us.



**Thanks to Darren at Bulldog Branding!**

# Hosanna Parent Group

We all want to raise great kids who love Jesus, but the pressures of modern life seem to work against our ability to do that. This study brings hope to weary parents doing their best to raise great kids!

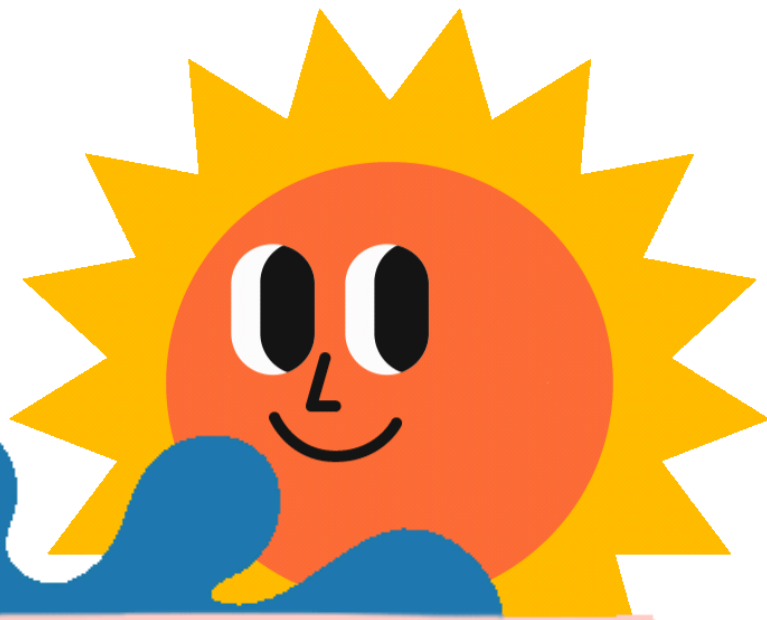
**Join us for a 6 week study  
on Sunday mornings from  
10:45-11:30.**

**Let's connect and support  
each other in this  
parenting journey!**

**(during Faith Formation)**

**We will finish up our  
Bible study on  
Last Day on April 26<sup>th</sup>**



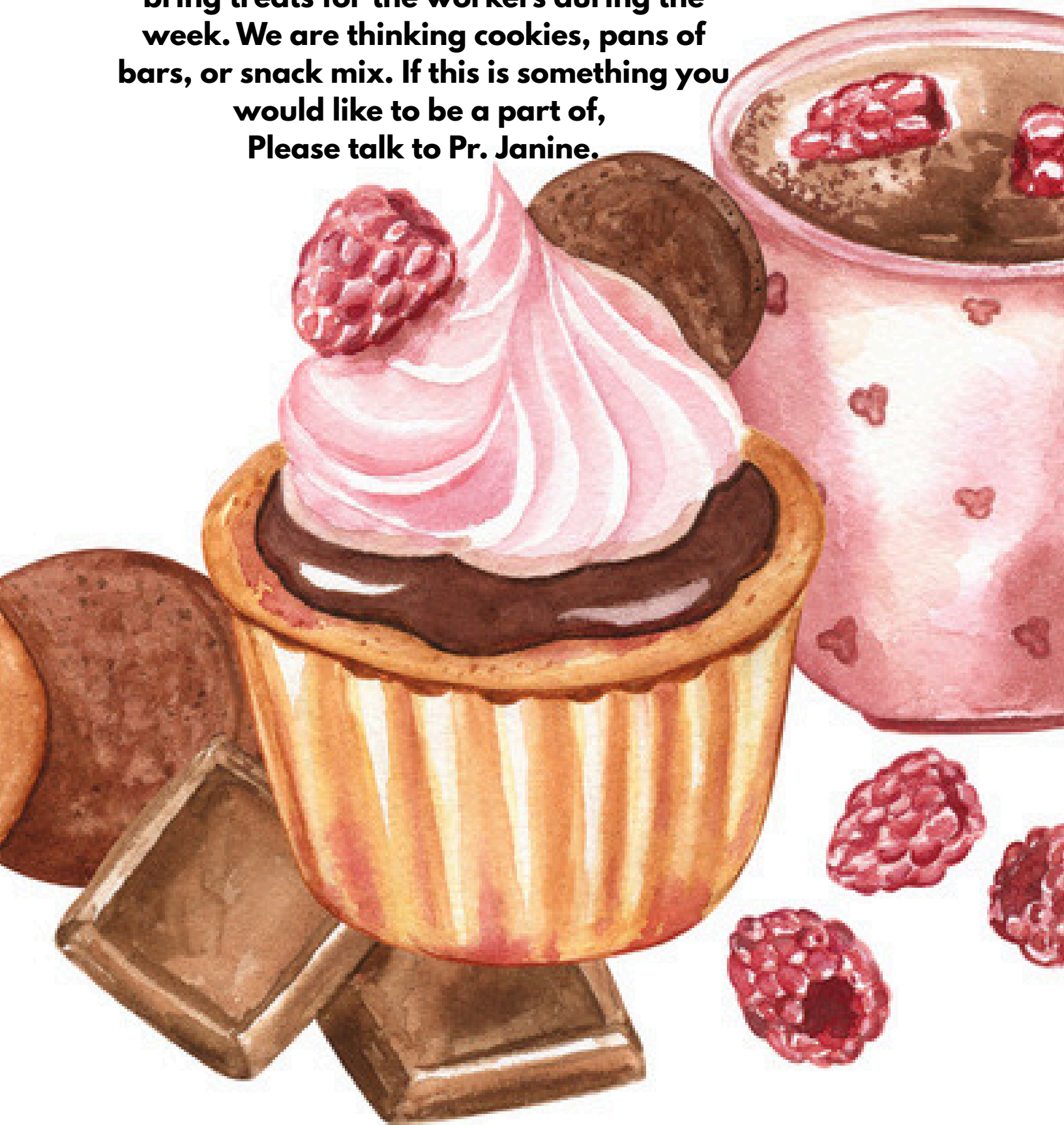


Save the Date

**VBS at Hosanna!**  
**July 27th - 31st**

# Treats for the Workers!

We would love to start a little group to bring treats for the workers during the week. We are thinking cookies, pans of bars, or snack mix. If this is something you would like to be a part of, Please talk to Pr. Janine.



# Y.A.R.N.

HOSANNA  
Lutheran Church, LCMC

## You Are Really Needed

All are welcome to join us on the  
**1st & 3rd Tuesday** of every month  
in the Fellowship Hall @ **10:00 am**

*Quilt Ministry*

2nd & 4th Wednesdays  
of each month  
9:30am to noon

*Bring supplies if you can or fabric to donate.*

All are welcome to help create quilts for local and worldwide comfort.

# Men's Noon Bible study meets in the Chapel on Wednesdays



# Listening for the Promise Weekly Devotional

Fourth Sunday of Easter – April 26, 2026

*“And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.”*

*- Acts 2:42 -*

## **He Gathers His Flock Together**

*The fourth Sunday of Easter is always Good Shepherd Sunday. The Gospel lesson is always a passage from John 10, covering the whole chapter in the three year lectionary. In this year's text, Jesus tells us that He is the gate and the gatekeeper, the only way to salvation. He promises to lay down His life for His sheep. He provides proof of His authority to be the Good Shepherd. His sheep are those who believe; they've been given to Him by His Father.*

*God purposely chose the image of a shepherd throughout the scriptures to describe God's relationship with His people. Psalm 23 shows a personal relationship with the Good Shepherd, but we are reminded by Jesus' ministry that the shepherd doesn't lead just one animal; he cares for many. He doesn't have a hundred individual sheep to lead; he has a flock. He knows every sheep and calls each by name, but the shepherd's world is in community. The lessons in John 10 teach us that the Church is the community that the Good Shepherd leads, and we are Jesus' flock. With Jesus as our Shepherd, we live together without fear and walk together in faith knowing that God is with us.*

*The community described by Luke in the book of Acts shared everything in common, taking care of one another with their own possessions. They shared God's grace, in every way. They met daily for prayer and study and gathered often for worship and fellowship. They did all this with joy, praising God.*

*There was something unique about the Christian community in Jerusalem that made strangers want to be a part of it. Day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved. God uses our resources in ways we can't imagine. This is why we need to be part of a community of faith. We help one another in word and deed, in spirit and in flesh. Our Good Shepherd calls us to hear His voice, gather together in prayer, study, worship, and fellowship. We can always trust Him because He has promised to always be with us.*

## Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 26, 2026

### Proclamation Points



The following are some thoughts and questions to be used for a text study on the weekly lessons, or for jump-starting the imagination of the preacher and hearer in preparing for the proclamation event.

*“The whole Christ, according to both natures, is our righteousness, solely in his obedience that he rendered his Father as both God and a human being, an obedience unto death. Through this obedience he earned the forgiveness of sins and eternal life for us...”*

– Formula of Concord –

Epitome, Article III: Righteousness

#### Acts 2:42–47

Luke paints a beautiful picture of what the Church looked like in its infancy. The believers all lived together in harmony. They shared all their goods in common. They enjoyed spending time with one another. They were devoted to the Word they had received and the fellowship that had formed around that Word.

Luke doesn't tell us that the believers had to be told to increase their commitment or share of their belongings or participate in learning. It's just how they did things. It's the fellowship that took shape through God's work on their hearts. The power of God's work and Word among them formed them into a new community and new people.

Of course, we need only turn the page to the Epistles to see that this perfect vision of the church did not last very long. Trouble emerged almost immediately because sin continued to be at work among God's chosen ones. The zeal of conversion gave way to the challenges and difficulties of communities of sinners.

• *Why does the church today look so different from the church Luke describes? Is the church today in worse shape than what we see in the Book of Acts? Is God working differently, or less, among us today than he used to?*

• *How are the faithful actions we see here not the result of commands (or threats), but the natural result of faith? In what sense are good works the spontaneous expression of a trusting relationship with God?*

#### Psalm 23

The image of the Lord as a faithful shepherd who watches over his flock is exactly the word of comfort and peace we so often need in the midst of sorrow and hardship. The promise is not that we will never face enemies or that we will never find ourselves in the valley of the shadow of death. Rather, the promise is that even in those circumstances — especially in those circumstances — we are safely in the care of the Good Shepherd.

But this psalm also has an important word to speak to us when we're not in the midst of hardship or distress. The Lord, our Good Shepherd, watches over us all of our days. He provides for our every need, food and drink, shelter and protection.

- *How does this psalm sound different to us when we are in the midst of the joys of life rather than the sorrows?*
- *What does it mean for our daily lives to be constantly under*

God's care and provision? Compare with what Luther says in his explanation to the First Article of the Creed.

#### 1 Peter 2:19–25

Peter explained in his first letter that there is no particular virtue in enduring the pain of punishment when it comes as a result of disobedience and sin. However, when we are persecuted for no good reason, it is valuable and gives glory to God that we endure such suffering because Jesus did exactly the same. When Christ was beaten he endured the suffering without a thought of retaliation. Instead of reviling those who hurt him, Jesus entrusted his whole self to his heavenly Father. Peter reminds us of our calling to follow Jesus in suffering for the faith saying, “By [Jesus'] wounds you have been healed.” (v. 24b)

- *In what ways does Jesus show exactly how to live, even in the face of unjust suffering?*

#### John 10:1–10

We continue with the image of the Lord as our shepherd in the Gospel reading. The picture drawn in Psalm 23 is expanded upon in Jesus' words to the Pharisees. Central to this image is that the sheep know the voice of their true shepherd. They know the one they belong to. They know the one they are to follow, and they will not follow another.

It is noteworthy that Jesus speaks these words to the Pharisees, not just to his own disciples. The Pharisees don't recognize the voice of Jesus to be the voice of their shepherd. They don't see him as one they are to follow. They question, doubt, argue with and seek to trap Jesus, but they don't heed his voice as their shepherd.

- *How does a sheep come to recognize the voice of the shepherd? Is there a certain quality to a sheep that makes one a better listener than another? Do they pick out a shepherd to claim as their own, or is it the other way around?*

Jesus makes a crucial distinction between the purpose of the shepherd and the purpose of the thief. The thief comes to destroy the sheep. The shepherd's purpose is abundant life. The work the shepherd does is for the benefit of the sheep. The work the thief does is for his own benefit. Christ's work on our behalf was not to bring glory to himself or to lay heavy burdens upon us. He came that we might have abundant life — more life than we can begin to imagine

- *What are some ways we turn the abundant life Jesus came to give into a demand or hardship? What are some of the thieves that steal this life from us? How is Jesus different?*

**MON**

**Office open**  
**Mon - Thurs 10am - 2pm**

**TUE**

**9:30 - Prayer**  
**10:00 - Coffee**  
**10:00 - YARN**

**WED**

**9:30 - Quilting**  
**12:00 - Men's Bible study**  
**5:45 - Confirmation**  
**7:00 - Youth Group**

**THU**

**10:00 - Coffee**  
**5:00 - Melissa Gross Bible study**

**FRI**

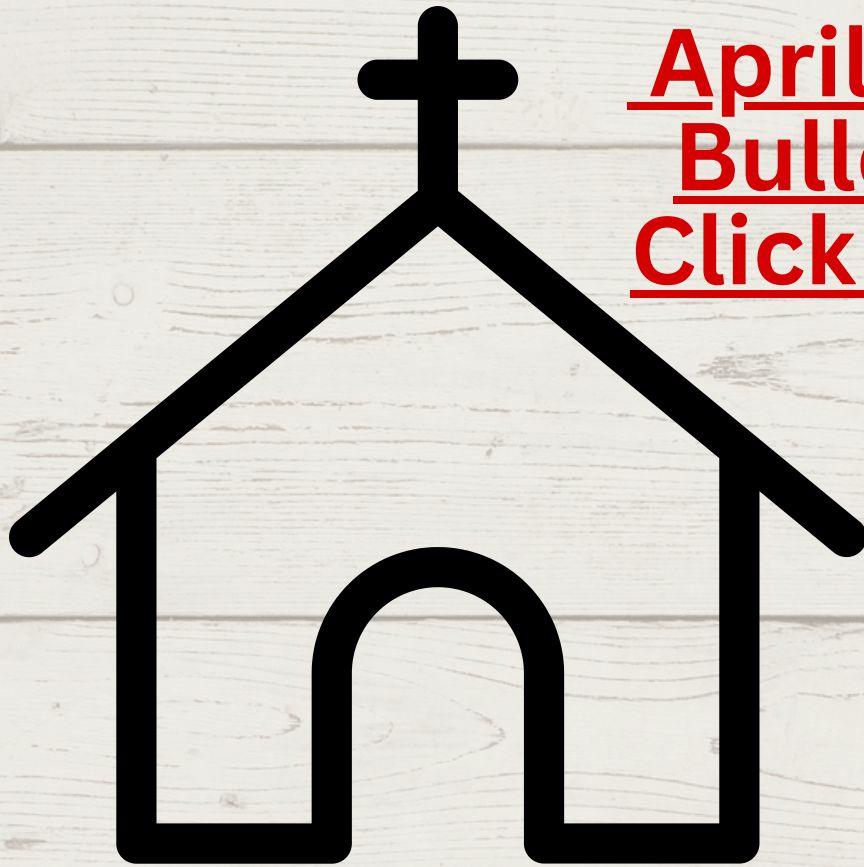
**SAT**

**SUN**

**9:15 - Worship**  
**10:15 - Coffee**  
**10:30 - Faith Formation**  
**10:45 - Parent Bible study**

# This Weeks Bulletin

April 26th  
Bulletin  
Click Here



**LIVE**  

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**STREAM**

Click  
Here

# APR. Servant Team!

## Servant Team #7 - Serves - April and November 2026

- Benson, Earl
- Brekke, Terry & Sharon
- Bue, Harvey & Doris
- Davidson, Betty
- Erickson, Larry & Lisa
- Erickson, Terry
- Farthing, Don & Karen
- Geist, Nate & Lindsay & family
- Gjerst, Logan & Bethany & family
- Griep, Brad & Diane
- Hartwig, Jake & Amanda & family
- Hopkins, Linda
- Jacobson, Bill & Terra
- Jones, Dana & Rose
- Jorgenson, Deb
- Kalt, Dean & Vonnie
- Larson, Sharon
- Lawrence, Bryce & Karissa & family
- Mohning, Tim & Emily & family
- Nichols, Lannie & Gina
- Petersen, Terry & Peggy
- Peterson, Robb & Jodi
- Pieper, Jim & Shelly
- Schafer, Ashley & family
- Skinner, Karen
- Small, Gayle & Dorothy
- Streckfuss, Chris
- Svalstad, Duane & Judy
- Williams, Ron & Pat

## HLC APRIL 26<sup>TH</sup> SERVANT TEAM



**Keyboard  
Accompanist:**  
Lynn Osthus



**Head Ushers:**  
Doug Keffeler



**Lector:**  
Need 1



**Non-Communion  
Sunday**

# Attendance & Offering

Sunday, April 19th, 2026

Attendance: 191

General Offering: \$6,738.44

Hospitality: \$32

Facility: \$30

Youth Group: \$100

## HLC Year to Date Financial Report as of 3-31-26

	<u>YTD Budget</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Giving	\$ 94,585	\$91,190.40	\$ 3,394.60 - Under Budget
Expenses	\$ 82,799	\$80,428.53	\$ 2,370.47 - Under Budget

*Please see a Council member if you have any questions.*

# APRIL

# Benevolence & Mission Outreach

\$3615 - New Hope Mission Society for Shaliach Bible School in Kerala State, India

## 2026 CHURCH COUNCIL OFFICERS & MEMBERS

**JOSH MAAG - PRESIDENT**  
**KATHY MONNENS - VICE PRESIDENT**  
**KATHERINE ALTHOFF - SECRETARY**  
**EARL BENSON - TREASURER**

Sharon Brekke  
Sherri Brindle  
Jan DeBerg  
DeDe Gilbertson  
Patti Lien  
Andrew Magedanz

# Our Church Directory is Online!

View our church directory online or via the **FREE** mobile app today.

To view the directory online, go to [members.InstantChurchDirectory.com](http://members.InstantChurchDirectory.com) and follow the prompts under "Sign In" to "Create a login now." Please remember, you must confirm your email address before you can sign in.

There is also a free mobile app available for download at the Apple® App store in iTunes®, Google Play™ store and the Amazon Fire App Store. Simply search for "[Instant Church Directory](#)" to get the download.

You will need to use your email address as listed in our directory to create a log-in the first time you use the directory online and via the mobile app.

## Need help or have questions?

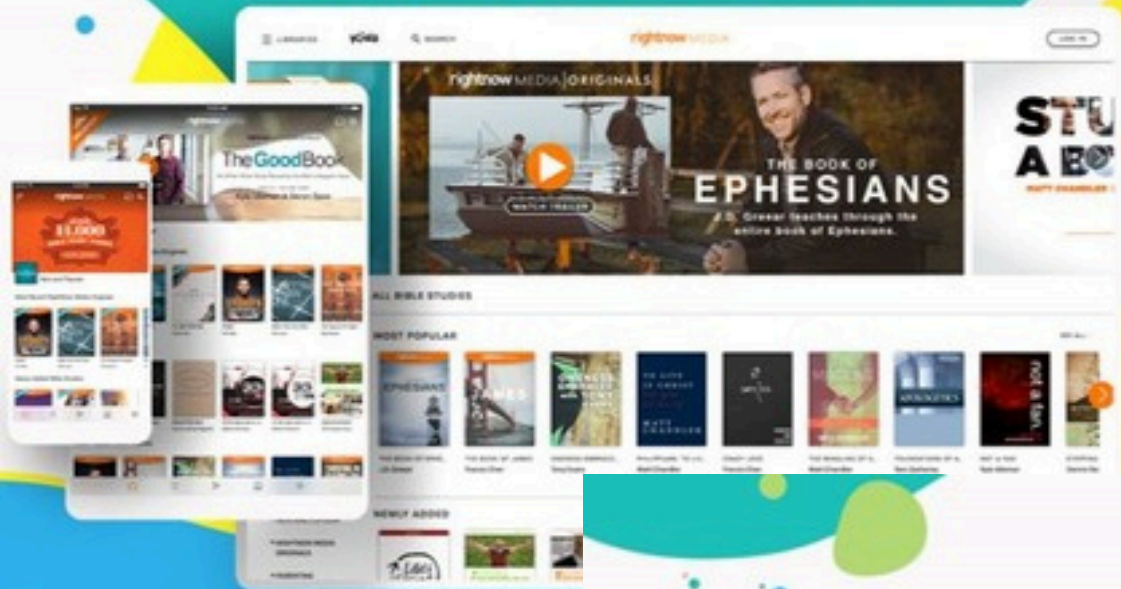
**Please contact** Anna at 605-237-8399 or email her @ [watertownhosannalutheran@gmail.com](mailto:watertownhosannalutheran@gmail.com)



Our Church Directory is powered by [Instant Church Directory](#).

# FREE GIFT

for everyone in our church!



We've purchased unlimited access to thousands of Christian videos and are giving free access to **everyone** in our church. If you haven't already accepted your invite:

1

Text HLW

2

to 49775



# VANCO

## OUR NEW GIVING APP

1. Download the free ***Vanco Mobile*** app from the App Store or Google Play.
2. Search for our Church name ***Hosanna Lutheran Church.***
3. Donate!

*Thank you for your generosity!*

1. Text \$(with amount) to 855-625-1726  
Click the link they send you  
Put in your information

## 5 ways to Give

2. Download Vanco Mobile App  
Search for Hosanna Lutheran
3. Fill out an electronic giving form  
They are located on the  
information table
4. Place your gift in the offering plates in  
the fellowship hall
5. Mail checks to 1617 14th Ave NE  
Watertown, SD 57201

# HELPING HANDS FUND



**This is a discrete fund used to help  
those in need!**

**If you would like to give to this fund,  
just place your donation in an  
offering plate  
and mark it Helping Hands.**



# Endowment Fund Donations

Your donation can be sent to the church office at

1617 14th Ave NE Watertown, SD 57201

**Checks must be written out to HLC Endowment Fund**

## Endowment Fund Board Members

**President:** Tyler Gross

**Treasurer:** Karen Olson

**Secretary:** Harvey Bue

John Hopper

Dick Nicolai



**Augustana District's April**  
**Newsletter Click Here**

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**Augustana District**  
**Video**



# THE CHANNEL TO BRAZIL

## **Align With God in 2024**

”So that the works of God might be displayed.”

In John 9 we read about one of Jesus’ miracles where he restored the sight of a blind man. At the beginning of the story, we see the disciples questioning Jesus about who had sinned to cause the blind man his disability.

Rather patiently (we might imagine), Jesus insinuates that the disciples are asking the wrong question. He encourages them to look forward, ‘while it is still day,’ (v4) rather than backward upon who to blame.

What are you looking forward to this new year? Right now, it feels like the world is full of suffering and poverty of spirit and unity. In this passage, Jesus teaches us that with suffering comes the opportunity for God’s works to be displayed.

Children growing up in the slums are suffering because they are neglected and failed by a wider community that is unable to care for their physical needs and education. By supporting CBC you have the opportunity to step in as the healing hands and feet of Jesus.

Thank you for your partnership with us that displays the mighty works of God where there is sickness, anxiety and desperate poverty.

May God Bless you and your family this year.

Marc Marques  
Executive Director

# **April Newsletter**



FRIENDS of  
**MADAGASCAR  
MISSION**

Throughout the history of global mission work from churches within the United States, beginning in the 19th Century, we have seen the great mission outreach organized for the most part by Mission Societies. In the 20th Century the mission work was taken over by church denominations. It became institutionalized. As we enter the 21st Century, we are once again experiencing a return to Mission Societies claiming a greater role in Christian mission work around the globe.

It is in this climate of change, in how mission work is being done today, that the Friends of Madagascar Mission was begun. We believe we have a unique role in the future of mission, particularly in Madagascar at this time. In 2010 we began our fund raising activities and each year we continue to grow in giving from our generous donors. For this we give thanks to God!

**[Newsletter Click Here!](#)**

**[Digital Magazine Click Here!](#)**



## Resources

Watertown Area Memory Care & Aging Network has the following community resources available

- Memory Care Support Group
- Respite Care Financial Assistance
- Mary Drake Resource Library
- Community Caregiver Fair
- Memory Screening Event
- Savvy Caregiver Training Classes
- Caregiver Mentor Program

## Upcoming Events

**Watertown Event Center**  
 West Highway 212 / 1901 9th Avenue SW  
 Watertown, SD 57201  
*First Wednesday of each month at 7:00pm!*

### January 7, 2026

“Safe Hands, Calm Hands” (Teepa Snow)  
 by Christina Ruml, State Ombudsman for State of South Dakota

### February 4, 2026

“Language, Swallowing, and Dementia”  
 by Kirsten Blackwell, Speech - Language Pathologist with PLHS

### March 4, 2026

“Holding God’s Hands”  
 by Pastor Sara McManus, First United Methodist Church

### April 1, 2026

“Adult Day Services / My Care Line Respite Care & Telemedicine at The Village”  
 by Krista Beauchamp & Dalton Wagner

### May 6, 2026

“Keeping Precious Memories” (Creating Memory Books)  
 by Dar Fuchs & Friends

### June 3, 2026

“Let’s Talk”  
 by The Support Group



Connie Lake

***Connie’s journey caring for those with dementia / Alzheimer’s started in 1980. Her first job was to create an activity program in a long term care facility for their residents. It was not long before folks with that diagnosis were in her heart. In 1997, she created a recreation program in a long term care memory care unit. The focus was “person centered” with engagement and positive communication. A supportive community was a huge help and part of her career. She is retired now but the passion remains to create programs & offer more help for this country’s unsung heroes - caregivers!***

***The Watertown Memory Care Support Group was created in 1998 by Connie Lake and Deanna Bullis to give caregivers a place to belong. Caregivers were able to listen, share, and learn how to care for themselves. This mission remains true today.***



**Moms, you are invited to gather with like-minded women for an encouraging time of fellowship and prayer for our children and schools.**

*Come take a breather with other women who understand that we don't have to do life alone.*

**Saturday, April 25, 2026**

**9:30 – 11:30 am**

**Abiding Savior Free Lutheran Church, Fellowship Hall  
4100 S Bahnson Avenue, Sioux Falls, SD 57103**

**Sign-up by Monday, April 20 with this link or QR code...**

<https://forms.gle/QGDnEA3jmZVv3Fix5>



But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved sisters, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

From 1 Corinthians 15:57-58 ESV

**MOMS IN PRAYER INTERNATIONAL**



## **SUMMER PROGRAM ENROLLMENT IS NOW OPEN!**

When school's out, learning doesn't stop! At Our Little Village Learning Center, summer is structured, engaging, and designed to keep your child school-ready.

Led by Carol Dagele with 47 years of teaching experience, our Summer Program features grade-appropriate, standards-based learning combined with hands-on activities, art, outdoor exploration, and meaningful intergenerational experiences on the Harmony Hill campus.

**Open 6:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.**

**Meals included**

**Located 2 miles south of town on Hwy 81**

Spots are LIMITED and they will fill quickly.

If you want your child to stay confident, curious, and prepared for fall, now is the time to enroll. **Call 605-886-4113**

