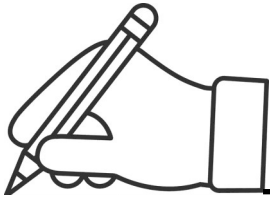


THE PARISH PULSE NEWSLETTER

Bear Lake St. Paul

Concordia Evangelical

July 2025



From the Pastors Desk

Greetings!

As we turn the calendar to July, we find ourselves in a season of both celebration and service. This month marks a tremendous milestone for our congregation—**150 years of ministry** here in our small but strong rural community. For a century and a half, Bear Lake Concordia Lutheran Church has been a place where the Gospel is proclaimed, neighbors care for one another, and generations have gathered to worship, learn, and grow.

Sometimes *pride* is looked upon as a complicated emotion, but I encourage you to take a minute and be proud of where this congregation comes from, and the lasting mark it has made on this community.



Our roots run deep in the soil of southern Minnesota. Founded in 1875 by faithful pioneers, our congregation has weathered storms, celebrated harvests, and stood firm in God's promises through it all. We give thanks for the saints who came before us, and we look ahead with joy and purpose to the next season of ministry. We'll be celebrating officially July 12th and 13th.

In the spirit of looking ahead, we are also excited to bless and send off our **youth group** this month as they travel across the country for a mission trip. These young people will be spending a week serving in a community very different from our own—walking with that community and sharing God's love through their hands and hearts. Please pray for safe travels, meaningful experiences, and for the Holy Spirit to

work in and through them as they serve.

"Let your light so shine before others, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven." – Matthew 5:16.

This verse seems especially fitting as we honor the past and invest in the future. The legacy of Bear Lake isn't just in our building or our history—it's in the lives we touch and the light we carry into the world.

As you enjoy this season of sunshine, parades, family reunions, and county fairs, I encourage you to pause and reflect on how God has been at work in your life and in our church. Whether you're in the tractor cab, the garden, or gathered around a picnic table, give thanks for the blessings of this community and the ways God continues to use us to do The work.



In peace and love!
Pastor Lou Peters



Prayer Requests

We remember in our prayers: Judy Popp-Anderson, Lake Hemmingsen (baby daughter of Jason and Tessa Hemmingsen), DeAnn Wichmann, George Wichman, Wayne Erickson, Joe Brooks, Ben Mortensen, Kaye Klukow, Yvonne Enser, Dan Hensche, Carolyn "Jean" Ross, Pat Bangert, Bill Mitchell, Larissa Brune, Sharon Riemer, Doug Thompson, Bobbi Wilson, Mary Jo Ditlevson, Bryan Lair, and Rob Kruger.

BEAR LAKE CONCORDIA LUTHERAN CHURCH

150TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

JULY 12TH & 13TH



Even if you didn't RSVP for either of the meals on Saturday or Sunday you are welcome to come to the concert on July 12th at 6pm or the Communion worship service at 10am on Sunday, July 13th.

SATURDAY, JULY 12TH

Come anytime after 3:00pm and check out the heritage display in the Bear Lake Parsonage.

4:30pm BBQ Supper (free will offering)

6:00pm Benson Family Singers Concert
(www.bensonfamilymusic.com)

SUNDAY, JULY 13TH

10:00am Parish Worship Service

12 noon Dinner

(must have ordered a meal to attend the dinner)

Note: We will have parking attendants available who will also provide valet service if needed.

If you have any questions, please contact Jean Wichmann (phone: 507-951-0729
email: jwichmann502@gmail.com)

BEAR LAKE ANNIVERSARY SOUVENIRS:

Pastor Michael Reck Diary	\$5
Bear Lake History Book	\$5
5 x 7 Watercolor Print of Bear Lake	\$5
Commemorative Pewter Ornament	\$15

Greetings from Pastor Rachel

Thanks so much for your kind invitation to celebrate the Bear Lake Concordia anniversary in July. It breaks my heart to say that I'm already double-booked that weekend with supply preaching and a family event so I will not be able to attend...But I sure would have enjoyed participating in the festivities!

Our family is doing well. Our son, Christian, and his wife and their 8-year-old daughter (our only grandchild) live in Sioux Falls, SD. Our daughter, Connie, was married last summer and lives in the Iowa City area (after 9 years in youth

ministry in southern California.) I retired at the end of 2020 and Jack in 2021, but we are both still preaching for colleagues who are on sabbatical or vacation as well as in parishes that are without pastors.

Again, I so wish I could be present with you all on July 12/13. Please extend my sincere greetings to everyone. My years with you were a treasure.

Peace to you,

Pastor Rachel Thorson Mitthelman



Bear Lake Concordia Lutheran
150th Anniversary Planning Meeting
Saturday, July 5th
9:30am At Bear Lake

FAITH OF MY FATHER (AND MOTHER)

How do you tell your child that your faith is important to you, without saying a word?

By Melissa Wangen



In preparation for the 150th Anniversary of Bear Lake Church, my brother Marty and I have been refurbishing a replica of Bear Lake Church that my father made as a Christmas gift for me in 1976. What my dad made was

more folk art than fine art. It was a toy that I could use with my now vintage Fisher-Price Little People.

The pipes for the organ are nails with the heads removed. The windows were hand drawn by my dad using colored markers on wax paper. The candles on the altar are made from toothpicks and I'm sure all the paint used was left over from other painting projects. For example, the paint on the interior walls looks a lot like the paint Mom used on her kitchen walls. Dad removed a handle from a handbell to use in the bell tower. No new wood was purchased to make the replica. It was all just scraps and pieces left over from other projects. The Fisher-Price company never manufactured a Little People pastor, so Dad carved one.



While this replica isn't fine precision craftsmanship, it has been a treasured keepsake of my father. In 1976 when I received this gift, I didn't realize that I would only have three more Christmases with my dad.

In the 9 short years I knew my dad, I never once remember him saying "church is important" or "my faith is very important to me". Yet I knew that my father, and my mother as well, valued their church and more importantly, their faith.

They showed me through actions both big and small that demonstrated how important their church was. They embodied Matthew 6:21 *For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*

Reflecting on my parents and their faith legacy, I am forever grateful for showing me what a life lived in service to the Lord looks like. It's active and engaged. Finding ways to help and serve the greater good. My dad taught Sunday School until I (the youngest of the family) was old enough to go to Sunday School, then Mom was able to start teaching and Dad was able to join the Church Council. He was the worship deacon for Bear Lake in 1980 when he passed away. My mother was active with Sunday School and ladies aid, now WELCA, as well. The list could go on and on.

Both of my parents left a legacy of service and commitment to Bear Lake Church and the faith in Jesus their Savior that sustained them. The faith that sustained them in their life is now the faith that sustains me. That is their legacy. The greatest gift you can give your children and grandchildren is knowledge and love of the Lord.

So, how do you tell your children that your church and your faith is important to you without saying a word? Build them a toy church.

I hope you will all be able to take some time out of your busy summer schedules to check out the heritage displays in the Bear Lake parsonage during our anniversary celebration on July 12th and 13th. Marty and I plan to have the Fisher-Price Little People church on display.

Come and see my dad's faith in action.



**THE BEAR LAKE/ST. PAUL
YOUTH GROUP & PASTOR LOU
MISSION TRIP
TO SCRANTON, PA
July 18th - 26th**

BEAR LAKE WELCA JULY 2025

SUNDAY COFFEE

July 6 Ruth
July 13 Bear Lake's
150th Anniversary

July 20 Rachel
July 27 Anna I

ALTAR FLOWERS
Rachel





BIRTHDAYS

July 4	Connor White
July 5	Kennedy Mattson Collin Lee
July 8	Norman Bangert
July 11	Bonnie Lair
July 12	Sam Bangert
July 14	Marcia Bauers Avaya Burgett Diane Wichmann
July 15	Aidan Wangen
July 16	Ryan Draayer Ann Larson
July 17	McKenzie Wasmoen Amber Schmidt
July 18	Karla Bangert
July 25	Connie Drescher
July 26	Jackson Frank
July 28	Lauryn Hershey
July 30	Caleb White
July 31	Michelle Hintz Ashley Wangen Barb Wichmann

ANNIVERSARIES

July 7	Brian & Amy White
July 12	George & Brenda Wichmann
July 24	Norman & Pat Bangert
July 26	Burton & Doreen Doyle Ron & Linda Erickson
July 27	Erik & Melissa Wasmoen

JULY COUNCIL MEETING

Bear Lake - Thursday, July 10th
7pm in Bear Lake basement.

St. Paul - Sunday, July 20th following worship
in Rachel room.

Sunday Bible Readings for July 2025

July 6

Isaiah 66:10-14
Psalm 66:1-9
Galatians 6:[1-6] 7-16
Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

July 13

Deuteronomy 30:9-14
Psalm 25:1-10
Colossians 1:1-14
Luke 10:25-37

July 20

Genesis 18:1-10a
Psalm 15
Colossians 1:15-28
Luke 10:38-42

July 27

Genesis 18:20-32
Psalm 138
Colossians 2:6-15 [16-19]
Luke 11:1-13

CONGER COFFEE



Tuesday, July 8th

9am - 11am

St. Paul Fellowship Hall

*Come and enjoy some coffee,
snacks and FELLOWSHIP!
Everyone is welcome!!*

CONTACT INFORMATION

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PASTOR LUCAS PETERS

cell phone: 470-281-7778

St. Paul office: 507-265-3310

email: blsppastor@gmail.com

Office Hours

9am - 12pm

Bear Lake - Monday & Thursday

St. Paul - Tuesday

From Home - Wednesday

JEAN WICHMANN, BL president 507-951-0729

email: jwichmann502@gmail.com

BEN MORTENSEN, SP president 507-402-3557

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CHURCH

WORD SEARCH PUZZLE

ALTAR
BALCONY
BELIEF
BELL
BENCH
BIBLE
BOOKS
BULLETIN
CANDLES
CHOIR
COMMUNITY
CONGREGATION
DOORS
FAITH
FLOWERS
FOYER
GOSPEL
GUESTS
MINISTER
PEACE
PEW
PIANO
PRAYER
TRAY
WORSHIP

S	N	I	T	E	L	L	U	B	C	E	R	H	O	W
X	W	O	B	F	E	I	L	E	B	I	C	E	C	E
M	R	A	N	Z	P	E	W	E	O	O	T	C	A	L
O	R	E	Y	A	R	P	C	H	N	G	A	A	N	B
T	S	L	T	W	I	A	C	G	I	U	G	D	D	I
R	G	E	G	S	E	P	R	B	S	E	F	O	L	B
A	B	P	I	P	I	E	E	K	B	S	O	O	E	P
Y	E	S	H	T	G	N	O	V	A	T	Y	R	S	I
I	L	O	N	A	C	O	I	T	L	S	E	S	M	H
T	L	G	T	H	B	X	V	M	C	X	R	Y	K	S
Y	T	I	N	U	M	M	O	C	O	A	L	T	A	R
D	O	S	R	E	W	O	L	F	N	H	O	R	B	O
N	F	A	I	T	H	E	R	B	Y	I	B	A	D	W

The words appear UP, DOWN, BACKWARDS, and DIAGONALLY.
Find and circle each word.



JULY

2025

SUMMER SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Bear Lake Concordia Church
 9:00am Worship
 Coffee time following worship

St. Paul Lutheran Church
 10:30am Worship

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Bear Lake Concordia 150th Anniversary Celebration July 12th and 13th		1	2 4:00pm Worship service planning for Bear Lake Anniversary at Bear Lake	3	4 HAPPY 4th of July	5 9:30am - Bear Lake Anniversary Committee meeting at Bear Lake
6 COMMUNION SUNDAY 	7 6:30pm Anna Circle at Natalie Looock's home	8 -9am-11am Conger Coffee, St. Paul Fellowship Hall -11:00am Youth Mission Trip meeting at St. Paul	9	10 7:00pm Bear Lake Council meeting at Bear Lake	11 	12 BEAR LAKE 150TH ANNIVERSARY 4:30pm Pulled Pork Sandwiches 6pm Benson Family Concert
13 BEAR LAKE 150TH ANNIVERSARY 10am PARISH WORSHIP followed by a catered meal (must RSVP to attend the dinner)	14 	15	16 PEACE	17	18 	19 9:00am Rachel Circle at Bear Lake, Jan Venem, hosting
20 St. Paul Council meeting following worship in Rachel Room	21 	22	23	24	25	26
Bear Lake /St. Paul Youth Mission Trip w/Pastor Lou to Scranton, PA July 18th - 26th						
27	28	29	30	31	GOD BLESS AMERICA	