



St. James News

CHRIST AT THE CENTER. TRUTH IN ALL THINGS

Volume 72 Issue 6

June 2026

CHURCH@STJAMESHL.ORG
320-543-2766

Pastor – Reverend Mark Loder
web site: www.stjameshl.org - revloder@gmail.com

SCHOOL@STJAMESHL.ORG
320-543-2630

From The Desk Of *Pastor Mark Loder*

June Spiritual Discipline: Pray a Psalm in the Morning and Evening

“Evening and morning, sunset and dawning, wealth, peace, and gladness, comfort in sadness: These are Thy works; all the glory be Thine! Times without number, awake or in slumber, Thine eye observes us, from danger preserves us, causing Thy mercy upon us to the shine,” sings the church. (LSB 726) Paul Gerhardt’s hymn invites us throughout the day to render our praise unto the Creator of all things.

The works of God are visible to us hour after hour. He causes the sun to rise and to set with consistency. He orders our goings and our doings. Our eyes open according to the Lord’s gracious will, and they close as we entrust our being to Him in the bliss of sleep.

In the Small Catechism, Dr. Luther invites us to make the sign of the cross upon ourselves both when we rise and when we go to bed as we speak the invocation. Why? In the morning, the Lord has granted us another day of life. At the end of the day, we commend all things that have happened into His hands and remember how active God is while we sleep. When children go to sleep, fathers still have work to do. Yet, even earthly fathers slumber. It’s not so for our Father in heaven. He neither slumbers nor sleeps.

THE SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINE FOR JUNE IS TO BEGIN AND END OUR DAY WITH THE PRAYING OF A PSALM.

If you are looking for some ideas, turn to p. 304 of our hymnal. A convenient 4-week schedule for morning and evening psalms is listed in the general section.

Why return to the Psalter? The Psalms are the prayer book of the Bible. Psalms are God’s Word to us that we might pray His Word back to Him. What better way could there be than to bookend our days with the Word of God? And since prayer doesn’t come to us naturally, but we must be taught it, let us continue to learn to pray from our Lord. He speaks. He teaches. He testifies of Christ. We hear. We meditate. We learn. We pray. He unlooses our tongue.

During this month, you will uncover some of the blessed joy that is a result of discovering God’s care for you through His Word. Think of the words of the 23rd Psalm, for instance. Fittingly spoken at every funeral, the Christian finds comfort in knowing that they are shepherded by a loving God who has promised to care for them. He does so by bringing you to the still waters of Word and Sacrament through which He gives you strength and nourishment to abide in Him. A necessary gift considering the struggle it is to live within the valley of the shadow of death. And when death comes, Psalm 4:8 provides such comfort: “I will both lie down in peace, and sleep; For You alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety.” Death is but a sleep for we who are in Christ. If we sleep the sleep of death, we sleep in the peace of Christ’s victory over death.

God grant us even greater insights into the prayer book of the Bible this month.

✠ Bible Trivia ✠

See answers below

1. What is the second book of the Bible named after a woman?
2. While Ahab rode to Jezreel, who ran ahead on foot?
3. On what two occasions did God say, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."?
4. How did Peter temporarily earn Paul's disfavor?
5. According to Hebrews, where should the Christian fix his eyes as he runs the race before him?

Answers: 1. Esther 2. Elijah (1 Kings 18:46) 3. Jesus' baptism and transfiguration (Matthew 3:17, 17:5) 4. By his shunning of uncircumcised Gentiles (Galatians 2:11-21) 5. On Jesus (Hebrews 12:2)

Our Church Records

Church Attendance

Sunday, May 3	285
Sunday, May 10	233
Sunday, May 17	210
Sunday, May 24	185
Sunday, May 31	185

Communion Attendance

Sunday, May 3	162
Sunday, May 10	138
Sunday, May 17	136
Sunday, May 24	107
Sunday, May 31	117

New Member

Emily Johnson by Profession of Faith.

Baptism

Lilliana Joyce Ortiz daughter of Jose and Danille (Workman) Ortiz, on May 15, 2026, by Pastor Loder.



Hear the Good News of the Gospel on the Lutheran hour each Sunday at 9:00 am on KDUZ 1260 AM Radio.

During the month of June, you will hear the following topics:

June 7, 2026

"Peter's Restoration—and Ours"

Jesus forgives and restores us and He sends us out to offer this restoration to others, in His name.

John 21:1-19

June 14, 2026

"Journey Through Anxiety"

Anxiety is like a "Check Engine" light for the soul that leads us to take all our concerns to the Lord in prayer.

Matthew 6:25

June 21, 2026

"Journey Through Depression"

Depression can feel like being "stuck," but we are never truly alone. God meets us with His care and provision.

1 Kings 19:7

June 28, 2026

"Journey Through Ambition"

You don't have to worry about making a name for yourself. In Christ, God has already given you His.

Matthew 25:21



June: Dorothy Koosman (1), Vicky Glessing (2), Kelli Miller (2), April Koosman (3), Mark Drusch (5), Margaret Marketon (5), Dean Merges (5), Kimberly Helmbrecht (6), Jamie Remer (7), Jacob Zander (7), Darlene Kliche (8), Penny Miller (8), Tonya Whitton (8), Joel Koch (9), Stacey Smida (9), Shirley Diers (10), Justin Hassa (10), Dorothy Buttenhoff (12), Jeremy Peterson (12), Jeffrey Schmiege (12), Lesley Stueven (12), Blake Peterson (13), Kelly Salmela (13), Patricia Gabbert (14), John Lind (14), Max Kittock (15), Lynette Kleve (15), Luke Zander (16), Patty Diers (19), Rhea Hanifl (19), Jason Koch (20), Terry Ostgulen (20), Catherine Radintz (20), Tami Zander (20), Caleb Diers (21), Peter Radintz (22), Gavin Goranson (23), Macee Miller (23), Thomas Kittock (25), Layla Koosman (25), Alexander Stueven (25), Heather Zimmerman (25), Abigail Miller (26), Ian Davis (27), Joshua Diers (28), Laura Eckhoff (28), Carly Stueven (28), Declan Zillmar (28), Jonah Reich (29), Dellarae Brabec (30), Seena Glessing (30),



- 6/1 Wayne & Sharon Birkholz
- 6/1 Dennis & Rhonda Frey
- 6/4 Paul & Belinda Eklof
- 6/5 David & Lynn Burbank
- 6/6 Robin & Mary Jo Painschab
- 6/11 Justin & Sara Niesen
- 6/16 Kurt & Jodie Bobrowske
- 6/16 Barrett & Karen Kirchenwitz
- 6/16 Dean & Christine Koosman
- 6/17 Jack & Marlene George
- 6/20 Dale & Bonnie Engel
- 6/24 Jeremy & Christine Cardinal
- 6/28 Andrew & Belinda Estrem
- 6/29 Joseph & Bernice Pehl



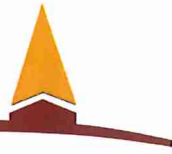
16 members and guests gathered for our May meeting. Marlene opened with devotion and Marge led the business meeting. Reports were read. Sonia reported on the LWML Spring Rally held April 11th at St. John's Buffalo noting the interesting speaker from Timber Bay Ministries. We were invited to a Prayer Service at Bethlehem May 7th 6:30 PM. A beautiful banner made by Marge was displayed that will go to the MN South District Convention June 18-20 in Mankato. We will also be donating a "Happy Mail Basket" for the Silent Auction. A motion was passed to give 4 \$100.00 offering at the convention to; Dakota Boys & Girls Ranch, Lutherans for Life, LWML MN South District Mission Grants and the Orphan Grain Train. St. James LWML will be hosting the October Fall Rally. May Birthdays were recognized and the Mite and Table prayer were read. We all enjoyed playing Plant Bingo created by Marlene with pretty plants as the prizes. Fellowship and refreshments ended our afternoon together. Vicar Hallock was our guest speaker on June 1st, look for more on his speech next month. We would love to have you join us at any of our meetings!!

Take time to smell the flowers, marvel at the mountains and contemplate God's love. Stop and consider God's wonder. Job 37:14

LCMS Worker Wellness

Do you know what a DCE is? DCE stands for director of Christian education. They serve as lifespan ("cradle to grave") Christian educators, who typically serve within congregations and their ministries. Through their leadership and service, they assist and support pastors as they teach faith to children, youth and adults. A DCE can become certified through several of the Concordia universities. June 26th is DCE Appreciation Day. If you have been blessed by the care and teaching of a DCE, June is a great month to reach out and show them your gratitude! Visit lcms.org/workerwellness for more details!

Monthly Financial Report



St. James Lutheran Church
Monthly Financial Summary
April 2026

	Year to Date	
	Actual	Budget
Receipts		
Offerings & Donations	574,673	460,650
Tuition & Other Receipts	283,078	252,296
Mission Receipts	7,328	10,875
Total Receipts	865,079	723,821
Expenses		
Salaries-Church & School	454,831	458,750
Benefits/Payroll/Taxes/Mileage	121,375	124,972
Administration & Program Expenses	72,962	56,539
Utilities/Maintenance & Repair	175,876	156,870
Mission Disbursements	2,000	1,312
Total Expenses	827,044	798,443
Net Receipts/Expenses	38,035	(74,622)

LCMS Stewardship Ministry

What Do You Want?

One of the best-known and most-beloved psalms is Psalm 23, the “Shepherd Psalm.” There we learn that the Lord is our Shepherd. And since He is our Shepherd, we will not want. We will not suffer want because the Lord, our Shepherd, will lead us to green pastures and beside still waters. In other words, the Lord, our Shepherd, will provide for all that we need in both body and soul.

Yet, we live as though this is not the case. We live as though we actually suffer from want, that the Lord, our Shepherd, will not provide for all that we need. And thus, we live as though the Lord is not our Shepherd. And that means that we live as though we are not the Lord’s sheep.

When do we live as though the Lord is not our Shepherd? When we put anything else before Him and

His provision for us. When we think that going to work is more important than receiving His gifts in church on Sunday (in violation of the First and Third Commandments). When we fail to give generously of the first fruits of what the Lord has provided for us because we don’t know what the future will bring (even though He has promised that He will lead us to green pastures and still waters).

We live as though we are not the Lord’s sheep when we think that the Lord is only in the business of helping those who will help themselves. We act this way because our minds are set on earthly, temporal things and not on heavenly, eternal things. We act this way because we have stopped hearing the call of our Shepherd, which comes through His Word.

Through the Word of God, the Shepherd calls us to Himself. Through the Word, the Holy Spirit gathers and enlightens us with His gifts. Through the Word, we are kept holy and nourished in the one true faith, the faith that follows our Shepherd wherever He leads us. He promises to lead us to our true home, to the land flowing with milk and honey, to a better country, not of this world, but a heavenly one.

And so, here’s the Good News: the Lord is your Shepherd, even and especially for wayward sheep. For Jesus seeks and saves those who are lost. He finds the lost sheep and carries them back to the fold. He is the Shepherd who lays down His life for His sheep. The Lord is your Shepherd. Let us live as His sheep

LCMS Family Ministry

“Because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved” (Romans 10:9).

“Jesus is Lord” may seem like a simple statement, and yet in it is the heart of what we believe. There are many accounts and doctrines in the Scriptures, and the creeds offer a simple explanation. Every time that we speak the Apostles’ Creed we are confessing what we believe and it is ingrained into our hearts. Everyone in your household can memorize this Creed. You can then say it as a part of your routine as you have devotions as an individual or as a family. Our faith is reinforced on Sundays when we speak the Creed with our church family and also each day in our homes in our devotions

School NEWS

Christ At The Center, Truth In All Things
WOW! The 2025-2026 school year has come to a close. Day by day, week by week, month by month the students have grown, academically, spiritually, and certainly physically, as well. For the teachers and staff, what a blessing to share that journey with them daily.

May was packed with activities starting on the 1st of the month with a track meet at Mayer Lutheran High for our 5-8 grade students. In the shot put, Allison Estrem placed 2nd and in the 100M dash, Oliver Nikko placed 4th for the 7-8 grade portion of the day. Tanner Koch placed 1st in both the 50M dash and 200M dash. The boys shuttle team placed 2nd and Owen Davis placed 6th in the 800M run. The girls shuttle team placed 5th. The girls 4x100M relay earned our girls 6th place. In the tug of war, our 5-6 graders took 1st place.

Grades 5 and 6 visited the Minnesota History Center on the 14th and enjoyed the WWII display and section on the history of mining in Minnesota the most.

We were blessed with fantastic weather for the K-4 field day on Friday, the 15th. It was great to see so many parents and grandparents able to come and enjoy the day with the children. Classes rotated between the various stations for jumping rope or hula hooping, triple jump, scoops toss, shoe kick, accuracy throw, chicken chucking (throwing a rubber chicken through a hula hoop). In the afternoon, the classes had the running races and the day culminated in a chapel family relay race.

On May 18th the third grade class visited Pioneer Park in Annandale learning how different a school day would have been during that time period. They could also tour replicas of some of the businesses at that time and what a typical home would have looked like. The jail cell was a big favorite for many of the kids.

May 19th was the "Moving Up" ceremony for the prekindergarten class. They went from their classroom downstairs, up to the kindergarten room where they received a balloon before heading to the cafeteria for the presentation of certificates. All the rest of the school classes lined the hallways to cheer them on.

The evening of the 19th our band students filled the gym with music. Many of the musicians had chosen to do solos, duets or trios, as well as the group pieces. For the final number, alumni of the St. James band and family of friends of band members who wished to joined in with the beginner and advanced bands. That brought the total to 48 musicians!! What a great asset that program is for our school.

Both kindergarten graduation and eighth grade graduation were held on the 21st. The kindergarten parents and grandparents saw a video of highlights from the past year and heard a little about each of the students before they received their diplomas.

St. James Alumna, Brooke Gabbert, was the guest speaker for the eighth graders, that evening. The Fruit of the Spirit Award was given to Lillian Doten. This award, voted on by students in grades 5-8 and staff members, is given to the eighth grader that has consistently shown the fruits of the Spirit to others. This year's class salutatorian was Logan Frich, and the valedictorian was Emma Cardinal. After diplomas were handed out, balloons were released and everyone enjoyed the refreshments provided by the seventh-grade parents.

Just as the year began by praising God in a chapel service, so the year ended in chapel praising God for His immeasurable blessings and trusting in His love and compassion for us.

The PTL served root beer floats as a final sendoff for a safe and fun summer.

“I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy, for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ; just as it is right for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart, inasmuch as both...in the defense and confirmation of the gospel, you all are partakers with me of grace. For God is my witness, how greatly I long for you all with the affection of Jesus Christ.

And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment, that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ, being filled with the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.” (Philippians 1:3-11)

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

As my vicarage comes to a close, I wanted to express my thankfulness for all of you. I don't think I can find better words to express my gratitude than the ones above from St. Paul. But here I'll supplement his words. Since the first day, you all have welcomed us into your lives. You've encouraged and supported us. You've helped us when we needed it and never hesitated to do so. Not only has it been a fruitful time learning how to be a pastor, but it's been a season where I've seen my family grow. You all have given us a community and friendship for which we will be forever grateful.

In a lot of ways, we weren't sure how vicarage would go. There are a lot of unknowns with vicarage. But you all loved us from the first day. You all made it feel like we had lived here our whole lives.

This year has been filled with so much joy. I have loved being able to teach and preach regularly in the church and school. The Lord has really used this congregation to sharpen my skills. I especially enjoyed teaching the students at the school. Seeing their personalities, energy, and gifts—watching them grow each week—brought me a lot of joy. My family and I have loved being involved in the various events and activities in the church with you all. We've enjoyed the many conversations and times of fellowship together.

And now our time is coming to an end. To be honest, it saddens us to have to leave. Know that we will

dearly miss you all and that we love you all. But even as we prepare to depart, there is still joy in knowing that we are all working together towards the same goal—the faithful proclamation of the Gospel to a sinful world. Wherever faith flourishes, whenever we gather at the altar, there we are united even from afar. That's the beauty of the Church, it transcends state lines and time zones. We are united still because Christ has made us one body in Holy Baptism. Please keep us in your prayers as we finish seminary and look forward to my first call. And thank you for everything that you've done. We are grateful more than words can express.

Your brother in Christ,
Vicar Hallock



SAVE THE DATE!! VBS August 3rd-6th from 9:00 AM to Noon. Watch for registration information. We need volunteers to help out with this, if interested please contact the church office.

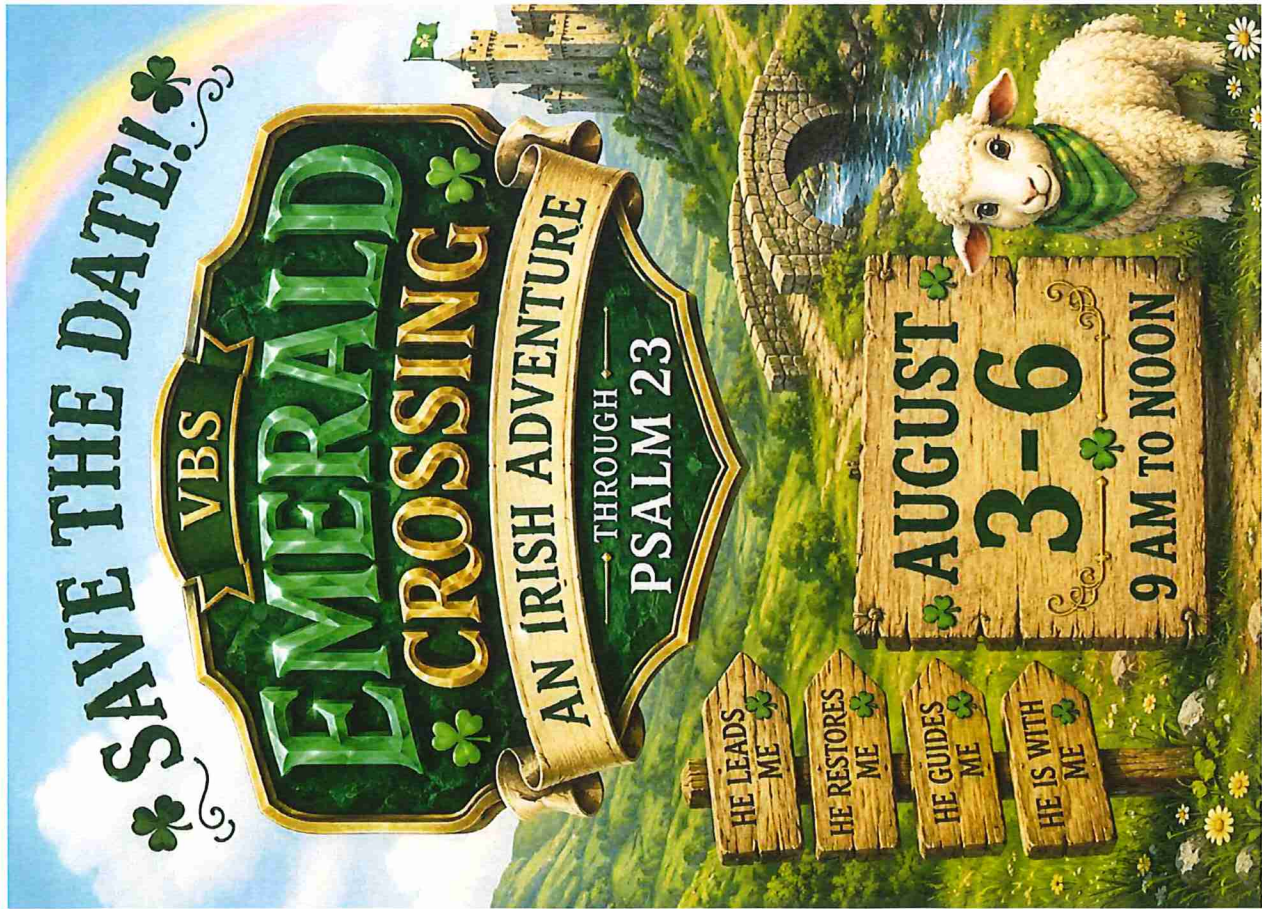
Service Planner

SEASON	DATE	LITURGY	PREACHER	ORGANIST	HYMNS	COMMUNION
TRINITY	May 31	The Holy Trinity	Is. 6:1-7	Psalms 29	Rom. 11:33-36	John 3:1-15 (16-17)
		DS III Pg. 184	Pastor	Molly	822, 940, 507	565, 907, 761
	June 7	First Sunday after Trinity	Gen. 15:1-6	Psalms 33:12-22	1 John 4:16-21	Luke 16:19-31
		DS IV Pg. 203	Pastor	Luke	905, 768, 918	637, 631, 643
	June 14	Second Sunday after Trinity	Prov. 9:1-10	Psalms 34:12-22	1 John 3:13-18 or Eph. 2:13-22	Luke 14:15-24
		DS IV Pg. 203	Vicar	Nancy	912, 510, 818	623, 622, 909
	June 21	Third Sunday after Trinity	Micah 7:18-20	Psalms 103:1-13	1 Tim. 1:12-17 or 1 Peter 5:6-11	Luke 15:1-10 or Luke 15:11-32
		DS IV Pg. 203	Pastor	Molly		
	June 28	Fourth Sunday after Trinity	Gen. 50:15-21	Psalms 138	Rom. 8:18-23 or Rom. 12:14-21	Luke 6:36-42
Vicar's Last Day		DS IV Pg. 203	Vicar	Nancy	760, 696, 851	845, 732, 643
	July 5	Fifth Sunday after Trinity	1 Kings 19:11-21	Psalms 16	1 Cor. 1:18-25 or 1 Peter 3:8-15	Luke 5:1-11
		DS IV Pg. 203	Pastor	Luke	904, 688, 964	633, 632
	July 12	Sixth Sunday after Trinity	Ex. 20:1-17	Psalms 19	Rom. 6:(1-2) 3-11	Matt. 5:(17-19) 20-26
	Rev. Preus	DS IV Pg. 203	Pastor	Molly		
	July 19	Seventh Sunday after Trinity	Gen. 2:7-17	Psalms 33:1-11	Rom. 6:19-23	Mark 8:1-9
	Rev. Queck	DS IV Pg. 203	Guest	Pastor at Convention Nancy	563, 565, 707	605, 579, 631
	July 26	Eighth Sunday after Trinity	Jer. 23:16-29	Psalms 26	Acts 20:27-38 or Rom. 8:12-17	Matt. 7:15-23
		DS IV Pg. 203	Pastor	Molly		
	Aug. 2	Ninth Sunday after Trinity	2 Sam. 22:26-34	Psalms 51:1-12	1 Cor. 10:6-13	Luke 16:1-9 (10-13)
		DS IV Pg. 203	Pastor	Luke	907, 730, 917	626, 636
	Aug. 9	Tenth Sunday after Trinity	Jer. 7:1-11 or Jer. 8:4-12	Psalms 92	1 Cor. 12:1-11 or Rom. 9:30-10:4	Luke 19:41-48
		DS IV Pg. 203	Pastor	Nancy	873, 644, 834	637, 540, 728
	Aug. 16	Eleventh Sunday after Trinity	Gen. 4:1-15	Psalms 50:7-23	Eph. 2:1-10 or 1 Cor. 15:1-10	Luke 18:9-14

June

2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 2:00 LWML	2	3 7:00 Women's Bible Study	4 9:00 Bible Study 9:30 HL Care Center 1:30 The Lodge	5	6
7 First Sunday of Trinity 9:00 Divine Service 10:15 Bible Study 5:00 Trustees Meeting	8 1:00 Naomi Guild	9	10 5:30 Catechesis 7:00 Women's Bible Study	11 9:00 Bible Study 10:30 Cokato Care Center	12	13 7:30 Iron Sharpening Irons Breakfast 9:00 Elders Meeting
14 Second Sunday of Trinity 9:00 Divine Service 10:15 Bible Study	15 7:00 School Board	16	17 5:30 Catechesis 7:00 Women's Bible Study	18 9:00 Bible Study 9:30 HL Care Center 1:30 The Lodge	19	20
21 Third Sunday of Trinity 9:00 Divine Service 10:15 Bible Study	22 7:00 Leadership Council	23	24 5:30 Catechesis 7:00 Women's Bible Study	25 9:00 Bible Study	26	27 9:00-12:00 Private Confession/ Absolution 4:00 Loder/Johnson Wedding
28 Fourth Sunday of Trinity 9:00 Divine Service 10:15 Bible Study 2:00 GND Parade	29	30				



Summer Blessings To:

St. James Lutheran Church and School
1000 Seventh Avenue – PO Box 680
Howard Lake, MN 55349

