

Zion Ev. Lutheran Church

Prairie Whispers Newsletter

May 2026
Volume 6, Issue 5



Just Dance

In 2008, a then little-known synth-pop artist by the name of Lady Gaga exploded onto the pop music scene with an unexpected mega hit, "Just dance." In the song she sings about all the problems she is having during a night of clubbing. She's lost her keys. She's lost her phone. She can't remember where she is? She can't even see straight anymore!

Now these are all real problems, but full disclosure here, I have never tried Lady Gaga's solution, which is "Just dance." Now I think we can all agree that dancing will solve none of these problems. So why would Lady Gaga tell us to do something so nonsensical? Well, I don't believe her advice is meant to solve her problems. I believe it is meant to distract her from even thinking about them.

Worldly music like that of Lady Gaga is little more than despair set to a killer hook. Dance, because you don't know where you come from or where you are going. Dance because you don't know who you are or why you are here. Dance because the world is a cruel and boring place, and there is nothing worth fighting for, nothing worth trusting. Dance, because in the end all you have is problems and no lasting answers.

The world dances, sings, and make music to distract themselves from their sin, the evil that plagues them, and the cold specter of death that lurks in every corner of this world. The world's music is the reveille of retreat as they run as far and as fast as they can before they must die and face judgment.

Now, don't think that this is some Puritanical rant about the evils of popular music or dancing. It isn't. Music is good. The Bible tells us so. Even dancing is good, for we are told that David danced before Lord and the Lord was pleased. What I am trying to point out to you is the vast chasm between the world's reason for making music and dancing and yours.

We too, at one time in our life, danced for the same reason the world did. I will even go so far as to say that he world is as eloquent as any believer, if not more, in describing the curse of sin and death that we all live under. We heard those foreboding footsteps of God chasing us down. We know the feeling of terror at our sin, and the desire to

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Confirmation

Zion welcomed five new communicant members on April 26 with a Rite of Communion service.

New confirmands are:

Maison Drexler, son of Deborah Drexler

Lewis Hahn, son of Isaac & Sara Hahn

Oliver Johnson, son of Lindsey & Naomi Johnson

Harley Kaskinen, son of Lyna Kaskinen

Marion Matzke, daughter of Benjamin & Leah Matzke

Ladies Guild

Women & men are invited for a special Mother's Day Program on Sat., May 2 at 1 pm at Zion.

The speaker will be Becca Backhaus of Austin, TX. She will present "An adoption love story about God getting us through the peaks and valleys of our lives even when things look tough." She was featured in the May 2024 issue of *Forward in Christ*.

Dessert and fellowship will follow the presentation.

Invitations have been sent to area congregations. A free-will offering will be collected to help with Becca's plane fare.

A sign-up sheet is available on the table in the Narthex to help prepare for the day.

do just about anything to avoid facing it. But all of us, sooner or later, will run out of room to run. We will find that the mess we make of our life is too much to bear, and it causes us to fall to our knees. We can still hear those heavy footsteps behind us, but in desperation we turn to face God, fully expecting our destruction. But what do we find? St. Paul tells us:

Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God!
How unsearchable are his judgments and how untraceable his ways!
"For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his adviser?"
"Or who has first given to God that he will be repaid?"

For from him and through him and to him are all things.
To him be the glory forever! Amen.

That is the difference between the song raised by the Christian and song raised by the unbeliever. We sing about our problems, but more importantly we sing in joy and hope and unfettered joy about the divine solution God presents us with in his son Christ Jesus.

From Romans 1:1 to Romans 11:32 – the entire vista of salvation history is presented to us. First, Paul shows us an unflinching portrait of our corruption and all the evil that flows from it. We see with crystal clarity that all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God, that the wages of sin is death. But then Paul shows us Christ, the sacrifice of atonement, that saves us from God's condemnation. Paul shows us the gift of faith, through which sinners receive this righteousness as their own and now may stand in the peace of God. Paul talks about the preaching the gospel in all the world, grafting people from every nation and tribe into the family of God, and all this God has planned out from before the beginning of time - And when he looks back to see all that God has done that I should be his own and live under him in his kingdom and serve him in everlasting righteousness, innocence and blessedness, Paul just loses it.

Grammatically, these verses are known as an anacoluthon, or non-sequitur. They don't follow what came before it or what Paul talks about after it. It is as if Paul is so overcome with the grace of God that he just starts writing a hymn in the middle of his letter. Christians are not afraid to sing, or dance, or write poetry, or exalt the heavens. We are not even afraid to make a fool out of ourselves in the eyes of the world. But we don't do this to distract ourselves, or to punctuate the dreariness of human existence. We do it because we can't help it. As one anonymous American hymnwriter put it,

*The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart
A fountain ever springing
All things are mine since I am His
How can I keep from singing*

We dance, because we do know where we come from and where we are going. We dance because we do know who we are and why we are here. We dance not to solve our problems or distract ourselves from them, but because he who has solved them now extends his hand to us, and with a smile invites us onto the dancefloor with the invitation, "Shall we?"

Amen.

Sunday School & OLS Update

With the end of Sunday School for this year on May 10, the Sunday School children will be sending the \$1,005.13 has been raised in support of the Obadiah Lutheran Synod (OLS) in Uganda. They will be including it in a care package that includes crafts made this year in Sunday School to our sister synod, telling them about the Gospel work we are doing in this country.

Prairie Lutheran School

Blessing to all from Prairie Lutheran Schools as we went speeding into April and the home stretch of another school year. March was a busy month and April is no exception.



The month began with Holy Week as we remember the suffering of our Savior. He suffered, He died, and He rose again for the forgiveness of all of our sins. He is sitting at the right hand of God watching over us as we say Hosanna!

By the time you read this newsletter, our students will have already performed a version of *The Little Mermaid*. They put in a grueling week of practice and came out on Friday like shining stars. Congratulations to our students and thank you, families and congregation members, for all of the support needed to get to that point. The Pre K - Kindergarten children started the performance with a short presentation. The week was a lot of hard work by many people on stage and behind the scenes.

The pulled pork meal before the performance was a big success. A big thank you to Brick House Meats in Gaylord for supplying the pulled pork and also to those who helped with the serving of the meal.

Hannah DeDeyne and Elizabeth DeDeyne participated in the spelling bee at Trinity Belle Plaine. Hannah took second place and Elizabeth took 7th place.

Grades 5-8 have the opportunity to watch the MVL play on April 30. We are so grateful for this experience to travel to see a performance by other students. MVL is providing busing to and from the performance.

The end of the month will have our grades 3 through 8 students taking the spring NWEA tests. This is a nationally normed test that shows a snapshot of where our students stand in regards to their peers on a nationwide test. We are looking for growth that our students have shown since we took the fall version of the test.

Another test coming up this year is the MVL Math Placement Test. This test will help the administration place the students in their proper math class as freshmen. All of our 8th grade Algebra students will be taking the test as a measurement of their level.

MVL Play

MVL Drama Presents

We're Crazy for You!

Get ready to tap your toes and fall in love with our spring musical. This high-energy romantic comedy follows Bobby Child, a New York banker with dreams of being a Broadway star. He is sent to a sleepy Nevada town to foreclose on a struggling theater. Instead, he finds himself falling head-over-heels for the spirited Polly Baker—and hatching a wild plan to save the theater with song, dance and a whole lot of mistaken identity!

Show dates are May 1 & 2 at 7 pm, May 3 at 2 pm. All performances are in the MVL Fine Arts Center. Tickets may be purchased at the door.

MVLHS

Prism

Concerts

The Minnesota Valley Lutheran High School Music Departments invites you to its annual Prism Concerts on Sat., May 9 at 5 pm or 8 pm .

These concerts highlight the individual talents of the students and makes for a fun evening of entertainment.

LWMS

Our Minnesota Valley Circuit of the Lutheran Womens Missionary Society Spring Rally was held at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Owatonna, co-hosted by St. John/St. Claire on April 11.

Our keynote address was from Pastor John Holtz, speaking on native American Christians.

93 people attended and the plate offering was \$1,485. The offerings accepted from our Zion collection and sent to our district office was \$623.

Mission voted on for this year for Home Missions is "WELS Campus Ministry" and for World Missions is "Native American Missions.

The International Convention is "Cast Out Your Nets" and will be held in Madison, WI, June 25-28, 2026. To register, go to lwms.org. Information is available from the website or from our reporter, Janet Lind.

Fall Rally will be October 3, 2026 hosted by St. Paul's Lutheran, Jordan, MN.

eGiving

Go to zionwinthrop.com, look under Give and follow the links or text the dollar amount to 844-999-0914 or through the Vanco Mobile app on your cell phone.

May will be a totally crazy month. Listed below are the events are currently on the calendar. Please keep in mind that this list is subject to change.

Upcoming Events (stay tuned for more details as the dates approach)

- May 1 - St. John - Redwood Invitational Track Meet @ Redwood Valley HS
- May 7 - 4th Grade Move-up Day
- May 8 - SLC Conference Track Meet @ Redwood Valley HS
- May 11 - Track & Field Day @ Upper Site
- May 12 - 5th & 6th grade field trip
- May 12 - 7th & 8th Golf Day
- May 13 - Mount Olive Invitational Softball Tournament
- May 15 - Lower Site Field Trip to Children's Museum of Southern MN & Minneopa State Park
- May 18 - Fort Day @ Fort Ridgley
- May 19 - Makeup Day for Fort Day
- May 20 - 8th Grade Graduation and Awards Night
- May 22 - Upper Site Last Day Field Trip and last day of school.

Mr. Jeff Seehafer

God's Treasures Report

God's Treasures Director's Report - April 9, 2026

Director's Report - April 9, 2026 On March 18, Zion voters extended a call to Molly Berg to serve as our Preschool Transition (3 year) teacher. She has since returned that call to us and there are no other candidates available, at this time, for another call meeting. The next step is submitting an MLC graduate request to the Assignment Committee as we have done a few other times. While we wait for another pool of teachers to graduate at MLC in the next five weeks, we continue our search for assistant teachers and follow up on leads. Assistant teachers generally have at least an associate's degree in any field OR a child development associate certificate AND previous experience working with children in a formal setting such as a school or childcare. Having the right staffing resources is one prayer I'd appreciate you asking for on our behalf.

Zion hosted a pork chop dinner along with a silent auction in March. Out of 189 pork chops we had about 9 remaining. We really couldn't have asked for a better turnout from our congregation and community supporters. The volunteers did an amazing job coordinating the event and showing their love for Christ through their acts of service. It was an enjoyable event, which raised nearly \$6,500. All proceeds went to our operating fund.

Our Parent Aware work is approximately 90% complete. We met the March 31 deadline for our 71-page portfolio submission. In addition, the teachers collectively completed approximately 120 hours of continuing

education in various early childhood categories. The final step will come in the next 1-2 months when observers will visit one of our preschool classrooms and grade us using the CLASS observation tool which has shown to improve interactions and child outcomes. If everything continues to go as planned, we will have a 3-star rating by July 1. Make sure to thank the teachers for their focus on this project on top of their classroom responsibilities. This was an important next step as we continue to grow and develop into a high-quality childcare center.

We held an Easter party on Easter Monday for our students. We dyed eggs, had an easter egg hunt, colored resurrection-themed pages, and explored an Easter sensory bin. The focus was on Jesus and his empty tomb as we celebrated and gave Him all the glory!

I know that my Redeemer lives, and that at the end of time he will stand over the dust. Then, even after my skin has been destroyed, nevertheless, in my own flesh I will see God. I myself will see him. My own eyes will see him, and not as a stranger. My emotions are in turmoil within me. Job 19:25-27

Enrollment:

49 total enrolled (includes drop-ins), 37 PT/FT enrolled, 8 prospects

Looking ahead:

Prep kitchen inspection this month.

Prep for our annual licensing visit which we anticipate to occur by June.

Solidify summer staffing

Blessings in Christ,
Adam Schmidt, God's Treasures Director

April Council Meeting

Zion Ev. Lutheran Church Council Meeting April 16, 2026

Meeting was called to order by President Ken Opitz

Additions to the Agenda

MLC scholarship

GT scholarship

Secretary's Minutes

March minutes approved as written

Pastor's Report

Food, Fellowship, and Fire summer bible study start in mid May

May 9- Youth cleanup day

Youth will collect money after church to replenish fund for youth rally

Youth and their parents will do yard work and cleaning

Sunday school raised over \$1,000 for Uganda Church

No Easter for Kids this year

Evangelism Committee will meet in May to discuss other

Lutheran Pioneers

Registration is now open for the Girls Camp 2026 on June 11-13 at Flandreau State Park, New Ulm. It has a "Stay Sweet" theme based on Galatians 5:22-23. Register at www.facebook.com/events/1590087661708732/ or go to <https://forms.gle/rQmFgIpRznV9L4g6>

This year's schedule is:

June 18: 2 pm Hummingbird Park, Historical Museum, Henderson

June 18: Sunbeam Day Camp, St. Peter Lutheran Church

July 3: Patriotic Pie Social, Gibbon City Park

July 26-August 1: Girls' National Camp, Crivitz, WI

Ladies Salad Supper

Bring a friend and join the St. John & Emanuel Ladies Spring Supper on Tuesday, May 5 at PLS All-Purpose Room, 15 2nd St. NE, Fairfax at 5:45 pm.

Renee Wendinger will present, "They Called Them Orphan Trains." Books will be available for purchase.

OWLS

Meeting

The local MN Valley Chapter 13 OWLS (Organization of WELS Lutheran Seniors) will be meeting at St. John's Lutheran Church, New Ulm, on Mon., May 11.

Fellowship begins at 11:30 am, a Subway meal at noon, and a devotion at 12:45 pm.

The meal cost is covered by Thrivent Action Team moneys. If you have not already signed up, contact Myron Fluegge at 507-359-2424 or email: flueggemtj@hotmail.com by Wed., noon, May 6 for a meal count.

Following the meal, we will travel to the New Ulm Cemetery for a "Lutheran Cemetery Walking Tour" by Wayne Wagner. Headsets will be available. Hope you can make it.

Mowing the Lawn

Volunteers are needed for weekly lawn mowing at Zion. Contact Charlie Hoffman for questions.

spring options

Treasurer's Report

End of March balance \$13,808.46
Received \$5,000 from Trust Fund for small projects
Still behind on PLS, MVL, CMO, and MVL
PLS is the most behind
Missed 2 Services of offerings due to weather cancellation
Report approved subject to audit

Elders Report

Communion Assists are complete

Board of Education

PLS

New Janitor will be chosen at next meeting
There have been some verbal inquiries regarding Kindergarten Aid position
Purchased lockers at GFW auction
Sewer issues at Fairfax site, getting bids to repair pipes

MVL

Pastor has completed his term
Accreditation is next year
Working on 5 yr plan with Grace in Action

God's Treasures

Discussed creating scholarship from Zion Church
Available to parents if they complete Bible information Classes with Pastor
Motion to form exploratory committee to determine details of a GT scholarship from Zion.
Motion carried. Committee will look into fundraising for scholarship, conditions of scholarship, and how it would be offered to parents

Voters would need to approve at annual meeting

Board of Trustees

Edwin Woller donated \$5,000
Evolve Landscaping project north of parsonage garage submitted bill for materials of \$280
Ceiling tiles were purchased to repair water damage \$118
Water fountain cost \$785, Ken can install it in hallway.
Motion passed for Charlie to purchase fountain
May 9 cleaning day for youth and parents 8:30 am start
Glaeser Painting- refinish windows after April 26
Lawnmower schedule is posted
Check with M. Matzke re: concrete sidewalk project date

Trust Fund

\$5,000 transferred for small projects
\$8,063 for 1st quarter 2026
Leske/Trebellhorn Scholarship for those going to college
MLC scholarship
MLC will match congregational contributions up

to \$1,750 per student
Endowment Committee should come up with requirements for Biermann scholarship by May 15 in order to take advantage of MLC Match for Seth Schmidt
Motion: Council recommends \$1,750 from Biermann Trust to MLC on behalf of Seth Schmidt
Motion carried

New Business

Next meeting May 21

Lindsey Johnson, Council Secretary

Decision Letter

March 31, 2026

Dear Brothers and Sisters of Zion Lutheran Church,

It has been such a privilege to learn about your ministry and get to know some of the wonderful people who serve here. The last few weeks have been filled with prayerful reflection on the call you extended to me. I had the opportunity to talk with several people and gather some insight into how my gifts could be used. It is through this process that the Lord has led me to decline the call to serve as a teacher at your Child Care Center and remain at Holy Trinity in New Home, MN.

I thank everyone for their time in answering my questions and for the phone conversations with fellow Christians. I will continue to pray for your congregation as you wait for your new teacher. I am confident that the Lord will supply you with the best person for this position.

In Christ, Molly Berg

121 Ministries HS Event

Purpose -

Provide a Christian-based environment for the high-school-aged kids within the areas surrounding New Ulm, and provide MLC students with an opportunity to use and refine their gifts for ministry before call day.

Event Schedule -

1. Arrival
2. Group games
3. Worship (songs led by MLC students)

Treasure Haus Update

A noteworthy milestone was observed at our Treasure Haus' annual meeting.

Our MVL association members' support for MVL has passed the \$2 million mark. Over the past forty years, this support has been shown in multiple ways: volunteering time, donating monetarily and with materials, helping to relocate, serving on the Board, and promoting our mission.

Our Board thanks all of your members for the multiple ways they have contributed. Join us in asking God to bless the Treasure Haus as we aid MVL's mission "to assist families in training students for Christian lives on earth and in Heaven."

Youth camp

For students entering grades 4-9 next year. Campers enjoy a week of nature and faith, unplugged from technology. Sessions run June 21-August 8. Spots are filling fast, so register soon to secure a week! Sign up: campcroix.org/youth-bible-camp

Bethany Summer Camps

Bethany Lutheran College, Mankato offers summer camps for many sports and the arts.

Learn more and register at blc.edu/camps.

Camps begin in June and are from K-12 grade.

Flowers for the Altar

Would you like to put flowers on the altar in 2026? If so, they would be appreciated.

Please talk to the people in charge for that month. Their names are on the flower chart, which is located on the wall across from the offices. The monthly information can also be found on the back of the monthly calendar.

4. Sermon by student (approved by Professor Paustian)
5. Age-based discussion groups (led by MLC students)
6. Final song
7. Pickup

Possible Questions

How long are these events?

We're shooting for about 2 hours from 4-6 pm on a Sunday.

Who is able to come?

Our main demographic is high school students and we are also encouraging 8th graders to come to this event since it is at the end of the year and they will be high schoolers in the new school year.

Is dinner provided?

For this first event there will be pizza and drinks provided. We aren't exactly sure what this will look like going forward but our goal is to at least provide a snack for future events.

Where would the event take place?

Worship would take place in the MLC auditorium, and small group sessions would take place in the surrounding classrooms. Group games could potentially take place outside or in the gym.

Will there be more events like this?

We're hosting a launch event on May 3rd. We will not be having any events through the summer but will aim for at least monthly events at the start of next school year.

What does leadership look like?

A student-led committee chosen with help from faculty advisors is helping to lead worship, guide small group discussion, and forge relationships with the high schoolers. These student leaders are people from each class on campus who demonstrate spiritual maturity and a gift for Christ-centered leadership among their peers.

Is there security?

Yes, MLC security will be on duty during our events to ensure that high schoolers don't get lost and get home safe.

Why the name "121 Ministries"?

When thinking of names for this event we wanted it to incorporate the fact that MLC is on a hill above the city of New Ulm. 121 comes from Psalm 121, "I lift my eyes up to the hills, where does my help come from?" We want to encourage high school students to look to the Lord for their guidance instead of the world around them.

Why should I send my high school student to this event?

This event creates a unique opportunity for teenagers to make their faith their own and grow with their fellow peers. They

New Devotional Commentary on Numbers!

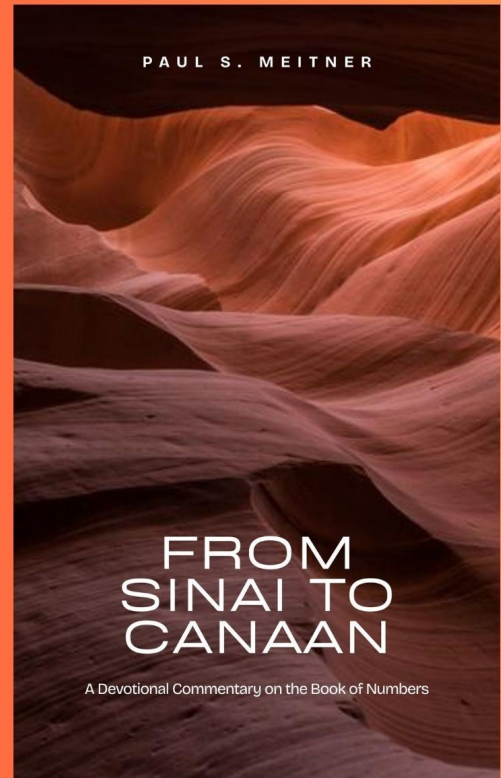
Numbers is a journey through the desert.

- In the desert, God called his people, Israel, away from sin and toward the promises of Christ...
- In the desert, Israel is taught to fix her eyes on Jesus and walk the path that the Lord had marked out for her...
- In the desert, Israel sees both her sin in all its damning perversity and God's grace in all its gorgeous sweetness...
- In the desert, the church learns to follow Christ's footprints to the Promised Land...

Journey with Moses and the Israelites in this new, devotional commentary and find your path through the desert into the Promised Land.



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will also be surrounded by college students that are studying for public ministry and will get to see people close to their age living out their faith. More exposure to the Word is never a bad thing.

I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow.

1 Corinthians 3:6-7

Food, Fire & Fellowship

The very popular Food, Fire & Fellowship potluck bible study, that takes place on the patio behind the Parsonage will begin Tuesday, May 12. Potluck and Fellowship begins at 5 pm with the Bible Study starting at 6 pm. As always, the Fellowship Hall will be the back-up site for weather concerns.

Syttende Mai Smor- gasbord

All are invited to the Syttende Mai Smorgasbord on Saturday, May 16 at Norseland Lutheran Church (37777 MN-22, St. Peter, MN 56082) from 4-7 pm.

Features are Meatballs, Potatoes, Herring, Baked Beans, Potato Salad, Lefse, Fresh Fruit, Breada, Rommegrot, Rice Pudding, Yiftas, and Norwegian Cookies.

Prices are:

Adults \$20.00
Children 6-12 \$8.00
5 & under are free.

Norseland Lutheran Church is handicap accessible and is located approximately 8 miles NW of St. Peter on State Highway 22.

Counters needed

Counters for the weekly offering are needed for June to December. The job has been simplified and training is available. Signups are on the table in the Narthex.

Evangelism Committee to meet

The Zion Evangelism Committee welcomes new people to their meetings to brainstorm for future events.

The next meeting of this ad hoc committee will be Monday, May 4 at 6 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

March Profit and Loss

Revenue

General Fund Income **\$32,134.46**

Expenditures

Building Upkeep:

Electricity	446.97
Heat	1,490.23
Insurance	1,518.80
Maint. & Repair	1,125.02
Snow Removal	832.50
Umbrella Insurance	50.00
Total Building Upkeep	\$5,463.52

Christian Education:

MVLHS	1,275.00
Prairie Lutheran	10,013.41
Total Christian Education	\$11,288.41

Facilities Expenses:

Copier, Cmptr purch/Maint	652.60
Postage & Fees	1.90
Telephone, Internet	76.27
Waste Disposal	65.20
Total Facilities Expense	\$795.97

For Our Worship:

Bulletins	44.37
Offering Envelopes & Fees	36.12
Total For Our Worship	80.49

Missions

CMO	\$1,667.00
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Those Who Serve Us:

Janitorial fees	112.50
Organist fees	300.00
Secretary's wage (partial)	1,000.50
Housing	1,153.84
Pastor Housing Equity	90.30
Pastor Health Insurance	3,094.00
Pastor Mileage	761.66
Pastor Salary with SECA Reim.	3,332.56
Payroll Expenses	59.00
Soc Sec./Medi Match Tax Expense	78.74

Workman's Comp.	<u>\$122.80</u>
Total Those Who Serve Us	\$10,105.90
Total General Expenses:	\$29,401.59
Net Operating Revenue	\$2,733.17
<u>Trust Fund Transfer</u>	<u>\$5,000.00</u>
Net Operating Revenue	\$7,733.17*

(*Note: A cash basis is used for our accounting, meaning that this report only shows cash in and cash out. It does not show what we owe, as we are behind on PLS payments. Please pray for Zion.)

May Events

- May 1- 8:30 pm Pastor at PLS
7 pm MVL Musical
- May 2 - 7 pm MVL Musical
- May 3 - 2 pm MVL Musical
- May 4 - 6 pm Evangelism Mtg.
- May 5—Cinco de Mayo
8:30 am Pastor at PLS
10 am God's Treasures (GT) Chapel
5:45 pm Ladies Salad Supper at PLS Fairfax
- May 7—8:30 am Pastor at PLS
- May 8—8:30 am Pastor at PLS
- May 9—8:30 am Youth Clean-up Day
5 pm MVL Prism Concert
8 pm MVL Prism Concert
- May 10—Mother's Day
9 am Final Sunday School
- May 12—8:30 am Pastor at PLS
5-7 pm Food, Fire & Fellowship (FFF) potluck bible study
- May 14—8:30 am Pastor at PLS
6 pm GT meeting
7 pm Ascension Day Service with Communion
- May 15—8:30 am Pastor at PLS
7:30 pm MLC Commencement Concert
- May 16—10 am MLC Commencement
4-7 pm Syttende Mai Smorgasbord, Norseland Lutheran Church

- May 18—6:30 pm MVL Meeting
- May 19—8:30 am Pastor at PLS
5-7 pm FFF potluck bible study
- May 20—10:30 am The Lodge service with Communion
6:30 pm PLS Graduation at St. John, Fairfax
- May 21- Deadliner for June Calendar/Newsletter
6 pm Elders meet
7 pm Council meets
- May 22—Last School Day at PLS
2 pm Kindergarten Graduation at PLS Gibbon
- May 24—**Summer Schedule Begins:**
8 am—Bible Study
9 am—Worship (Pentecost)
2 pm—MVL Graduation
- May 25—Memorial Day
- May 26—10 am GT Chapel
5-7 pm FFF potluck bible study
- May 27—Treasure Haus Day in New Ulm -help needed!
- May 31—8 am Bible Study
9 am Worship with Communion (The Holy Trinity)

Camp Croix

Spring Cleanup Day - May 9: Help us get camp ready for the season! Work starts at 9pm and lunch is provided at 1pm, come whenever you can! Stay a night or two for free as a thank you and see the progress on our new Ministry Center. We need your help! RSVP: campcroix.org/cleanup

Light of the World College Retreat - May 29-31: For ages 18-26, even if you aren't enrolled in college. Join Pastor Brad Snyder for "Though he slay me, I will hope in Him," a study on the book of Job and finding hope. Enjoy a weekend of worship, reflection, and fellowship. Register: campcroix.org/college-retreat

VBS, Church Picnic

Vacation Bible School is being planned for the first week of June. Watch for future updates.

The annual Church Picnic is planned for Sunday, June 7 at 10 am on the grounds of God's Treasures Childcare Learning Center.

Please, remember to bring a lawn chair and a dish to pass for the potluck that follows the service.

Fellowship Hall Rental

To rent the Fellowship Hall and kitchen for family events, please contact Louise at the office for availability. It is on a first-come, first-serve basis, with church events, like funerals taking precedence.

Cost per day is \$35 for members, payable in advance and signing a form with the rules. Non-members must have council approval and have a different rate.

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