



God Bless America

DEVOTIONS: One God for All People

“Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us; to Him be glory in the church by Jesus Christ to all generations forever and ever, Amen.”

-Ephesians 3: 20, 21 (NKJR)

I was looking at some family history papers and saw that my Great-Great Grandfather was born in Washington D.C. in the 1850's. I wonder if his grandparents were in that area in 1776. Its exciting to know we are all Americans. My family was Methodist down through the years; dedicated christians, I understand. I know you don't have to be born in America to be American. But I'm proud. Many relatives down through those years were Veterans.

The genealogy of God's chosen people is written in the Bible. Jesus' family is given to us so we can know where His earthly family came from. Though our names are not written here, as christians, we know our family and where we belong.

For many who don't know their earthly family history or maybe not even know their birth name, God has a special love in His heart for you. He's known you since birth and loves you completely. He wants your love and devotion. Jesus will never leave you.

While we celebrate our country's history, remember to give God thanks for it all. We're here because He wants it that way.

God bless the USA.

- Sue Piotrowski

LOOKING AHEAD

AUGUST

- Sun. Aug. 2 reg. sch/Guest Carolyn Schneider, Guyana Missionary: pick-up in Eau Claire Aug. 1st, & overnight host
Mon. Aug. 3 8:30a/SC Comforters Quilting
Wed. Aug. 5 5-7p Parent's Night Out VBS/Riverside Park
Mon. Aug. 9 reg. sch.
Mon. Aug. 10 8:30a/SC Comforters Quilting
Sun. Aug. 16 reg. sch./Higher Vision Music Guests
Mon. Aug. 17 8:30a/sc Comforters Quilting
Sun. Aug. 23 reg. sch./Speaker: Carol Anderson
Mon. Aug. 24 8:30a/SC Comforters Quilting
Sun. Aug. 30 reg. sch./Speaker: John Loy
Mon. Aug. 31 8:30a/SC Comforters Quilting

SEPTEMBER

- Sun. Sept. 6 reg. sch
Mon. Sept 7 Labor Day/Church closed
Sun. Sept. 13 reg. sch/Sunday school begins
Mon. Sept 14 8:30a/SC Comforters Quilting
Sun. Sept. 20 reg. sch
Mon. Sept 21 8:30a/SC Comforters Quilting
7p/PC Church Council Meeting
Sun. Sept. 27 reg. sch
Mon. Sept 28 8:30a/SC Comforters Quilting

OCTOBER

- Sun. Oct. 4 reg. sch/Guest Speaker: David Natzke
Mon. Oct. 5 8:30a/SC Comforters Quilting
Sun. Oct. 11 reg. sch/Guest Speaker: David Natzke
Mon. Oct. 12 8:30a/SC Comforters Quilting
Sun. Oct. 18 reg. sch
Mon. Oct. 19 8:30a/SC Comforters Quilting
Sun. Oct. 25 reg. sch
Mon. Oct. 26 8:30a/SC Comforters Quilting

NOVEMBER

- Sun. Nov. 1 reg. sch
Mon. Nov. 2 8:30a/SC Comforters Quilting
Sun. Nov. 8 reg. sch
Mon. Nov. 9 8:30a/SC Comforters Quilting
Sun. Nov. 15 reg. sch
Mon. Nov. 16 8:30a/SC Comforters Quilting
Sun. Nov. 22 reg. sch/Guest Speaker: David Natzke
Mon. Nov. 23 8:30a/SC Comforters Quilting
Wed. Nov.25 6p/SC Thanksgiving Eve Worship
Sun. Nov. 29 reg. sch/Guest Speaker: David Natzke
1st Sunday in Advent; New Church Year

IN OUR PRAYERS (Please update church office after 2 weeks)

Sharon Lien, Wayne Christopherson

Barron Care/Rehab: Bev Miller, Richard Misselt

Bloomer Dove: Sandy Timm

Monroe Manor/Barron: Astrid & Boydean Sannes, Gary Hanson

Military: Capt. David E. Dahl, Jacob Messinger, Jarita Roux

Community Care: For pastoral visit/call, or to join our visitation team, contact church office, Joyce Gilbert or Pr. Michael.

New Hope Lutheran Council Meeting Minutes

(Draft pending approval)

Monday, May 18, 2026 / Pine Creek Site

PRESENT: Pr. Michael Sparby, Mark Gilberts, Lon Christopherson, Vern Ellefson, Lou Ann Gilberts, Roger Paulson, Becky Schnacky, Linda Bilodeau, Bonnie Halberg, Ben Neilsen
ALSO PRESENT: Joe Bilodeau

ABSENT: Jerry Loftus, Mary Peterson, Pat Bechard, Joyce Gilberts, Jesse Buhr, Samantha Goodremote, Kristi Welle

CALL TO ORDER: 7p by Council President, Linda Bilodeau

OPENING PRAYER: Pr. Michael Sparby

SECRETARY'S REPORT: M/S/C (Ben Neilsen/Becky Schnacky) approve March 23, 2026 minutes as printed.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

*Parish balance 5/18/26 = \$18,457.74 — down \$4,000 from same time last year. Memorial Sav. balance = \$45,000. \$8,000 Staff Fd. established in this acct. with savings from Pastor's half time status.

PASTOR'S REPORT: Printed copy disbursed.

*Thanksgiving Eve: 5p dinner/6p worship (*Packer Game*)?

*Joe Bilodeau booking "*Higher Vision*" music for future service.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PROPERTY/MANAGEMENT

Pine Creek Site: Septic needs pumped this summer.

Sand Creek Site:

- * Fix squeaky sanctuary fan(s) with scissor lift to reach 35 ft.
- * Shed door fixed.
- * 1 sanctuary air cond. unit not working; obsolete for repair.

WORSHIP/MUSIC

*Thank you Mark & Roger for getting plants/flowers. Pastor will get Pentecost Geraniums; Lou Ann & Becky S will plant.

OUTREACH *Ongoing Acts of Kindness*

- *Joyce Gilberts is covering all homebound/nursing home visits.
- *Suggested church project—roadside cleanup?
- *Sign at Myron Park to inform campers of our worship schedule?

FAMILY ED

*Resume "Parent's Night Out" combined with VBS this summer?

OLD BUSINESS

- *PC site raised \$1,613 for church defibrillator to order. If needed, additional funds might be used from Esther Wright Fund.
- *PC Site dinner at Ridgeland Farmer's Market Tues., July 21(4-7p)

NEW BUSINESS

- *Vision Task Force: "*Engaging Children Initiative*"— our application declined; not enough spots available. Carol Anderson & Robbie Jo Ellefson were willing to lead.
- *Guest preacher Sunday, May 31st: *Rev. Nathan Aaseng*
- *Directory Committee meets this summer to plan our own digital resource which can be printed. Families may submit their own photos to church office or Roger Paulson will photograph. Details forthcoming.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: None

NEXT MEETING: Monday, July 27, 2026 / SC Site

ADJOURN: 7:36p M/S/C (*Mark Gilberts/Ben Neilsen*)

-Bonnie Halberg, Council Sec.

FINANCIAL REPORT: May 2026

Detailed reports are available in the office upon request

General Checking Balance 5/31/26	\$ 9,792.73
Revenue	
Unrestricted Offering	\$ 10,001.08
Restricted Benevolence, Mission, Other	\$ 4,196.12
Total Income	\$ 14,197.20
Expenditures	\$ 18,259.83

Year-to-Date 2026

Unrestricted Offering	\$ 80,761.73
Restricted Benevolence, Mission, Other	\$ 15,152.67
Total Income	\$ 95,914.40
Expenditures	\$ 92,583.82

2026 Noisy Offerings/Mission

JAN	Missionary Support	\$ 385.36
FEB	Malawi Sister Synod	480.42
MAR	Luther Park Camperships	558.90
APR	Project Comfort (Ships Quilts/Kits) SC W/ELCA \$527.58 PC W/ELCA \$142.76	670.34
MAY	Lutheran Disaster Response	785.61
JUNE	Kafika Orthopedic House in Tanzania	50.00 +
JULY	Local Food Shelves (5)	

Chetek Food Shelf thanks you for your donation through Rice Lake Community Health Foundation matching fund drive. It comes in times of great need with increasing costs. Our community is so fortunate to have organizations, such as yours, caring for our neighbors. On behalf of those who benefit from your thoughtfulness, thank you again! -June 16, 2026

Thank you for your financial support!

Offerings are received at our

- *Pine Creek site offering plate (8:30a worship)
- *Sand Creek site offering boxes (10a worship)
- *Website: www.newhopescpc.org
- *Post mail: Po Bx 85, Sand Creek, WI 54765

Pine Creek Site W/ELCA

Meeting: 9:30a, Sunday, July 5th

Hosts: *Annette Mason/Jane Koonce*

Sand Creek Site W/ELCA

July NO-Bake Sale: Envelopes are in the narthex to enclose a \$ donation (cost to bake something) for mission projects.

Offering Received: Monday, July 13th

Sophia Circle: NO July meeting

July Stewardship: School Kits Encourage Learning

- 4 spiral notebooks (70 sheets wide/college rule; no loose paper)
- 1 ruler w/cm. & in. 1 pencil sharpener 1 blunt scissors
- 1 2 1/2 in. eraser 1 box 16 or 24 crayons
- 5 unsharpened #2 pencils w/erasers secured in rubber band
- 5 ballpoint pens (no gel) secured in rubber band
- 1 sturdy drawstring backpack-style bag 14" x 17" w/shoulder straps (heavy cotton, canvas, denim, or twill)
- \$1.40** Shipping

June 2026

Dear friends & partners in mission,

I start this letter with a confession: I love church history. I call it a confession because over the years, I've learned it's not normal. Many people tell me they can't stand history. So, as a teacher, one strategy I developed to make it more interesting is to take students to the places where their history happened. Today, my Lutheran Lay Academy Church History class traveled by boat to the place where their church, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana, began.

In 1743 at a small Dutch trading town on the Berbice River next to Fort Nassau, a group of Dutch Lutheran merchants and planters had permission to establish a church of the unaltered Augsburg Confession in Guyana, although they didn't receive their first pastor until almost 10 years later. In 1754, they constructed their first church building, now nearly overtaken by greenery.

A massive slave revolt in 1763 caused inhabitants of Fort Nassau to flee. As they fled, they destroyed everything behind them but the church. The Lutherans moved to the town of New Amsterdam, where the Berbice River runs into the Atlantic Ocean, and later floated their church building down river to reconstruct it at its present location. (In the 1960s, the old building was demolished; replaced with a new A-frame church.)

When able, the congregation had pastors from the Lutheran Church in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, but there were long stretches of time when they had no pastor. They called their first Guyanese Lutheran pastor in 1878, although he wasn't quite Lutheran when called. He was a Congregationalist minister. The Lutherans sent him to neighboring Suriname for the Lutheran pastor there to teach him Lutheran doctrine and confirm him before sending him back to Guyana to take up his call.

His name was John Robert Mittelholzer, who served the church for 35 years, far longer than any previous pastor. During his time, the congregation's first name: Ebenezer, became a mother as Rev. Mittelholzer traveled along the Berbice River to minister to Indigenous peoples and those of African descent who lived among them, and establish Lutheran congregations, assisted by catechists. It was with Rev. Mittelholzer that the Lutheran Church in Guyana became a fully English-speaking church and began to form a relationship with the Lutheran church in the U.S., specifically, with the East Pennsylvania Synod of the General Synod (long before mergers formed the ELCA). When Rev. Mittelholzer died in 1913, Ebenezer asked if the East Pennsylvania Synod could send them a pastor, as the Lutheran church in Amsterdam used to do.

Instead of simply receiving pastors from the U.S, however, the Lutheran Church in Guyana ceased to be independent and came under the administration of the Board of Foreign Missions of the General Synod. It was during this time of American administration that the Lutheran Church in Guyana began ministry with Indian immigrants who came to Guyana to work on sugar and rice plantations as indentured laborers. The ministry was carried out by Indian catechists, and the result was opening new congregations of Indian Lutherans in areas near New Amsterdam. It was only in the 1940s that the Lutheran Church spread to the capital city of Georgetown, and from there, all across the Atlantic coast of Guyana, reaching a peak of 53 congregations (about 20 now closed). In 1966, the Lutheran Church in Guyana once again became independent and self-governing, although it still received funding from the Lutheran Church in America's Board of World Mission. It was the same year the country of Guyana became independent of Great Britain.

At that time, the Lutheran Church in Guyana joined an ecumenical effort to open the United Theological College of the West Indies in Jamaica, so their pastors could be trained in a Caribbean context instead of having to go to the U.S. or Great Britain. But, as the Board of World Mission began reducing its subsidies so Lutheran Church in Guyana could become self sufficient, cost of sending students even to Jamaica became prohibitive.

Resulting shortage of pastors for the Lutheran Church in Guyana meant the church had to think about ministry in new ways. One initiative was the establishment of the Lutheran Lay Academy (LLA) in 2005 to develop lay leadership in congregations. The LLA was not able to stay open during the COVID pandemic. I was called here in 2024 to help the church restart it with a firm footing so it can stay open for years to come. Students prepare for service as lay ministers, deacons and pastors. The four who accompanied me to Fort Nassau are preparing to be pastors. During our visit where their church began, they shared how excited they are to serve that church in a way to help it grow in faith and love. It was a good church history day!

Rev. Dr. Carolyn Schneider
Lutheran Identity Professor + Pastoral Ministry Advisor
ELCA in partnership with Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana
Email: carolyn.schneider@elca.org



1st church overtaken by greenery



Old Ebenezer Lutheran Church in New Amsterdam (source: <https://elcGuyana.org/>)



Source of photo: Paul B. Beatty, Jr., A History of the Lutheran Church in Guyana (Skeldon, Berbice: 1970), 65.



In front of a map of Fort Nassau remains, (left-right) Abiola Henry, Nalini Benjamin, Me, Shelon Bruce, Bevon Cummings. Photo by Mr. Rackish Gladstone, our boatman, from Brothers Boat Service.

New Hope Lutheran Church

E9085 County Road V
PO BX 85

Sand Creek, WI 54765

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



to receive the "Trumpet" via email or our website, please update the church office.



Tuesday, July 21st: 4-7p / Ridgeland Park

New Hope Lutheran-Pine Creek Supper

Pulled chicken sandwiches, coleslaw, calico beans, cookies/bars, water/coffee or grilled hot dog plate. Free-will donation.

*5-7p Live Music by Rich Schroeder

New Hope Council 2026

President: Linda Bilodeau
Secretary: Bonnie Halberg

Vice President: Joyce Gilberts
Treasurer: Mark Gilberts

Family Education

Jesse Buhr	715-781-1860	lacey.buhr@gmail.com
Samantha Goodremote	715-765-2209	sgoodremote@gmail.com
Kristi Welle	715-658-2303	kristi_welle@yahoo.com
Ben Neilsen	715-704-1135	benneilsen9@gmail.com

Property/Management

Mark Gilberts	847-650-9364	mark.gilberts4@gmail.com
Jerry Loftus	715-456-2163	lofty1@chibardun.net
Lon Christopherson	715-319-1224	londo@chibardun.net
Vern Ellefson	715-418-1408	vernon.ellefson.ve@gmail.com

Outreach

Pat Bechard	715-658-1014	paanbe@yahoo.com
Bonnie Halberg	715-237-2429	halbergs@citizens-tel.net
Joyce Gilberts	715-933-4747	jlg@citizens-tel.net
Linda Bilodeau	715-458-2479	lbilodeau992@gmail.com

Worship/Music

Roger Paulson	651-343-8877	roger.a.paulson@gmail.com
Lou Ann Gilberts	715-658-1317	louanngilberts@hotmail.com
Becky Schnacky	612-812-6233	beckyschnacky658@gmail.com
Mary Peterson	715-308-9593	grammypete718@yahoo.com



A welcoming community of faith inspired by God's grace to love, grow & serve.

Pastor Michael D Sparby 715-764-9779
Office Hours 9am-1pm 715-658-1470
Pine Creek Church 715-949-1750
Sand Creek Church
Website: www.newhopescpc.org

nhpastor@chibardun.net
newhope@chibardun.net
E6698 Cty Rd V, Ridgeland
E9085 Cty Rd V, Sand Creek
Like us on Facebook!

WORSHIP

8:30 am/Pine Creek 9:20a Coffee Fellowship + Sunday school
10 am/Sand Creek 9:20a Coffee Fellowship
Sunday school during worship (Sept.—May)

Telephone Ministry 1-534-444-4300

FREE Live stream <http://newhope.listentochurch.com>

YouTube Link to View Streamed Services

New Hope on the Creeks

New Hope Lutheran Church of Sand Creek & Pine Creek

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgsG8Jl-RdcnKSnFI48DyO>

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3 <i>Office Closed</i>	4
5 8:30a PC Worship 9:20a Fellowship-both sites 9:30a PC W/ELCA SC: <i>Sophia Circle</i> 10a SC Worship	6 8:30a/SC Comforters	7 7p/SC AA	8 5-7p/SC <i>Riverside Ark in the Park: Parents Night Out VBS</i>	9	10 <i>Office Closed</i>	11 12p/SC <i>Geraldine LaGesse Funeral 10a-12p visit</i>
12 8:30a PC Worship 9:20a Fellowship-both sites SC: <i>Sophia Circle</i> 10a SC Worship	13 8:30a/SC Comforters W/ELCA offering	14 7p/SC AA	15 Newsletter articles due	16 NO Sophia Circle *No-Bake Sale	17 <i>Office Closed</i>	18
19 (1 Worship) 10a/SC <i>Memorial Park</i> 9:20a Coffee Fellowship <i>Hosted by Men's Group</i> 11a/SC <i>Riverside Park</i> SCFD <i>Chicken BBQ</i>	20 8:30a/SC Comforters	21 4-7p/Ridgeland Park PC Supper 7p/SC AA	22 5-7p/SC <i>Riverside Ark in the Park: Parents Night Out VBS</i>	23	24 <i>Office Closed</i>	25
26 8:30a PC Worship 9:20a Fellowship-both sites SC: <i>Eve Circle</i> 10a SC Worship	27 7p/SC <i>Council</i> 8:30a/SC Comforters	28 7p/SC AA	29	30	31 <i>Office Closed</i>	

Date	Lectors	SC Communion	SC Hospitality (Council)	Altar Guild
5	PC Robbie Jo Ellefson SC Doris Tallman	Carol Anderson	1st Sun.: Lou Ann Gilberts / Becky Schnacky	PC: Annette Mason
12	PC Kathy Christopherson SC Natalie Ellefson	Lou Ann Gilberts	2nd Sun.: Mark Gilberts Ben Neilsen/Samantha Goodremote	SC (July/August) Cathy Davis
19	Worship in the Park ?	NO Communion	3rd Sun.: Kristi Welle / Roger Paulson	Debbie Paulson
26	PC Pat Bechard SC Bonnie Halberg	Lana Anderson	4th Sun.: Joyce Gilberts / Bonnie Halberg 5th Sun.: Jesse Buhr / Jerry Loftus	



America at 250: Holding gratitude and humility

Dear church,

Looking toward the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, many of us will celebrate with fireworks, parades and barbecues. Independence Day often brings us together with family and friends. Yet there is more that connects us than our communal celebrations. We are also connected through a common vision.

Signed in 1776, the Declaration of Independence proclaims a vision of equality for all people. While there were other nations pushing for equality at the time, the declaration was and is a monumental document in the way it names the aspiration so boldly. As we observe and celebrate the 250th anniversary of that signing, we also affirm the vision of freedom and equality it casts. We can be grateful.

And with contrition and humility, we acknowledge all the ways we've failed to embody that vision. As members of this church, we are called to "pray, participate in, and advocate for civic life in the U.S. that reflects God's activity and call, which seek both the well-being of all people and a creation marked by justice and peace" (ELCA social statement *Faith and Civic Life*, p. 89).

As Lutherans, we know the importance of naming realities for what they are. As citizens, we confess the ways we've not yet realized the vision of the Declaration of Independence and, more importantly, as Christians we confess the ways we've participated in or been complicit in failures to live into the vision God provides. This vision is rooted in creation and redemption. God crafts each person in God's own image and sends Jesus Christ to redeem us, setting us free to follow Christ's new commandment to love one another.

United States history is complex, and all too often we've fallen short of our stated values. Indigenous peoples across this land have been forced to cede their ancestral homes and pushed to reservations. Women and men have been prevented from voting because of their sex and race; spat on and jailed when demanded their rights. Japanese American families were interned during World War II. Queer and transgender people's lives are obstructed by federal and state orders.

There's a photograph of Elizabeth Eckford, one nine Black teenagers who integrated Little Rock Central High School in Little Rock, Ark., in 1957. Books under her arm, she faces forward as angry white people crowd behind her. She was just trying to go to school.

Holding both failures and vision in our hearts and minds, I invite us to ask ourselves, "What does it mean to celebrate a promise that is real and yet still unfolding? What does it mean to be a people who always live in 'the already but not yet'?" This is a central question for us not only as we mark the anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence but also in our daily lives as people of faith. The prophets repeatedly remind us of the vision God casts for all of creation, and they call us to account when, as God's own people, we fall short.

We remember we are rooted in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. We think, speak and live out faith through God's future. God's future is resurrection. As a church, we are turned not only to the past but to the future God is making possible right now through us as we love and serve others.

As Lutheran Christians, we believe that God calls us to:

- Remember our connection to each other through baptism, as Scripture teaches us: "We, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another" (*Romans 12:5*).
- Name sin for what it really is and to repent of it, as the Augsburg Confession and catechisms remind us.
- Serve the common good in society as "earthly measures toward God's intention" (*Faith and Civic Life*, p. 11).

As we celebrate 250 years of the Declaration of Independence, we can hold gratitude and humility, possibilities and shortcomings. We continue to live in the already and the not-yet. And we hold fast to the most important promise of all: the presence of God with us, the power of the resurrection of Christ, the accompaniment of the Holy Spirit and the ever-unfolding grace of God.

We celebrate this occasion neither as a perfect nation nor as a perfect church but as a people held in God's grace and called into community in service to all neighbors and for the sake of the world God so loves.

In Christ,

Rev. Yehiel Curry, Presiding Bishop (ELCA)



About the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America:

The ELCA is one of the largest Christian denominations in the U.S., with 2.7 million members in more than 8,400 worshiping communities across the 50 states and in the Caribbean region. Known as the church of "God's work. Our hands.," the ELCA emphasizes the saving grace of God through faith in Jesus Christ, unity among Christians and service in the world. The ELCA's roots are in the writings of the German church reformer Martin Luther.



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America