



the Wine

Summer Edition | 2026

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the Vine

The quarterly journal of RED HILL LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. -John 15:5

Dear Red Hill Family and Friends,

Believe it or not, summer is here! Longer days, warmer weather, and hopefully some time for you to rest and relax! Our hope and prayer is that you will continue to deepen your love for, and obedience to, our Heavenly Father, never forgetting that...

"He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength. 30 Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; 31 but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint." (ISAIAH 40.29-31)

Summer or winter, rain or shine, God promises His peace and strength in our lives. What an incredible hope we have!

In this issue of The Vine, we take a look back on the past few months, as well as forward through the summer. Our core ministries continue throughout the summer months, providing you and your family opportunities to worship, study, pray, connect, and care for others at your church.

I hope you have a restful, blessed, and fun summer! You will be in my prayers!

In Jesus' love,
Pastor Seth




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Fourth of July

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Summer: Rest and Rejuvenation

By Pastor Seth Britton

I love the summer. Not just because of vacations, warmer days, kids home, a little slower pace, and the like, but also because summer reminds us that our lives must include times of rest: stopping, delighting in our lives and relationships, and times of recreation. Think about that one word, “recreation.” Times of recreation are times of *re-creation*. We set aside moments to “*re-create*” ourselves.

Life at times is hard, fast-paced, and relentless! (Do I hear an amen?) Before we know it, we are going so fast, working so hard, moving so quickly, we can forget why we are here in this world and what it all means to truly live life God’s way. In fact, God knew that His creatures would consistently fall into the trap of “relentless hurry,” finding themselves living a “treadmill way of life:” running fast but not getting anywhere!

Early in scripture, in the very first book, Genesis, we hear that after six days of creating, God rested. *Genesis 2.2* says...

And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done.

Hmmm...God “rested.” Was God “tired?” No, the “rest” signified that God stopped His creative work. God accomplished what He had planned to do at that point. Now, it was time to enjoy His creation and His children! This enjoyment is exactly what God desires for us! So much so, that God commands a Sabbath day every week!

“Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. ⁹Six days you shall labor and do all your work, ¹⁰but the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your male or female servant, nor your animals, nor any foreigner residing in your towns. ¹¹For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy. (Exodus 20.8-11)

The Hebrew word, Sabbath (pronounced in Hebrew, *Shabbat*), means “To cease, to stop working.” This Sabbath rest was to be a twenty-four hour period each week where the child of God could relax, refresh, and *re-create*. It is a weekly reminder that God is on the throne and the world will keep going even if I stop doing all my “stuff.” The Sabbath is a weekly reminder that all we have: our families, jobs, friends, abilities, homes, bodies—everything is from the hand of a gracious God and our God will continually care for us. When we neglect the Sabbath, not only can we miss opportunities to fully enjoy the gifts that God gives, we also have the tendency to forget the Giver of those gifts!

Let me say right now: I am “chief among sinners.” Years ago, a book title caught my eye that continues to be a constant refrain in my life: “*When I Relax, I Feel Guilty!*” I feel there is always more to do, people to see, and tasks to accomplish—and there is! I get caught constantly thinking about what’s next. Pete Scazzero, author and founder of *Emotionally Healthy Discipleship*, writing to clergy-types like me, said this:

We (Christians in general, pastors in particular) are overscheduled, tense, addicted to hurry, frantic, preoccupied, and starved for time. Cramming as much as possible into our... to-do lists, we battle to make the best use of every spare minute we have. We end our days exhausted from ministry and the endless needs of our churches.

Why do we tend to fall into this way of living? Why do we run and run, falling into what one commentator referred to as, “the tyranny of the urgent?” There are many reasons that we could list. I will offer two: one is cultural and the other personal.

The Culture

Do I have to say that we live in an ever changing, fast-paced culture? Author and physician Richard Swenson, has written about the nature of our ever-changing culture and the human (particularly biological) response to such change. One of the current realities that Dr. Swenson cites is that the rate of change is

“unprecedented and destabilizing.” According to Dr. Swenson,

There’s been more change in the 20th century than the previous five-thousand years of recorded history. Yet there’ll be a thousand times more change in this century than the last. This comes as no surprise, but that doesn’t mean we’re ready to cope with its consequences. Alvin Toffler, in the 1970 bestselling *Future Shock*, predicted the greatest problem of the future would be the astounding acceleration in the rate of change. Historian Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr., wrote: “Nothing defines our age more than the furious and relentless increase in the rate of change.” While change can be a wonderful gift, it also triggers stress. At today’s levels, change is not only stressful but widely destabilizing.¹

As the world changes around us we tend to feel scattered, confused, and afraid, or to use Swenson’s word, *destabilized*. This feeling of destabilization can lead us to try to keep up with all the changes, shifts, and challenges of the culture or it can lead us to acknowledge that our creator God has set limits within our lives; we can only do so much, we only have so much time, energy, and resources. Sabbath is the acknowledgement, even celebration of, our limits as human beings. In his latest book, *In Search of Balance*, Richard Swenson believes,

The hunger of our day is not for inner-demon-driven, all-stress-all-the-time, switching-focus-at-lightening-speed, constant-rebalancing workaholism—we already have literally millions of twitching rascals with prodigious productivity... We have enough stuff, we have enough speed, we have plenty of progress, and we especially have a superabundance of *more*. But will you permit me to inquire about the status of our truth, love, faith, relationships, health, joy, depth, and peace? What corridor do we choose if we wish to rediscover the green pastures and still waters?²

Busyness and change, destabilization and stress, these four words aptly describe our external environment. However, in the midst of this ever-changing, fast-paced (and getting faster) culture, Swenson’s questions are important ones: what about the status of our lives? Why do we so easily succumb to the tyranny of the urgent? Some of the reasons are *inside* of us.

The Personal

While we find ourselves in a hurry-up culture, we also bring into the mix our own attitudes and expectations. Many of these attitudes and expectations come from our family of origin. I know a man who grew up in a chaotic home where, as a result of his dad’s alcoholism, the family increasingly faced financial crisis after crisis. Consequently, this man grew up with (and still struggles with) the fear of losing what he has. He is driven to work and succeed, which is not a bad motivation, but he never feels financially secure (even though he does very well financially). His life is characterized by constant worry, stress, and irritability, constant conflicts with his spouse and children, and high blood pressure. Is this what God wants for us? No! The way forward is an ancient way—the way of Sabbath.

The summer season is an annual reminder of an inherent spiritual truth: we need regular rest and peace. This is why God commands the Sabbath. The Sabbath is stronger than our culture and personal attitudes. The gift of Sabbath is the invitation to stop, rest, and delight, it is God’s way of assuring us that He is in charge and we belong to Him—no matter what!

God created us in love for love—to love our Lord and one another. To work and rest. As Christians, our lives should be characterized by peace and hope, not hurry and frenzied activity. Again, Scazzero writes,

One of the keys to our freedom is a rediscovery of Sabbath-keeping, a radical, countercultural, essential spiritual formation practice for us as pastors. The Sabbath was always a hallmark of the Jews for over 3500 years. This one act, perhaps more than any other, protected them from the pressure of the powerful cultures that sought to assimilate them. It refers to doing nothing related to work for a twenty-four hour period each week. God worked. We are to

¹ Dr. Richard A. Swenson. <http://www.richardswenson.org/article.html?Pa=6>

² Dr. Richard Swenson, *In Search of Balance*. (Colorado Springs, Colorado: NavPress, 2010), 22.

work. God rested. We are to rest.... Before the Israelites entered the Promised Land, Moses proclaimed further that the very act of ceasing from work in the midst of all the surrounding nations was a sign of their liberation by God (see Deuteronomy 5:13ff)... As one theologian stated, "To fail to see the value of simply being with God and 'doing nothing' is to miss the heart of Christianity."

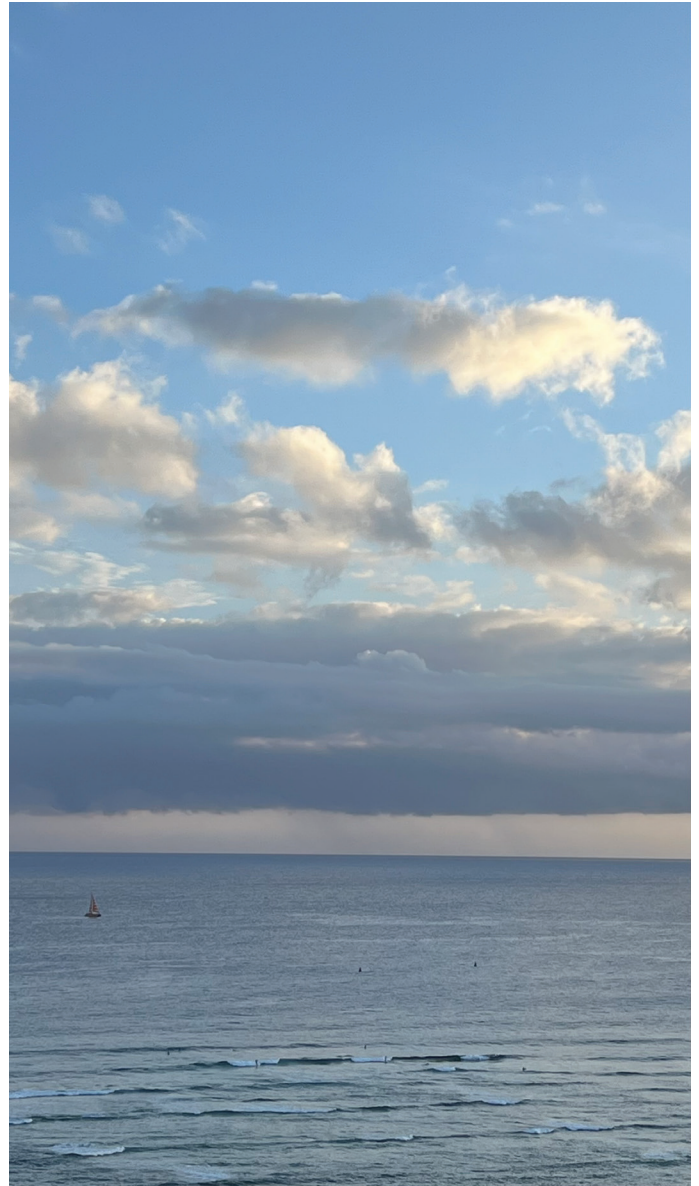
The truth is that unless we intentionally create space to hear God's still, small voice, to pray to Him and focus on the reason we were created, we will run from one thing to the next, attempting to fill the inner vacuum with everything but the *only thing*—the love of God. This is why the Sabbath day is usually the day of corporate worship for Christians; we gather together with our brothers and sisters in Christ to celebrate that God is God, this is His world, and we are His people. Through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus we are a redeemed and reconciled community of faith. Through worship, music, Word and Sacrament, prayer and praise, we are reminded that God has a plan for our lives that no one can destroy—not the culture, not our fears or frustrations, not even the devil himself! This truth alone can slow us down enough to delight in our lives at this moment.

The Sabbath is a time to take an inventory of our lives as disciples of Jesus. I like these four questions posed by Chuck Swindoll:

- * Am I really happy, genuinely challenged and fulfilled in life?
- * In light of eternity, am I making a consistent investment for God's glory and His cause?
- * Is the direction my life is now taking leading me toward a satisfying and meaningful future?
- * Can I honestly say that I am in the nucleus of God's will for me?³

How would you answer these questions? The answers will be shaped by a life lived in the sure and certain hope of God's love, mercy, and power.

I hope you have a wonderful, delightful summer. Get some rest, *re-create*, renew, worship, and never forget how much you are valued by your Heavenly Father. We love you too!



³ Charles Swindoll. *Growing Strong in the Seasons of Life*. (Oregon: Multnomah Press, 1983).

Finding Community This Summer

By Stephanie McArthur, Executive Director of Ministries

As we move into the summer months, there is something deeply needed in our world today that often gets overlooked in the busyness of schedules, vacations, sports, work, and endless obligations: community. We live in a culture that is more connected digitally than ever before, yet many people still feel isolated, exhausted, and unseen. Summer can easily become another season of rushing from one commitment to the next without ever slowing down enough to truly know and be known by others, or a season of silently isolating ourselves because our connection points aren't the same as they were.

Yet Scripture continually reminds us that we were never created to walk through life alone.

Throughout the New Testament, the Church is described not as individuals scattered independently, but as a body, connected, interdependent, and gathered around Christ. Community is not simply a nice addition to the Christian life, or one more obligation to fulfill, it is a gift to God's people.

The difficult truth is that left to ourselves, we often drift toward isolation, self-reliance, comparison, and performance. We convince ourselves that we are "too busy," "too tired," or somehow "not enough" to step into deeper relationships. God's Word exposes how easy it is for us to turn inward rather than towards those around us.

The truth of God's Word, the promise of the Gospel, reminds us that in Christ, we are already fully known and fully loved. We do not gather in community because we have our lives perfectly together. We gather because Christ has gathered us first. Through His grace, He creates a people who can encourage one another, carry burdens together, pray for one another, laugh together, and remind each other of the promises of God when life happens, the joys, and the sorrows.

This summer at Red Hill we have several opportunities intentionally designed to help foster that kind of Christ-centered community.

On June 20th, men ages 13 and older are invited to our Men's Breakfast. Beginning with a hearty breakfast of bacon, eggs, and coffee, the morning is designed to create space for fellowship, mentorship, and meaningful conversation. Kevin McArthur will share his testimony and reflect on how the twists, challenges, and unexpected obstacles of life, much like the adventures of Indiana Jones, became the very things God used to shape his faith and calling. In a world where many men silently carry pressure, responsibility, and loneliness, gatherings like this remind us that faith was never meant to be lived alone.

Additionally, on July 18th, women are invited to our Half-Day Women's Retreat centered around the theme "Blameless" where we will explore the freeing truth

that being blameless does not mean pretending we never struggle, rather, it means Christ's righteousness is greater than our failures. So many women today carry enormous pressure to perform, achieve, hold everything together, and appear "good enough." This retreat is an opportunity to step away from that striving and rest in the grace of Christ

alongside other women walking the same journey.

Both of these events point us back to the same truth: Christian community is not built on perfection; it is built on grace.

In community, we remind one another that our identity is not found in achievement, appearances, success, or performance. Our identity is found in Christ alone. We gather around meals, conversations, worship, prayer, and shared stories because God uses ordinary moments to strengthen faith and care for His people.

This summer, I encourage you not to simply attend church, but to lean into community. Sit at the table. Join the conversation. Meet someone new. Share your story. Allow others to walk alongside you.

Because one of God's greatest gifts is reminding us that we do not carry life alone.



Planting Seeds for the Future: The Red Hill Lutheran Church and School Endowment Fund

At Red Hill Lutheran Church and School, we are blessed to be part of a faith community built on generations of devotion, service, and generosity. As we continue to grow in ministry, we are also called to look ahead to ensure that our mission remains strong for those who will follow. The Endowment Fund is one important way we answer that call.

The Endowment Fund is a lasting financial foundation created to support the church and school's mission beyond today. Gifts to the fund are invested with care, allowing the principal to remain intact while a portion of the earnings is used to support meaningful ministries each year. In this way, each contribution becomes an ongoing blessing, helping sustain and expand the work of the church and school over time.

Through the Endowment Fund, Red Hill Lutheran Church and School can support outreach efforts, enhance worship and education, maintain and improve facilities, and respond to new opportunities for ministry. It allows us to think beyond immediate needs and invest in the future with faith and confidence.

Scripture reminds us of the importance of this kind of faithful stewardship: *"The plans of the diligent lead surely to abundance, but everyone who is hasty comes only to poverty."* — Proverbs 21:5

This verse speaks to the value of thoughtful, intentional planning, something the Endowment Fund embodies. By preparing today, we help ensure that the church and school continue to thrive and serve for generations to come.

Many gifts to the Endowment Fund come through planned giving, such as bequests or estate plans. These gifts are a powerful way to leave a legacy of faith, one that continues to nurture lives long after we are gone. However, participation is not limited to long-term planning. One-time gifts, memorial contributions, and ongoing support all play a vital role in growing the fund.

If you feel called to be part of this lasting mission, we invite you to learn more. Members of the Endowment Committee are available to answer questions and help you explore, giving options that align with your intentions and values.

As we move forward together, the Endowment Fund stands as a sign of hope, an investment in faith, a commitment to future generations, and a testament to God's ongoing work through this community.

Together, we are planting seeds today that will grow into blessings for tomorrow.

Please contact us at the following email address: endowment@redhillchurch.org.



“Wednesdays in the Word.”
Wednesday Morning Bible Study
“The Book of Jonah”

Teacher: Pastor Seth

Wednesdays 7:00am to 7:45am in the Sanctuary (In person, Livestreamed and Recorded).

Mention the book of Jonah and most people will say “the whale story.” However, the book of Jonah is much more than that! The book of Jonah reflects a deep, theological focus on God’s sovereignty as well as His mercy. As a Prophet, God commands Jonah to call to repentance one of Israel’s ancient enemies: Nineveh. Rejecting his divine appointment, Jonah angrily flees from God and through his “running away” from God, Jonah discovers that God is more faithful, merciful, and graceful than Jonah ever knew and could hope for!

You are welcome to join us for this verse-by-verse study in the book of Jonah. As always, this study is also livestreamed as well as recorded and posted on our website so that you can participate at any time! Bring your Bibles, bring your questions and bring your desire to learn more about Jesus and His plan for you. You are always welcome!



Summer Sermon Series 2026
Summer PSALMS

Red Hill Lutheran School Graduation Season

Graduations were celebrated at Red Hill Lutheran School closing out the 2025-2026 school year. On Wednesday, May 27th 54 proud Kindergartener's celebrated having successfully completed their studies in Kindergarten and were promoted to be 1st graders for the 2026-27 school year. Sr. Pastor Seth Britton delivered the message for these students, parents, grandparents and friends. And then the RHLS three Kindergarten Teachers presented each student with their certificate of promotion to 1st grade.



On Thursday morning, May 28th, Eighth Grade Graduation of the 65th Graduating class from Red Hill Lutheran School was held. Thirty-one 8th Grade Graduates were celebrated and honored.





Sixty eight percent of this year's graduates (21 students) plan to continue their Christian Education at one of our local Christian High Schools. Fifty eight percent, (18 students) plan to attend either Crean Lutheran or Orange Lutheran High Schools

68% Christian Private HS. 32% Public HS.

26% (8) Crean Lutheran

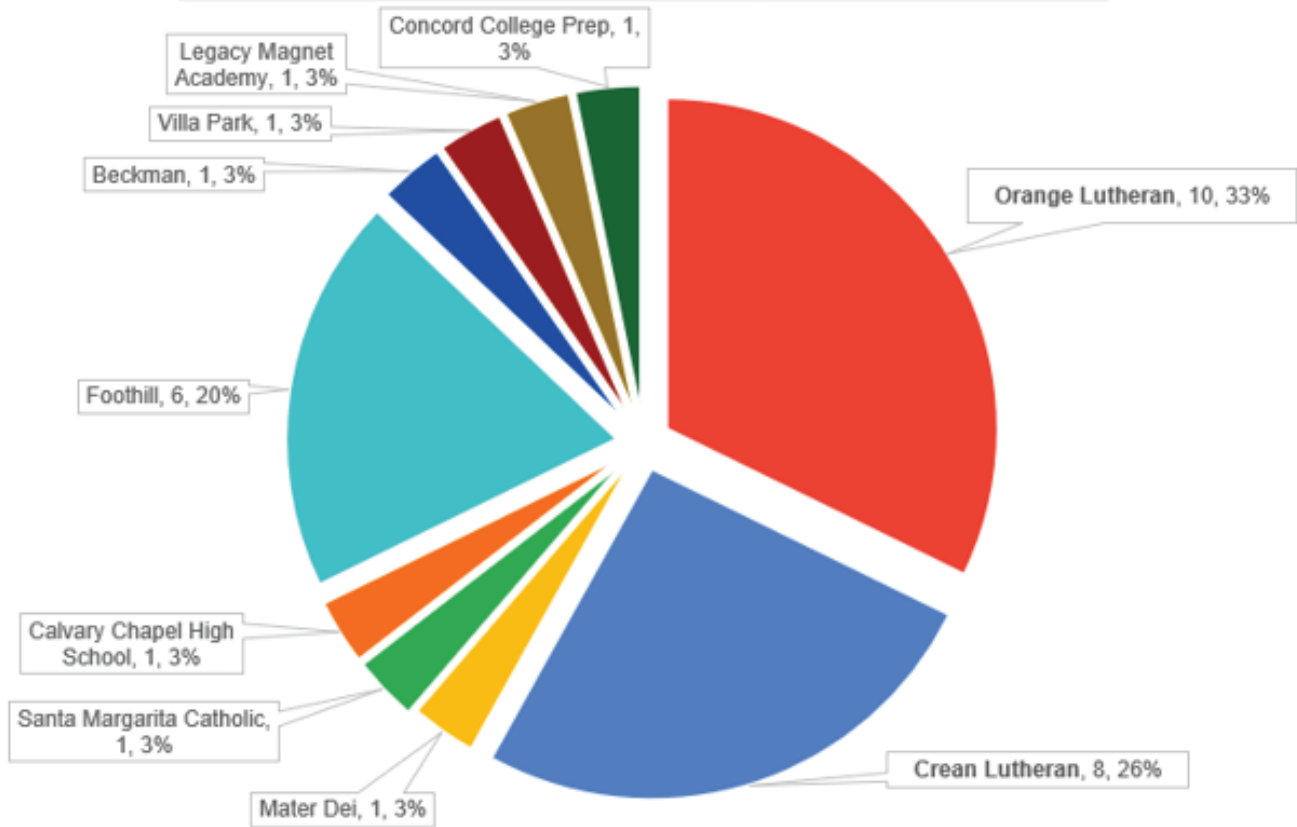
33% (10) Orange Lutheran

20% (6) Foothill

2-7% (1-3) others: Tustin, Beckman, Mater Dei, Santa Margarita Catholic, Calvary Chapel, Villa Park, Legacy Magnet Academy, and Concord College Prep.

See pie-chart below.

2026 RHLS Graduates (31 students) - High School Plans



2026 RHLS Graduates High Schools

31 students graduating

18/31 - 58% Lutheran H.S.'s

21/31 - 68% Christian H.S.'s

Orange Lutheran	10
Crean Lutheran	8
Mater Dei	1
Santa Margarita Catholic	1
Calvary Chapel HS	1
Foothill HS	6
Beckman	1
Villa Park	1
Legacy Magnet Academy	1
Concord College Prep	1
Total Graduates (2026)	31

Faith and Family

By Alyssa Gibbons

One of the greatest joys for our family this year has been helping start a small group for young families at Red Hill. In this season of life — raising two young children amidst busy schedules, late nights, joyful milestones, and all the beautiful chaos in between — my husband, Chris, and I felt a deep desire to create space for families to slow down, build meaningful relationships, and experience Christ-centered community.

Red Hill has been deeply woven into my life, as well as my family's lives, for more than 25 years. While my mom served as principal, I attended school here from 2nd through 8th grade, went through Confirmation, and in my adult life Pastor Seth married us, baptized both our children, and has shepherded us through moments of deep loss and great joy. Even during the years we lived in Los Angeles, Red Hill always remained home to us — a place that continually pointed us to Jesus and the steady reminder that we are known and loved.

Much of the heart behind starting this group was shaped during our newlywed years in Los Angeles, where we were part of a small group for five years. In a city where it is not always easy to plant roots, that church community became such a gift to us. We gathered around dinner tables, prayed for one another, celebrated joyful moments, and carried each other through difficult seasons. Through the simple rhythm of showing up week after week, those friendships became deeply rooted and helped shape the foundation of our marriage.

Some of the most meaningful spiritual growth in our lives did not happen in big moments, but in ordinary ones — shared meals, honest conversations, prayers offered in living rooms, and the comfort of knowing we do not have to walk through life alone. It gave us a

glimpse of the kind of Biblical community the church is meant to reflect: people caring for one another, bearing burdens together, and encouraging each other in faith and everyday life.

As we entered parenthood ourselves, we began to feel a growing desire to help create and be a part of that same kind of community for other young families at Red Hill. Parenting is such a joyful and meaningful season, but it can also feel overwhelming and isolating at times. Between work, school schedules, bedtime routines, and the pace of everyday life, it is easy to feel disconnected

even while surrounded by people. Our hope for this group has simply been to create a place where families feel welcomed, encouraged, supported, and truly known.

Starting this group also felt like a meaningful way to give back to the church family that has poured so much into our lives over the years. Our prayer moving forward is that this group continues to grow into a genuine community where friendships deepen, marriages are strengthened,

faith is nurtured, and our children grow up seeing the beauty of doing life alongside one another. We hope it becomes a place where families can come exactly as they are — joyful, exhausted, hopeful, stretched thin — and find grace, encouragement, and belonging.

We meet on Wednesday evenings alternating weekly between men and women, and one night per month, we all come together for a special Family Night where parents and children are invited to gather for fellowship, community, and shared activities. If you are also in this season of life and looking for community, we would love for you to join us! Please contact me at alyssagibbons22@gmail.com.





RED HILL
LUTHERAN CHURCH
AND SCHOOL

★ *MEN OF ALL AGES. ONE PURPOSE.* ★

MEN'S BREAKFAST



SATURDAY
JUNE 20TH
8:00 AM - 10:00 AM

BE ENCOURAGED.



BE EQUIPPED.



BE CONNECTED.



★ GUEST SPEAKER ★

HEARTY BREAKFAST

⇒ *bacon, eggs & coffee* ⇐



FOOD.
FELLOWSHIP.
ENCOURAGEMENT.



KEVIN McARTHUR

Kevin McArthur will share his personal testimony and how, much like the adventures of Indiana Jones, the twists, challenges, and unexpected obstacles of life became the very things God used to shape his faith, reveal his calling, and show him that true strength is found in serving and walking alongside others.

All men ages 13 and up are invited to join us on **June 20th** for a powerful morning of breakfast, fellowship, and encouragement.

Enjoy bacon, eggs, and coffee at 8:00 AM followed by a meaningful message from **Kevin McArthur** on faith, growth, and the importance of male mentorship.

★ REGISTER TODAY! ★

SCAN THE QR CODE
OR EMAIL
STEPHANIE McARTHUR AT
smcarthur@redhillchurch.org
TO REGISTER
FOR YOUR SPOT.



★ COST TO ATTEND: **\$10.00** ★

Mexico Housebuilding Mission Trip

By Ken Hays

On May 15th-17th, 2026, Red Hill Lutheran Church sent a group of fourteen volunteers to Tijuana to build a house. Red Hill had conducted many such mission trips in past years. This year the group included volunteers from many past trips as well as some who had never gone housebuilding with us. The housebuilding trips are always a blessing not only for the family that receives the home, but for the volunteers as well.

The build site was several miles south of Tijuana, about 2 miles east of Rosarito Beach in the Santa Maria de Guadalupe community. The family receiving the house included Arely and Ricardo Calvollo and their children Karina (age 13), Brandon (age 10), Karim (age 8), and Thiago (age 2). Sr. Calvollo works in an auto body shop and his wife Arely sells clothing.

As usual, we slept at Rancho Solo which is a dormitory-style accommodation in Tijuana that can serve about a hundred people. We enjoyed a catered dinner there on Saturday, and breakfasts on Saturday and Sunday. We cooked lunch on Saturday at the build site under our Red Hill Lutheran canopy. Hot dogs, chips, and homemade cookies were served to our volunteers, the family, and to others in the neighborhood.

For the first time, we completed the house and an outhouse in one day! The house was structurally complete, with the front door, all windows, siding, electrical work, drywall, outside paint, and roofing

shingles. At 6:30 pm on Saturday we presented the front door keys to Sr. Calvollo and his family. There were hugs all around and thanks and praise to the Lord. A video of our team at work was shot and shown at Red Hill during Sunday worship through the work of Alexander Kitano and Manny Olmedo.

Sunday morning, we ate breakfast at Rancho Solo and then headed back across the border. There were road closures in Tijuana due to runners and cyclists in a half-marathon fundraiser for children's cancer, which resulted in some delays and misdirection at the San Ysidro crossing back into California. Despite this our group arrived back at Red Hill Lutheran earlier than ever, in time to participate in Holy Communion at the 10:15 am service!

These annual trips are always inspirational and fun. If you are considering going on a mission trip to build a house in Mexico in the future, please contact me at focusonit@ca.rr.com.



Looking Forward to Summer

By Patti Sullivan, Altar Guild Coordinator

I'm looking forward to summer. It's time for the Altar Guild members to slow down after the busyness and preparation of Lent and the celebration of Easter. It's time for us to spend time with our family and friends.

It was God that created family. In Genesis 2:7 it says after God created man and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life the man became a living creature. In Genesis 2:18 "Then the Lord said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him." Genesis 2:21 reads So the Lord caused a deep sleep to fall upon man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up the place with flesh. And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into woman and brought her to the man. So, it was God that first created family. Since family is important to God, then it's very important that the Altar Guild members, including myself, spend the summer with their family and friends.

Some of us that like the slower pace will continue to keep our ministry going through summer. The sanctuary will continue to be prepared, clean and organized for Sunday services as well as for celebrations like baptisms, memorial services and summer holidays including the 4th of July and Labor Day. We will also continue to prepare for other organizations when necessary. During the summer, I am very proud of our faithful guild members who are happy and willing to help each other out and pick up the slack when others are on.

Although summer is a slower season for some of us, several Altar Guild members take on extra discipleship like helping with VBS in June. Others support the trip to Mexico in May. Besides preparing the communion trays, the communion table, and the altar on Friday/Saturday mornings, Sunday mornings they also serve communion and stay after the 10:15 service to help with cleanup. The Altar



Guild members are faithful disciples and devoted servants of God, Red Hill Lutheran Church, and School. I am very proud, grateful, and blessed to serve as their Coordinator and leader.

As the Altar Guild Coordinator, I will try to be a dedicated and faithful leader, role model and a faithful servant for my team members and continue to attend church and DiscipleU classes regularly, and will continue to pray for my Prayer Partners and others when requested.

Between now and the end of summer, I can also get some organizing and spring cleaning done and catch up on restocking and ordering needed supplies. At the end of summer with my faithful disciples, we will prepare for another busy church year in September.



Wishing you and your family a healthy, safe and joyful summer!



Military Welcome Home Packing Event

By Kymberly Rogers

There was something especially meaningful about watching our church family gather together recently for our Military Packing Event. Around 20 volunteers came together with one shared purpose: to help welcome home Marines returning from deployment with encouragement, gratitude, and care.

From the moment the event began, every generation jumped in to serve. Children, parents, grandparents, and friends worked side by side assembling welcome home kits, creating colorful posters, and writing heartfelt cards for the Marines. One of the sweetest parts of the evening was seeing the kids fully engaged in every part of the event—not only decorating posters, but also helping pack supplies, organize materials, and thoughtfully write messages of encouragement and thanks.

The room was filled with conversation, laughter, creativity, and purpose. Some cards included simple “thank you for your service” messages, while others shared prayers, Bible verses, and words of encouragement for the Marines as they transition home from deployment. The posters added a bright and personal touch that we hope will remind each Marine just how appreciated they are.

What made the evening so impactful wasn’t simply the items being packed, it was the spirit behind them. This event became a beautiful reminder that serving others doesn’t require something complicated; sometimes it simply means showing up together with willing hearts. Watching families serve alongside one another reflected the kind of Christ-centered community we strive to build at Red Hill: one that values compassion, gratitude, and caring for others in tangible ways.

We are incredibly thankful for everyone who participated, donated supplies, and gave their time to make this event possible. Whether someone packed kits, helped children write cards, created posters, or simply came ready to serve, every person played an important role.

As these welcome home kits are delivered, our prayer is that each Marine feels encouraged, supported, and remembered. We are grateful for the opportunity to serve those who have sacrificed so much for our country, and we look forward to future opportunities to come together as a church family to make a difference in our community and beyond.



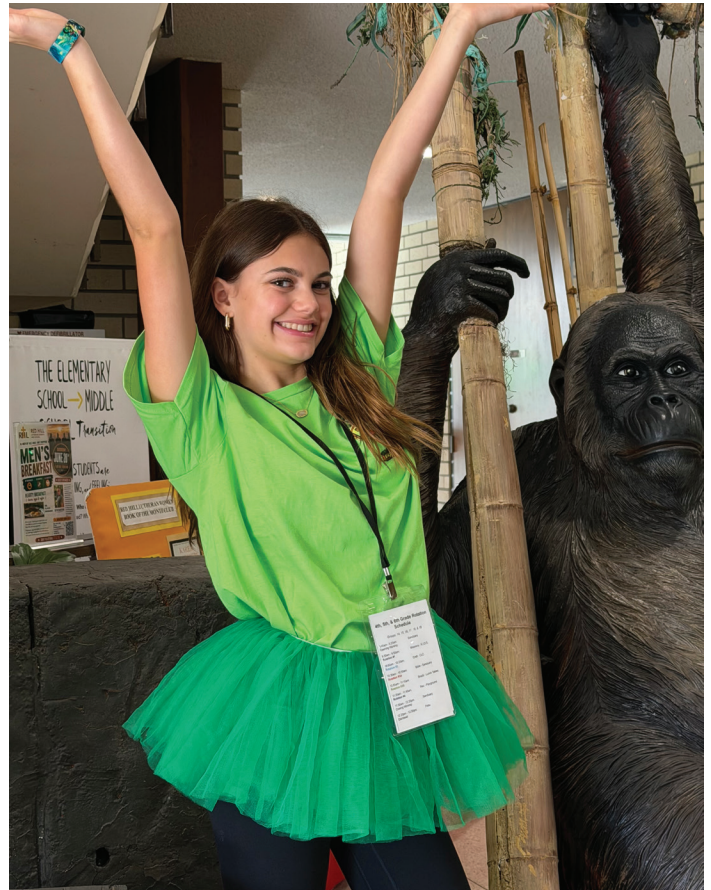


VBS 2026

During the week of June 8th, 235 Kids descended upon Red Hill's campus for a week of faith and fun in Vacation Bible School. The theme of VBS 2026 was Rainforest Falls: Exploring the Nature of God. What an incredible week it was as we explored the nature of God together. We are so grateful for the time, energy, enthusiasm, and love that our volunteers and leaders poured into the lives of our children. We truly could not have had such a successful and meaningful VBS without them!

As we journeyed through the rainforest, we discovered amazing truths about God. Through every game, craft, Bible lesson, worship song, conversation, and smile, our amazing staff helped our kids experience these truths in a real and personal way.







WOMEN'S GATHERING

Blameless

BE ENCOURAGED. BUILD COMMUNITY. CONNECT.

SEE THE BULLETIN FOR MORE INFO.

Saturday **JULY 18TH**

9:00 AM – 1:00 PM
BREAKFAST & LUNCH INCLUDED

COST
\$25.00
PER PERSON



A MORNING TO GATHER

Join women of all ages for a meaningful morning of worship, encouragement, and connection.



BUILD COMMUNITY

Connect with other women, share life, and support one another in faith.



BE ENCOURAGED

Leave refreshed, inspired, and reminded that you are not alone.



MORNING WORSHIP

with our very own

NOAH RIVERA



ENCOURAGING MESSAGE BY

STEPHANIE McARTHUR

“Blameless

He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world... to be holy and blameless in His sight.

– EPHESIANS 1:4

Come as you are!

Spend a morning being refreshed, encouraged, and reminded of your identity in Christ.

ALL WOMEN ARE WELCOME!



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INVITE
A FRIEND



MAKE
MEMORIES



GROW
TOGETHER

QUESTIONS? CONTACT STEPHANIE McARTHUR AT SMCARTHUR@REDHILLCHURCH.ORG

Red Hill Celebrates America!

On May 31st, The Red Hill Lutheran Music Ministry celebrated the 250th birthday of the signing of the Declaration of Independence with a beautiful, patriotic concert in the Sanctuary. The concert, “God Shed His Grace on Thee”, began with the presentation of colors by the Boy Scouts, and the Star-Spangled Banner served as the opening song. Those in attendance were encouraged to sing along on several of the rousing songs. Under the direction of Jason Harney, the performance featured the Red Hill Choir, Children’s Choir and Hand Bells, and Chuck and Kymberly Rogers, spoke about the history of the United States of America in between songs. Veterans in attendance were encouraged to stand and be recognized as their service branch song was played during the Armed Forces medley.

The centerpiece of the program was the Te Deum: 1. Praise to the Trinity; 2. Prayers and 3. Praise to the Christ.

The concert was followed by a BBQ on the patio, including hot dogs, and ice cream for dessert. A cast of recreation performers displayed wares and other items from various eras throughout the 250 years of the U.S. Military.

First Responders were also in attendance and there were a number of fire trucks and other service vehicles





Eighth Graders Tour our Nation's Capital

By Dave Brenner, 7th-8th Grade History Teacher

As our nation prepared to celebrate the United States Semiquincentennial, the RHLS eighth graders embarked on a remarkable educational journey to our nation's capital in March 2026. During their weeklong trip through Virginia and Washington, D.C., students experienced firsthand the places where the history of our country was shaped and preserved. Among the many sites the students visited were the Museum of the Bible, the National Cathedral, the Pentagon (both the 9/11 Memorial and a tour inside), the Washington Monument, and the United States Capitol.

This year, our students were especially blessed with the rare privilege of participating in a White House tour. As classroom lessons on the founding of America came to life, students gained a deeper appreciation for the sacrifices, vision, and faith that helped establish our nation. They were reminded that the principles upon which America was founded were deeply rooted in a belief in God and the enduring truths of His Word.

In Virginia, students stepped back in time as they stood in the historic House of Burgesses in Williamsburg, where colonial legislators once gathered to govern and debate.



At the American Revolution Museum in Yorktown, they encountered vivid exhibits and a recreated Continental Army encampment that revealed the hardships and courage of those who fought for independence. Students also toured Mount Vernon, the beloved home of our nation's first president, George Washington.



In Washington, D.C., history and government became tangible realities. Students viewed the original Declaration of Independence and United States Constitution at the National Archives, bringing to life the foundational documents they had studied in the classroom.



The branches of government took on greater meaning as students toured the White House and walked the halls of Congress in the Capitol Building. One of the most meaningful experiences of the trip was the visit to Arlington National Cemetery. There, students reflected upon the tremendous sacrifices made by the brave men and women who gave their lives in service to our country. Four specially selected students also had the

distinct honor of placing a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, a solemn and unforgettable tribute to those who made the ultimate sacrifice for freedom. As the students returned home to Orange County, they did so with far more than memories of monuments and museums.



They returned with a renewed understanding of our nation's history, a greater appreciation for the blessings of liberty, and a deeper recognition of God's guiding hand throughout the story of America.



the grapevine



Red Hill's annual Palm Sunday and Spring fest celebration was once again, a joyous and memorable day for all in attendance. The morning began with one Palm Sunday worship service, and was followed by fun, food and fellowship. Our grilling team served a delicious pancake breakfast, and families lined up to have their photo taken with the Easter bunny! Egg hunts for all ages were a huge hit with toddlers and adults alike! Attendees enjoyed a petting zoo, face painting a balloon artist and cotton candy, popcorn and snow cones!



Serving with Purpose

By Bailey Darley, Philanthropy Coordinator

Serving others is an important part of who we are as a church and school community. Through each philanthropy project, our students have the opportunity to put their faith into action and reflect Christ's love in meaningful ways. Hebrews 13:16 reminds us, "Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God." This spring, our students continued to demonstrate generosity, compassion, and service through projects that impacted both local and global communities.

In April, we partnered with Persons Helping People to support families in East Africa by raising money for solar ovens. Together, our students raised enough funds to purchase six solar ovens for communities in need. These ovens provide a safer and healthier way to cook food without producing harmful smoke inside homes. They also help families purify water for drinking, improving health and daily living conditions. Through this project, students learned how practical solutions can make a significant difference for families around the world. Our 3rd graders also raised the most money and had a smores party cooked in a real solar oven!

During the month of May, we focused our efforts on supporting Orange County Rescue Mission, located just down the street on Red Hill Avenue. Orange County Rescue Mission serves unhoused individuals and families through a two-year residential program that provides housing, meals, job training, faith-based support, counseling, education, and other long-term resources. Students learned how the organization works to support families with dignity, stability, and hope for the future.



As part of this philanthropy, our school held a summer snack drive to support the children living on campus during the months when school is out. Since many children are home throughout the day during summer break, snacks become an important need for families in the program. Our families responded with incredible generosity and collected more than 2,500 snacks for the children at Orange County Rescue Mission.

During our Faith Family Field Day, students wrote encouraging, faith-filled notes that were attached to the snack donations. These messages reminded the children receiving them that they are loved, cared for, and never forgotten. It was a meaningful opportunity for students to pair practical support with personal encouragement.

Our ASB students also visited Orange County Rescue Mission to volunteer in the warehouse by sorting donations and learning more about the organization's programs. This experience gave students a firsthand look at the many ways local ministries serve families in need and provided an opportunity for them to actively participate in that work.

As we look ahead to summer, our philanthropic efforts will continue through our Vacation Bible School offering. This year during VBS, we partnered with Operation Kid to Kid and World Vision to help plant trees in Guatemala and Honduras. We invited each student to raise nine dollars to help make a difference. Throughout the week, students brought their quarters each day as we worked together toward our exciting goal of planting 2,000 trees. Families also supported this mission project by joining us at Ruby's Diner on Thursday, June 11th, where 20% of all Red Hill guest purchases were donated toward our efforts. We are thankful for the many ways our students and families continue to demonstrate generosity and compassion as they seek to serve both their local community and people around the world.

From Coast to Coast: A Celebration of Habits of Mind in Action

By Lisa Tarkoff

The West Coast Habits of Mind Conference was hosted on our campus this week, bringing educators together from across the USA—from the East Coast to Hawaii—to witness a thriving culture of thinking in action. Habits of Mind are thinking dispositions that prepare students for success in school, work, and life. It was an honor and privilege to welcome Bena Kallick, co-creator of the Habits of Mind framework and an educational pioneer, as our keynote speaker. Her presence set a powerful tone for the day, grounding the conference in both vision and purpose.

Across campus, students and teachers demonstrated how deeply the Habits have been embedded into daily practice. Art students showcased creative tree centerpieces paired with reflective artist statements, while Ms. Gomez’s kindergarten class delighted visitors with a Habits of Mind Superheroes performance that highlighted even our youngest learners’ understanding of complex thinking habits. Fourth graders, led by Mr. Ujifusa, offered a choral presentation celebrating all 16 Habits of Mind. Attendees visited nearly every classroom from preschool through eighth grade and marveled at our school.

Visitors engaged with student panels across K–2, 3–5, and 6–8, asking authentic, open-ended questions that students met with confidence, clarity, and connection. Guests consistently remarked on the natural way students articulated their thinking and the warm hospitality extended by ASB and the student body.

Faculty presentations further showcased instructional depth, including Mrs. Tarkoff’s leadership as a certified Habits of Mind practitioner, and Mrs. Chun and Mrs.

Hammer’s work on Universal Design for Learning and Literacy integration. The school also highlighted Project Lead the Way, STEM programming, and elective pathways during teacher meet-and-greets, along with strong communications and systems leadership efforts led by Kylie Hammer.

Administrators shared how the Habits of Mind have strengthened student thinking and school culture in just two years, crediting a collaborative staff and a risk-taking, supportive environment fostered by school leadership. Many visitors reflected that there is truly a sense of the presence of the Lord on our campus, and that His light was evident throughout every interaction, classroom, and presentation. They were deeply moved by how wonderful our school, teachers, and students are, often expressing that they had not expected such a consistently vibrant and authentic learning community.

Above all, visitors noted a visible culture of engagement, curiosity, and joy in learning across every grade level. We are deeply grateful to God for the opportunity to host this gathering, for the gift of our students and staff, and for the blessing of His presence and guidance over our campus throughout this meaningful celebration of learning.



Serving With Heart: Red Hill Women Share God’s Love in Action

By Kymerly Rogers, RHLC Board of Directors Vice President

This year, the Red Hill theme verse calls us to live out the greatest commandments: to love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength, and to love our neighbors as ourselves. Jesus reminds us in Gospel of Matthew that, “Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.” On May 16, the women of Red Hill beautifully embodied that calling through fellowship, generosity, and service.

Gathering together with joyful hearts, the women assembled hygiene kits for those experiencing homelessness in our community. What may seem like a simple act—packing shampoo, soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, combs, bandages, razors, and sweet treats—became a powerful expression of dignity, compassion, and Christ’s love in action.

This outreach would not have been possible without the extraordinary generosity of Jill Campbell, grandmother of a former Red Hill student, whose donations provided enough supplies to create an incredible 1,000 toiletry bags. Each bag also included a heartfelt reminder: Jesus loves you. These much-needed resources, donated to The Hub OC, are typically depleted within a single month—highlighting both the tremendous need in our community and the importance of continued outreach efforts.

The event was further enriched by a special presentation from Alex Geringer-Pate, an employee of The Hub OC, who shared inspiring stories of transformation taking place right here in Orange County. The Hub OC’s mission, “Meeting the physical, relational, and emotional needs of Orange County and the world for spiritual transformation,” closely aligns with Red Hill’s own heart for community outreach and compassionate service.

One particularly moving story described an individual who traveled repeatedly from Los Angeles to receive support and services

through The Hub OC. After more than a year of experiencing consistent care, encouragement, and trust, he was able to secure housing and become self-sufficient. Today, he returns as a “secret angel,” welcoming newcomers and reassuring them that healing, hope, and trust are possible again. Alex Geringer-Pate also highlighted Full Circle, a unique shop in the Orange Circle that accepts donations year-round. The upscale thrift boutique not only offers volunteer opportunities and affordable fashion, but also helps fund essential programs including The Hub OC, Youth Centers of Orange, and The Hub Resource Center. Most importantly, it provides individuals receiving assistance with a dignified and empowering shopping experience at no cost.

The Women’s Council thoughtfully organized supplies into stations of 50 kits per table, creating an efficient and engaging atmosphere. Laughter filled the room as some tables even turned the packing process into friendly competition. The event beautifully demonstrated how fellowship and service can work hand in hand—strengthening both community bonds and God’s work in the community.

Once all 1,000 bags were assembled, the women cheerfully loaded the donations, celebrating what God had accomplished through willing hearts and helping hands. In addition, all participation funds collected—totaling more than \$500—were donated directly to The Hub OC to further support its mission.

Thank you to every woman who participated, donated, prayed, organized, and served. Your compassion made this outreach not only a memorable experience, but

a living testimony of Christ’s love. Together, the women of Red Hill became the hands and feet of Jesus to those most in need.





The Hollands

MINISTRY UPDATE

Montana State University

What an awesome school year! Thank you all for your support for our ministry this last year, and thank you for five years of supporting us as missionaries! We truly feel so blessed to be able to answer God's call on our lives through ministry with Cru at Montana State.

This year was very fun, and God did a lot of amazing work in and through our ministry. We had thousands of spiritual conversations, saw students trust Christ, and saw God change lives. We feel so blessed to get to be a part of it!



Students WANT to multiply their faith!

Just a small glimpse of God's work here is in a sophomore student named Jack. Last year, Jack came to Cru sparingly and did not want to share his faith. This is a huge contrast to Jack's life now! He has taken big steps in his faith and has grown immensely. He now sees the importance of reaching the lost - he wants to share his faith with his friends and coworkers! Jack has even been taking younger students to have spiritual conversations in the dining halls. He told Ryan at the end of this year that he wants to spend his summer studying the Bible so he can disciple another student in the fall! There are so many stories like Jack's, we can't wait to see how these disciples will multiply their faith next fall.

Our Cru summer assignment - Lake Tahoe!



We ended the school year with a summer party at Bozeman Beach. Our students are going home, have internships, or are on summer missions with Cru!

Historically, God has used college students to launch mission movements both here in the US and around the world. Many of our students at Montana State have used their summers to take the gospel near and far!

This summer, we have a wonderful opportunity to help lead 50 college students to South Lake Tahoe. We have seen this mission change the lives of many students as well as the residents of Lake Tahoe. For six weeks, we will lead college students through a leadership course about ministry and discipleship. During the day, our students will work local jobs in South Lake Tahoe and use their jobs as a place of personal ministry. We will train them in how to have spiritual conversations with their coworkers - providing essential training for life outside the college bubble.

We are trusting the Lord for \$5000 to cover our travel and ministry expenses this summer. As you pray about your missions giving, would you consider a special gift of \$250, \$500, \$1000, or another amount? (give.cru.org/1113442)

As always, whether or not you can give at this time, we believe God will meet all our needs according to His riches in Christ Jesus (Phil. 4:19). Thank you for considering this opportunity, and may God richly bless you.

We love to pray for you and stay connected. Please email or text us with how we can be praying for you!

In Him, *Ruth and Ryan Holland*

Prayer Requests

Mongolia Summer Mission:

We have 5 MSU students in Mongolia right now! Pray for their conversations with Mongolian students and for their personal spiritual growth.

Lake Tahoe Summer

Mission: We will arrive in Tahoe the first week of June! Pray for Jane to acclimate well to our home for the summer.

Pray that God would provide the financial support needed for each of the 50 students.

Pray for the students to experience deep relationship with the Lord and fruitful conversations in their workplace and on the beach.

Jane turned one this May! She is full of joy! Please pray for her to grow strong both physically and spiritually!

connect
with us!

giving: give.cru.org/1113442

contact: ryan.holland@cru.org & 503-575-6068 // ruth.holland@cru.org & 714-733-3127

address: 130 Pond Lily Dr. Bozeman, MT 59718

Preschool Summer Camp Reaches Full Enrollment

By Jessica Hickey, Preschool Director

We are excited to share that our Preschool Summer Camp has reached full enrollment for the first time in nearly ten years! This incredible milestone is a testament to God's faithfulness and the growing trust families have placed in our preschool ministry.

This summer, we expanded our offerings to better meet the needs of families by providing a variety of scheduling options, including both full-day and half-day programs. We also introduced early bird registration pricing, which allowed families to secure their spots at a discounted rate while helping us plan for a successful summer season.

The response was overwhelming. As enrollment continued to grow, we were blessed with the opportunity to open a second classroom to accommodate the high demand. By the time our regular pricing began in early May, only a handful of spaces remained available, and several families had to be placed on a waiting list.

Summer Camp is already off to an exciting start! Students will enjoy a wide variety of engaging activities, including water days, bounce houses, bike days, and special presentations from outside vendors who will be visiting campus to provide enriching educational experiences for both our preschool and kindergarten students.

We are grateful for the many families who have chosen to spend their summer with us and for the dedicated staff who make these experiences possible. Most importantly, we praise God for His abundant provision and blessing over our preschool ministry. We look forward to a summer filled with learning, laughter, friendship, and opportunities to share God's love with every child entrusted to our care.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support. We are excited to see all that God has in store for our students and families this summer!





RHLS's annual preschool Trike-A-Thon saw 85 kids joyfully racing their way to the finish line! This is Preschool's only fundraising event where the money raised goes directly to preschool programs. Previously raised funds have enabled preschool to purchase a new stage, trikes, and more! Thank you to all the parents and onlookers who came out to support our amazing kids!



theyelkounis@gmail.com

Loved By God Ministries
PO Box 914
McCook, NE 69001



May 2026 Newsletter

Family Update

We praise the Lord for His constant faithfulness, provision, and all the people He has put in our path in this past month! We had a wonderful week in Lopez Island, Washington, visiting so many great friends, supporters, and sharing all that God has been doing in Burkina Faso. We then had a few days in Eugene



Oregon with great friends. We are always so grateful for any time the Lord allows us to spend with our family in Christ! We were also able to visit a church in Prairie View, Kansas. It was great to see that congregation as well. We have been staying busy visiting other people and getting ready for our return to Burkina in mid-June. Our time when we come back to the states always seems to fly



by so fast, but we are so thankful for all the things the Lord does in the time we get to spend here.

We are excited to return to work in Burkina, the Lord has been providing constantly and overwhelming us with all the plans that He keeps putting in front of us. I shared last month that the Lord provided for two more wells to be drilled. This month he provided \$4,000 for one of those wells to completely covered with a solar system, water tower, and water tank! He also provided \$3,000 towards the other well to have a solar system to be installed, we only \$1,000 more to have that covered. This month, my great uncle Glenn, went to be with Jesus, he and his wife have supported us since the beginning of our mission, sponsoring the school, and my great aunt even made little dresses and cloth diapers for the children in the villages with other ladies from her church. My uncle wanted the memorial from his funeral to go to our ministry, and the Lord provided for another well to be drilled! We are now praying for all the villages that the Lord is leading us to help with these wells and garden projects. For open hearts to hear the gospel. We praise Jesus for His constant goodness and the abundance of how He provides. The verse and song below I'm sharing, really describes how I am feeling about all He is doing. To our precious Lord be the glory forever and ever!

"For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen." – Romans 11:36

"To Him who is able to do exceedingly, abundantly more than we could imagine. From breaking chains to making ways, You move every mountain. Glory to God who is faithful! Glory to God who is able to

do exceedingly, abundantly more! Abundantly more, abundantly more, abundantly more. Now to Him be the glory, forever and ever, amen. Crucified risen and reigning and coming again, amen! Our King is coming again! Amen.” -Able by Phil Wickham

School/Gardening Projects Update



Things are going well at the school, preschool through 5th grade are just finishing their exams for the end of the year. And our 6th graders are preparing for their big exam which happens at beginning of June. We pray that the Lord will give the children wisdom, courage, and strength in their studies and for them to realize that no matter their results they are loved by us and Jesus. Please pray with us for their little hearts to know Christ and to have a foundation of the Lord in their lives. We don't know how long each of them will be in our school, but we praise Jesus for the opportunity to know them and love them.

The garden projects are all finishing up their harvests for this season. We are so proud of all of them and the success of this year. Soon the rainy season will be starting, and everyone will be working in their fields to grow the food they need for the year. This mostly includes millet, corn, black eyed peas, peanuts, okra, and other things. This fall we will start up everything again after they have harvested their rainy season crops. We are super excited how things are expanding, and like how I shared above all that the Lord is providing so we can keep helping more villages! Pray with us for all God wants us to do in these projects and for relationships that can lead for us to share Jesus.



“He Himself bore our sins’ in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness, ‘by His wounds you have been healed.’ For ‘you were like sheep going astray,’ but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.”- 1 Peter 2:24-25

IMPORTANT: We will be sending out giving receipts THREE times year now: January, May, and September, to save money in the process. If you need a receipt sooner or have any questions, please let us know!

Other Ways to Help and Prayer Requests:

Ways to Help

- Classroom sponsorship-\$50 a month
- Wall for our Home \$1,000 (for privacy and security)
- Garden Solar System- \$1,000 more!

For New Future Garden Projects:

- Solar pump/Panels-\$2,800
- Water tower - \$800
- Water Tank - \$400
- Drilling a Well - \$3,000

--Starting a Middle/High School in the future

--Government paperwork to get done

Thank you all again for your support and prayers, we are so thankful for each of you who have come along side us in this mission to share the love of Christ in Burkina Faso!

Keep the SON in your eyes,

The Yelkounis

theyelkounis@gmail.com

Prayer

--Our family to stay safe and healthy

--Finances to stay strong

--Garden projects in each village

--Construction projects

--Security issues and terrorism in Burkina; The political issues in Burkina/safety for new president and military

--For the safety of our teachers, students, their families, and the villages we serve in

--Students Exam time

--For our students’ hearts and the people in the village to be open to the gospel; relationship building

redhillchurch.org

Federwitz Family Missions Update



**PAUL & ALI
FEDERWITZ**
HANNAH, LEVI, EDEN

LBT.ORG/PAFEDERWITZ



It's always a surprise when June rolls around. The busy, yet routine schedule of the academic year wraps up, and we enter into a bit of a chaotic time before the rhythms of summer set in. That is exactly where we find ourselves today. Our kids are starting summer jobs this week and setting goals for projects and activities they want to happen during this time of freedom and flexibility.

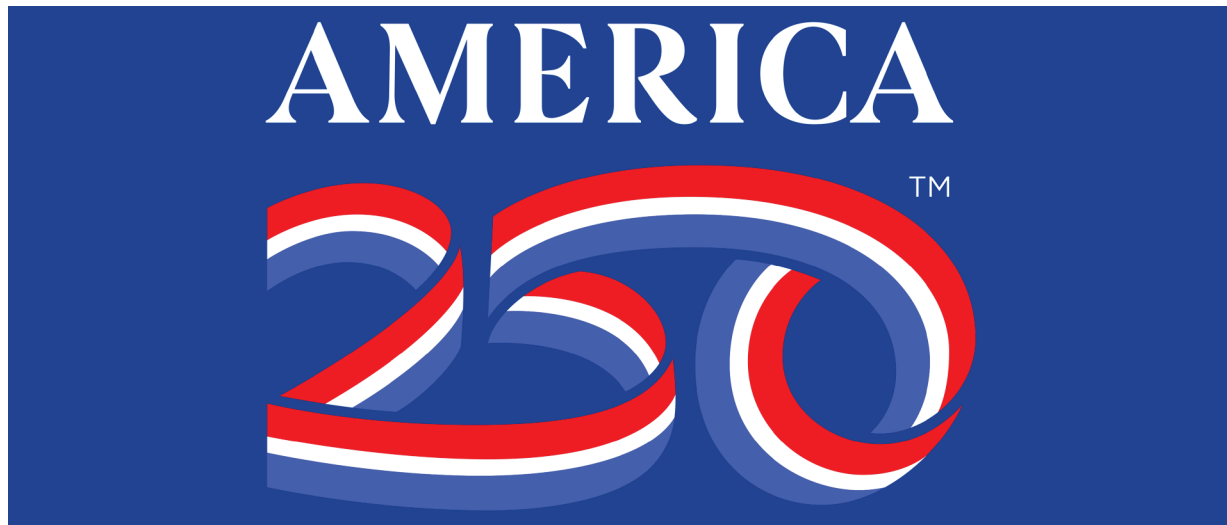
Just a couple of weeks ago we celebrated Levi's high school graduation. What an exciting time to be together as a family and usher him into this next stage of life. Levi will attend John Brown University in Siloam Springs, Arkansas and study mechanical engineering. If you'd like to send words of encouragement, congratulations, advice, prayers, etc. to Levi, you can email him at levi.federwitz@gmail.com.



Paul serves as the Chief Programs Officer for Lutheran Bible Translators. Ali is a full time mom, but also serves in the area of member care for other missionaries. For more information, or to donate to our ministry, go to <https://lbt.org/missionary/paul-and-ali-federwitz/>



Millions of people don't have the Bible in their own language. Many speak a language that is not written down. Lutheran Bible Translators puts God's Word in their hands.



On July 4th, we will celebrate the “birth” of our Country, as well as the principles, many of them Biblical principles, upon which this Nation was founded, two-hundred and fifty years ago! According to the website, *History*:

The Fourth of July—also known as Independence Day or July 4th—has been a federal holiday in the United States since 1941, but the tradition of Independence Day celebrations goes back to the 18th century and the American Revolution. On July 2nd, 1776, the Continental Congress voted in favor of independence, and two days later delegates from the 13 colonies adopted the Declaration of Independence, a historic document drafted by Thomas Jefferson. From 1776 to the present day, July 4th has been celebrated as the birth of American independence, with festivities ranging from fireworks, parades and concerts to more casual family gatherings and barbecues.

As followers of Jesus Christ, Independence Day also provides us another opportunity to thank our Lord for the freedoms we have in America; the freedom to worship, to pray, and to share our faith with others. We can likewise remember, and thank God for, those men and women in the Armed Services, past and present, who defend this very freedom with their lives!

Finally, let us pause on this 4th of July, to ask God to guide, protect, and be the true leader in America. There are many divisions in this Country that only God can heal, and many hearts and minds that only God can change! Let us not forget: while we can and should be thankful for America and the blessings we receive, our true citizenship is in heaven! (*Philippians 3.20-21*)

Let us resolve to be good stewards of this land, praying for our leaders and striving to be good neighbors to all

(*Romans 13; Ephesians 4*).

I think these insights from the *Billy Graham Evangelism Association* sum it up well:

Our independence did not come easily; only after several difficult years of war would it finally be won. Nor were our first years as a nation free from problems and controversies (as is still true). But our forefathers were determined to establish a free and democratic system of government, and the Declaration of Independence (together with our Constitution and the Bill of Rights) became the foundation for this. They have stood the test of time, and on July 4th we give thanks for the wisdom and faith and courage of those leaders...for many Americans July 4th is a time to reflect on God's goodness to us as a nation. Molded into the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia (which proclaimed our independence) are these words from the Bible: “Proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof” (Leviticus 25:10, KJV). Our legal system reflects our Judeo-Christian roots. While we look with gratitude to the past on this July 4th, may we also look in faith to the future, and commit it and our lives to God and His will. The ancient words of the Psalmist are still true: “Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord” (Psalm 33:12).¹

However you and your family choose to celebrate this monumental milestone in our Country's history, we wish you all a safe and joyous Independence Day.

Happy 250th Birthday, America!

¹ <https://billygraham.org/answer/fourth-of-july-celebrations-recall-americas-history-and-enduring-faith-in-god/>

Dates to Remember

June 21st
Father's Day

July 4th
Independence Day
Campus Closed July 3rd

August 19th
First Day of School

August 23rd
Red Hill Lutheran Church and School Annual
Congregational Meeting, 11:30am in the CLC

Red Hill Lutheran Church and School

13200 Red Hill Avenue
Tustin, CA 92780
(714) 544-3131