

The Applesseed

La Crescent and Dakota-Riverside United Methodist Church

From the Pastor's Pen

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Summer is in full swing. My family and I just returned from vacation, and as I sit in my office and write to you, the day is a little rainy and cooler, definitely cooler than the often over one hundred degrees in Utah we felt as we experienced the beauty of God's creation. When we take time to look, we see just how amazing God is at creating. We saw rock formations carved by wind and water over thousands of years and even got a little close by accident with one of God's more interesting creations, a scorpion. We saw the world in small detail from the window of a plane, and more up close in the car window, and on a raft on the Colorado River. We experienced the night sky in a way I had not since I was a child. We do not often see the night sky because of all the light from cities and towns, but I got to see what maybe Abraham saw when God told him to look at the stars and see how abundant his offspring would be. The sky is full of light and the grandness of God's good creation. When we came back, we turned on the highway that leads to our own little corner of the world. I was reminded of a central truth: that home is a place that, no matter how far we go, the heart will always yearn for. We also live in a beautiful place, and the diversity of God's creation, the huge rock formations of the American Southwest are amazing, but so are the bluffs and valleys of the

Mississippi River, which are now near and dear to my heart, and hold their own beauty. I return readier for where God will lead this year, since in August, I will have been in this special place for a year. It makes me think of a quote by a famous naturalist, John Muir, who said, "And into the woods I go, to lose my mind and find my soul." There were a few woods where we went, but the concept fits; we go into God's creation to once again connect thought creation to the creator. We must never stop seeing the creator in the creation because that is when we stop seeing the world as a gift and see it instead as a thing to exploit. We are to treat the world as God's creation and as something that God said was good and right. God loves his creation and puts beauty into each place, and what is even more amazing is that what he loves even more than the green hill or the rock carvings that stretch for miles, is us. *The Story* is one that I pray will help you to see that. We will be discussing the story of God's love, which is the Bible. When you look out and see the intricate and complex design of creation, a creation that had beauty and intention locked up in each minute detail, know that God values you even more! We will hear the history of redemption that takes thousands of years to bring to fulfillment in the life of Jesus and the continuing story that we are now a part of. Let this summer be a time of exploration of God's creation, but also of connection to



the infinite. As we watched the world explode into life in spring, as the days of summer float by, then the cool of fall takes over, and we see the dance of the seasons, we know that, as Solomon wrote, we choose our plans, but God established our steps. May this summer be warm and joyful and connected to the one who created it for you.

I made the earth
and created humankind
upon it;
it was my hands that stretched
out the heavens,
and I commanded all their
host.
Isaiah 45:12

With God's great cathedral all
around us,

Pastor Christopher Leistra

ALL CHURCH BIRTHDAY PARTY!

SUNDAY JULY 12TH
AFTER WORSHIP

SIGN UP IN THE NARTHEX TO BRING
A CAKE FOR THE BAKE OFF



Wednesday, July 22nd

5:00 PM

Worship Volunteers Needed!

Date	Ushers	Greeters	Liturgists	Tech Guru	Communion Servers
Sun, July 5	Lavon & Jeff Court	Lavon & Jeff Court	Judy Kumpf	Peter Bell	Lavon & Jeff Court
Sun, July 12	Open	Open	Dennis Stone	Open	N/A
Sun, July 19	Open	Open	Lavon Court	Open	N/A
Sun, July 26	Open	Open	Open	Open	N/A

Help us fill these open worship volunteer spots!

Contact the church office or go to sign up genius to sign up.
New volunteers, scan the QR code below to fill out a new volunteer form.
Paper forms also available in the Narthex.

La Crescent United Methodist Church

JOIN OUR VOLUNTEER TEAM

Serve & Inspire

Sign up today!



SCAN HERE

- Usher
- Greeter
- Communion Server
- Tech Guru
- Liturgist



Can you help with the Back to School Event
School Supply Drive?

Supplies needed include:
Backpacks, Dry erase markers, Sharpies, Washable markers,
Colored pencils, Glue sticks, Scissors, Looseleaf paper, Paper
towels, Antibacterial wipes, Kleenex

New supplies can be dropped off at La Crescent United Methodist Church,
520 N. Elm St. anytime between now and August 10.

Thank you for your support!



Rainforest Falls
VBS

Register Here
by July 22

August 3-7
9am-noon
Early drop-off and breakfast also available

4K-5th Grade
6th grade students and older
invited to volunteer

Hosted by Prince of Peace Lutheran Church
and La Crescent United Methodist Church at
LUMC, 520 N. Elm St.



LA CRESCENT UMC INVITES YOU TO THEIR:
BACK TO SCHOOL EVENT

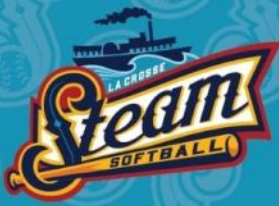
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12, 12-8 PM

Appointments will be made in 15 minute increments for families during this time.

To register, please call the church office, T-F between 8:30-2:00.

The Back to School event will be held at La Crescent United Methodist Church, 520 N. Elm St. La Crescent, MN

Helping students get the supplies and clothes they need to be set for a successful school year



Fundraiser

WITH THE LA CROSSE STEAM

LA CRESCENT LUNCH WAGON

WEDNESDAY, JULY 29TH

Game Time: 6:35 PM | Gates Open: 5:30 PM

Wausa Ignite vs. La Crosse Steam

PROMO CODE: **lclunchwagon**

TICKET OPTIONS

\$12 TICKET

\$6 BACK TO ORGANIZATION



\$18 TICKET

\$9 BACK TO ORGANIZATION
HOT DOG & FOUNTAIN BEVERAGE INCLUDED

ORDER YOUR TICKETS



SCAN HERE
FOR TICKETS

- 1) Go to LaCrosseSteam.com
- 2) Click on the "Tickets" drop down & click "Buy Tickets Now"
- 3) Type "lclunchwagon" in the promo column & click "Find Tickets"
- 4) Select your desired seats
- 5) Using the drop down, select if you would like a ticket with or without the food. The default will be food included.
- 6) Continue with checkout as normal, tickets will be emailed as a PDF

LA CROSSE STEAM TICKET OFFICE

LaCrosseSteam.com | 608-796-9553 | tickets@lacrossesteam.com

1225 Caledonia St, La Crosse, WI 54603

WE LOVE HAVING YOU AS

a part of
our Flock!



*Keep in touch with us via
email and text!*



TEXT
LCUMC
TO 84576



OR CONNECT WITH US ONLINE AT:

lacscentunitedmethodis.flocknote.com

Text STOP to 84576 to stop txt notifications at any time. Text HELP for help. There is no charge for this service, but your carrier message and data rates may apply. View full privacy policy & terms at flocknote.com/txt.

Donate to the CLOTHES CLOSET

The clothes closet will be busy on back to school day on August 12th.

Each student will be receiving new clothes that the donations we receive help provide.

If you would like to make a monetary donation, send checks to:

*La Crescent United Methodist Church
520 N Elm St.*

La Crescent, MN 55947

Please indicate it is for the Clothes Closet in memo.

I would like to thank our church family and friends for their support and help.

Coordinator: Carole Plenge

Email: ckplenge@acegroup.cc

BLANK NOTE

**By Emma Blank,
Director of Music Ministries**

I have been spending a lot of time at ball fields this summer. My granddaughter is playing on a team and I try to make as many games as possible. They have a great team with incredible coaches and it is fun to watch them get better and better as the weeks go by. This past weekend they along with all the La Crescent girls teams swept the tournament they were playing in. So fun and exciting!

It made me think about my softball experiences and how it helped shape me as a person. The team concept taught me to think of others beside myself. It also taught accountability and respect. To be a team member you not only cheer on your teammates but you also cheer on your adversaries. It is very parallel to Jesus teachings. We are called to love and cheer for everyone. His ball field has many players. He expects us to play as a team with encouragement and a whole lot of love.

In this world of so much division let's try to be better teammates. Have a great July!

Emma Blank

MISSIONS UPDATE

Everyone can be great, because everyone can serve." -Martin Luther King Jr.

What a great summer it has been, Church! I, personally, had the opportunity to serve alongside and witness the service of our High School Youth on their mission trip to Colorado in June and attended the Middle School Youth mission trip send-off this morning as they headed to Madison to serve regionally. Our youth certainly embrace the Great Commission to ". . .go and make disciples of all nations. . ." through missions of service in communities far and wide. I cannot wait to hear more about what they did this summer.

Locally we have been gearing up to host the annual Back to School event to provide school supplies and new school clothes to area children and youth through the church school supply drive and our Clothes Closet. Please support this event by donating needed school supplies, new or gently used clothing, making a monetary contribution to specifically support this ministry, or volunteering your time to contribute directly to this mission opportunity if it is a way in which you can share your gifts with our community.

We have also been looking at ways to expand this event and are hoping to provide free haircuts for students and possibly a back-to-school meal for families in need. Again, if these are ideas which speak to you and you feel you would be able to assist with, please reach out to me so we can work together to start the school year right for the kids and families in our communities.

Lastly, please remember to be on the watch for any of those craft supplies for making the items for our Operation Christmas Child craft items later this year. We are in need of any items for making small sewing kits (thread, needles, scissors, buttons, etc.) fishing kits (line, hooks, sinkers, etc., and old T-shirts for a jump-rope t-shirt project.

The missions committee will be meeting again on August 30th at 0845 in the church library; all are welcome to attend.

Thank you for all that you do to help make the missions of our church so successful and the love we have for our community

Mandy



La Crescent and Dakota-Riverside United Methodist Church
520 North Elm Street | La Crescent, MN 55947

Phone: 507.895.2373
Website: <https://lacscentumc.org>
<https://www.facebook.com/lacscentumc>
<https://www.facebook.com/Riverside-Dakota-UMC-436563933430687>

Pastor Chris Leistra
Youth Director: **Mindy Kearney**
Music Director: **Emma Blank**
Office: **Jessica Wallace-Bialecki**



 When emailing the church office use:
office.lacscentumc@gmail.com

Made Specially For

The Applesseed
La Crescent & Dakota-Riverside United Methodist Churches
JULY 2026

Psalm 33:12: "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people he chose for his inheritance."