

# The Applesseed

La Crescent and Dakota-Riverside United Methodist Church

## From the Pastor's Pen...

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Summer! It is here, and all the warmth and fun that it brings. One of my favorite books to read to my daughter is one she received from a teacher in kindergarten. The book is called "And then comes summer". I remember reading it to her after that school year was over, and the book brought back all the memories of summers as a kid, where my older brother and I spent most of our time outside, and the summer just seemed to stretch out before me with so much possibility. As I have gotten older, this has changed, but the joy of summer never has.

This summer, we are going to take an adventure as a Church; we will be traveling through The Story, where I hope, as we read the stories and hear about the people of the Bible, we will get to see a glimpse of God's grand plan. The story is a good one and one that I pray you will enjoy, like talking to an old friend. We will hear about God's actions and about everyday people who join in what God is doing and, in doing so, do some amazing things. Stories are powerful things; they can teach us and inspire us. The Bible is a true story, and it has the power to do both these things and so much more. I hope that you'll want to join me on this journey and see where God has been and maybe even where God is now in your own life.

This story is God's story, but it is also our own. We are a part of the work that God will see to completion, and God's story is not done.

While we are hearing the stories of God's works and people in the Bible, I also want you to be thinking of your own God stories. They don't have to be as dramatic as Daniel in the Lion's den; God works in Big and small ways; we just have to be watching for it and acknowledge and celebrate it when they happen. Author Sue Nilson Kibbey calls these moments Conflux moments, which are the places we see God's activity in our lives. God's activity must always be front and center as a Church community, and we must also be seeking involvement from God in all we do, so it's important to be watching and celebrating the places and situations where we see God

active in our midst. Later this summer, we will also have an opportunity around a fire to tell our "God Stories," which are the conflux moments in our own lives. We will also be practicing breakthrough prayer, where we will be asking God to break into our midst and guide us as a congregation. I am very excited about this summer as one to connect with God and also with each other.

Hebrews 11:1  
The Meaning of Faith  
11 Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

In faith and connection,

Pastor Chris Leistra



## Blank Note

*By Emma Blank*

I walked out of Church last Sunday to the wonderful aroma of fresh cut grass. We had just listened to Pastor Chris preach about slowing down and enjoying things in this season. I then stopped and inhaled deeply and said to "Rod, this smells amazing". He kept walking to the truck. Perhaps escaping my infatuation with fresh cut grass.

Hearing Pastor Chris talk about the creation story made me think of all of Gods wonders. He made all things perfectly. He made these things for us to enjoy. Stopping and taking a minute to be in the moment is important.

Summer brings a season of warm weather, cookouts, reunions and a sense of community. I love sitting on our deck and just watching wildlife. I feed every animal that comes my way. I love the simplicity wildlife brings. I also enjoy the quiet that sitting still brings. My heart sings during these moments.

It will be wonderful to go through all stories and lessons the bible teaches us. From creation to resurrection. What a journey our Father has taught us. He created a perfect world for us. Take some much needed time and let yourself enjoy it.



## MISSIONS UPDATE

*By Mandy Krzebietke*

"Only a life lived for others is a life worthwhile."  
-Albert Einstein

The Missions Team will be meeting again on Sunday, June 28<sup>th</sup> at 845 am in the church library to continue working on activities for the rest of the year. If you have any ideas or suggestions for mission opportunities that our church can participate in, please join us. All are welcome to attend.

We have tentative plans to provide a meal this summer in partnership with our friends at WINN (What I Need Now) who work to support unsheltered members of our community. If providing food is one of the ways you serve others, please join us to plan and prepare. We'd love to offer a hot meal if we can; but it takes many hands to come together to provide these mission opportunities.

Later this summer we will again be supporting the Back-to-School Event by providing school supplies and school clothes through the Clothes Closet to area school children. Please support this event by donating needed school supplies, clothing, or making monetary contributions to this event/ministry. We are also looking for some volunteers to provide free haircuts to students as the school year starts. If this is a talent you have and would be willing to share your gift with our community,

please reach out to myself or the office so we can discuss how you might support this event.

With Operation Christmas Child preparation further on the horizon please be aware that our team will again be offering craft opportunities after worship which include jump rope making and sewing & fishing kit making projects for all ages. For these activities supplies needed include old t-shirts; small sewing kit supplies such as thread, needles, scissors, buttons & pins; and fishing supplies such as fishing line, hooks (various sizes), split shot sinkers (various small sizes), plastic/foam bobbers (various small), small blunt nosed pliers. Small plastic craft or pill bottles as well as small cosmetic or other similar bags can be used to help keep the sewing and fishing kit items stored together neatly and waterproof. If you have any of these items at home or see them on sale while out doing your shopping and would be willing to donate them to this mission, we are able to store them at the church until the craft day or packing party later in the fall. Please coordinate with me as we would be happy to store them at the church for you.

Until next month church, go out and enjoy that warm summer sunshine.

Mandy





*La Crescent Area  
Bereavement  
Program 2026*

*The death of a loved one can be painful.  
Sharing with others who have experienced a  
similar loss is the first step in overcoming  
the heavy burden of grief.*

Our program offers both education and support. The book, *Understanding Your Grief*, by Alan Wolfelt will be provided. Wolfelt's website is [www.centerforloss.com](http://www.centerforloss.com). Sessions are facilitated by a counselor and nurses and is open to anyone. This program is non-denominational.

**Thursdays 1:30-3:00 pm (8 Meeting Dates)**

**June 25**

**July 2, 9, 16, 23, 30**

**August 6 and 13**

**Prince of Peace Lutheran Church**

**21 N. Hill St., La Crescent.**

**For information, and to register: Jane Welch at 608-797-4554**

**PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED, and the program is FREE.**

Sponsored by Church of the Crucifixion, Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, La Crescent United  
Methodist Church, and Mayo Clinic La Crosse

# ALL CHURCH BIRTHDAY PARTY!

**SUNDAY JULY 12<sup>TH</sup>  
AFTER WORSHIP**

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

A vibrant rainforest-themed poster for a Water Bible Study (WBS) event. The background is a lush green rainforest with a waterfall, a monkey, a toucan, a sloth, a squirrel, a frog, and a tiger. The text is arranged on wooden signs. A QR code is in the top right corner.

**Rainforest Falls**

**WBS**

Register Here  
by July 22

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

**4K-5<sup>th</sup> 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.

## Donate to the CLOTHES CLOSET

Each year on our Back to School Night, our goal is to give a new outfit, socks and underwear to each school age student from the Clothes Closet.

We all know the dollar does not stretch as far, so we will be happy with any dollar amount that is donated.

Please keep the Clothes Closet in mind so we can accomplish our goal again this year.

Thank you for all the donations of new and slightly used clothing and money in the past! This is a local mission our church has sponsored for over 20 years!

Any questions contact the church office or Carole Plenge.



## Solito Book Club

Thanks from a grant from the Minnesota United Methodist Church, last week we began to loan out 10 Solito books from LUMC. If you did not check out a book last week and you would like to take part in the upcoming discussions on Solito, you can check one out from the La Crescent Public Library, or contact me, Lavon Court (606) 780-7934, and I will get a book to you. The upcoming book discussions are Sunday, June 14 at 1pm at Groovy Grounds in La Crescent. I will also be hosting a 3:30 PM study at the church on June 16th. Looking forward to sharing this book with you. I will bring treats.

**BOOK**  
*Study*

Join us for an engaging conversation about Javier Zamora's powerful memoir, *Solito*.

**Tuesday, June 16th**

**3:30 PM**

**LUMC Library**

[JOIN NOW](#)

Books are available in the church office



**Tony Haack & fiancée Katie Sanderson**

## WEDDING SHOWER AND OPEN HOUSE

**LUMC Sun. 6/21 1-3p.m.**

*You watched him grow up at our church!*

*Come help Tony and his fiancée, Katie celebrate their Bethel University graduation and upcoming July wedding.*

2026

JUNE

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

2026

JULY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

2026

AUGUST

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

# LUMC YOUTH CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## MIDDLE SCHOOL AMAZING SUMMER CAMPS

TUESDAYS-- BOARD GAME BONANZA, 1:00-2:30

WEDNESDAYS-- LET'S GET CRAFTY, 2:00-3:30

THURSDAYS-- MINI GOLF MANIACS, 1:00-2:30

RAINFOREST FALLS FOR YOUTH, 10:00-12:00

## SPECIAL EVENTS

JUNE 4-- SCHOOL'S OUT FOR THE SUMMER

ROOTBEER FLOATS, 12:30-2

SENIOR HIGH AT THE BRIDGE, 6 PM

JULY 30- NERF & NACHOS, 7-9 PM

AUGUST 3-7--VBS

AUGUST 16-- UNDERGROUND CHURCH

## MISSION TRIP INFO

JUNE 7-- MISSION TRIP COMMISSIONING, 10:10 AM

JUNE 12-21-- COLORADO MISSION TRIP

JUNE 29-JULY 1 --MADISON MISSION TRIP

AUGUST 23-- MISSION TRIP SUNDAY

## ALL CHURCH EVENTS

JUNE 7-- SENIOR SUNDAY

JULY 12-- ALL CHURCH BIRTHDAY PARTY

JULY 29-- LUNCH WAGON AT THE STEAM

AUGUST 12- BACK TO SCHOOL EVENT

AUGUST 23-- SUNDAE SUNDAY



# The Lunch Wagon

Feeding the Community's Children

**Back for its 13th season! The Lunch Wagon will be distributing FREE sack lunches this summer.**

**Tuesdays and Thursdays**

**June 9 - August 27**

*At the following locations:*

**La Crescent Aquatic Center, 11:00-12:30**

**La Crescent Public Library, 11:10-11:45**

**Kistler Mobile Home Park, 11:50-12:15**

**Hokah City Park, 11:00-11:30**

**Hokah Library, 11:40-12:10**

**\*\*Lunches also available for kids attending Kids' Company; See Kids' Co. for more info!**

**All are welcome!**

For more information, call (507) 895-2373



The Lunch Wagon is hosted by La Crescent United Methodist Church and sponsored by various area organizations, businesses and individuals. To get involved or to donate, please call the UMC at 895-2373. Thank you for your support!



**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](mailto:office.lacscentumc@gmail.com)**

Made Specially For

**JUNE 2026**

La Crescent & Dakota-Riverside United Methodist Churches

*The Applesseed*