

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA
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 Web site: www.stjohns-annandale.org
 Office Hours: Mon.- Fri., 8:00am-3:00pm

Sunday Worship
 8:30a.m. Traditional
 10:00a.m. Contemporary



St. John's Staff

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 Laura Eastling
 Michelle Wang



Ministry Chairpersons:

Children, Youth & Family

Outreach:

Worship and Music:

Support and Stewardship:
 Tina Honsey

ELCA Missionary:
 Terry Jensen

GNM Good News Monthly

July 2018



From Pastor Dave...

Speaking The Truth In Love

If that phrase sounds familiar, it's because it's what the Apostle Paul, in his letter to the Christians of Ephesus, told them to do. "Speak the truth in love." "Sounds easy enough, doesn't it? And yet, as we know, it's much easier said than done, especially in the world we now find ourselves. Social media allows us to say many things about other people and yet much of what shows up on social media is neither "true" nor "spoken in love." Add to that our propensity for "Minnesota Nice," our natural inclination or tendency to speak about others rather than speaking directly to people themselves. Beyond that, we also are often tempted to revert to our pen name, "Anonymous," if we want to get something off our chest. But I hope that we all can agree that none of the above examples are what Paul was thinking about when he encouraged the Ephesians "to speak the truth in love."

Rather, as followers of Jesus, we are called to live differently than the world around us. When it comes to communication, especially when we may be upset with someone, it means going directly to the person involved (that's love in action) and addressing the issue (whatever it might be) in an honest and truthful manner. That means being open to the possibility that we might have misheard their words or misinterpreted their actions. "Speaking the truth in love" means that we go directly to the other person and check out what we think has happened or what we think we heard and have an open and honest conversation, always seeking to put the other's actions in the best light (that, too, is Biblical), always seeking first to understand rather than to be understood, so that, as a result, clarification, edification, or absolution can happen.

And yes, according to Jesus, it IS the responsibility of the one who feels that they have been hurt to make the first move. We often get that turned around. When someone hurts us, we often hold on to that hurt, waiting for them to come to us. What happens then is that our hurt festers and grows and takes on a life of

its own, which is destructive not only for the relationship, but especially for the one who is holding on to the hurt. Rather, Jesus says in Matthew 18, "If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone..." for in doing so you may regain a friend.

And do you know what? When we do that—when we go to the other person directly—Jesus promises that he will be present with us. Yes, it is right after these instructions about going directly to the other that Jesus promises that "whenever two or three are gathered in my name" (in conflict, disagreement), there he will be in our midst" as we seek, by direct communication, by active listening, to heal the hurt rather than to nurse the hurt!

May we always seek to be such a community of faith for one another and for our world.

Time and Talent

I want to thank all of you who have taken the time to complete a Time and Talent survey. The information will be valuable as we move forward into God's future and as we invite you to participate in God's mission in ways that bring you joy and fulfillment. Please know that if you have not yet completed a survey, there is still time. You can do so either online (just go to our website), or you can fill out a paper copy (those are available at our Welcome Desk). As I stated in last month's newsletter, I believe that God has called and gathered all of us together to be the St. John's community in this time of history, and that God has provided all the gifts we need to carry out the ministry that God has entrusted to us. Each of our gifts is needed – no matter how big or small they might be.

I also want to affirm the many ways that so many of you share your gifts beyond the ministries of St. John's. I see many of you making a tremendous difference within our community and beyond.

God is at work in and through you outside the walls of this congregation – and for that, I am truly grateful!

But it's not a matter of either/or but rather both/and. God wants us to share our gifts BOTH within the body of Christ, and out in the world. The world needs your gifts, – but so does St. John's. So please look over the variety of opportunities for service within St. John's, and let us know where you would like to serve or what areas pique your interest to try or learn more about. Thank you!

Coffee and Conversation

In July I will again be hanging out every Thursday except July 26 from 3-4:30pm at Mc Donald's here in town unless a funeral or some other kind of emergency arises. I hope that you will stop by and visit about something at church, what God is up to in your life, or anything at all. I'll have something with me to do so I won't be wasting time, but I hope that people will stop by for a visit.

SW MN Synod Assembly

This year St. John's was represented by Linda Dircks, Sharon Hermanson, Pastor Alex and myself. Here are some of my highlights from the assembly:

We are a healthy synod, with great leadership, that seeks to create, within our congregations "communities of Jesus that nurture life-changing relationships with God, one another and the world."

We, at St. John's, are the local expression of a larger church which does great things in the name of Christ both here in the states and around the world.

That we, as ELCA Lutheran congregations, can be the "alternative face of Christianity" at a time when people often see the church as being judgmental, condemning and exclusive.

That we are a generous Church. In 2017 members of ELCA congregations contributed through Mission Support and through Restricted Gifts, and through the support of ELCA World Hunger and Disaster Relief almost \$116,000,000. The 21.3 million that was contributed to ELCA World Hunger was the most ever contributed in a given year; and the 22.9 million contributed to the Disaster Response was the second largest amount given in a single year! Congregations and individuals from our synod gave over \$500,000 to these ministries! Borgand Lutheran of Madison, MN. gave the largest percentage based on average worship attendance... giving \$243.00 per member to the ELCA World Hunger. Just to put that into perspective - that would mean we would need to give around \$73,000.

That money given to our ELCA World Hunger is "put to work" within a matter of days after being received.

Food insecurity exists in EVERY county in the United States --- this work MATTERS!

That instead of being "Pearl Traders" - that is, believing it to be "our job" to bring "pearls" (e.g. the gospel) to those who have never received it... that we instead see ourselves as "Treasure Hunters" - looking for signs of God's presence and work in the world around us; being curious; and then joining God in God's work. As Bishop Eaton stated it in her video greeting to the Assembly: "Grace is not just what God does - but WHO God is! And that Jesus is God's embodied mercy!"

That the work of our SW MN Synod and the work we do as the ELCA is a part of our mission as a local congregation!

I hope that others of you will consider serving as voting members in the coming years!

Healing Prayers

Since July has five Sundays, that means that on July 29th we will once again be offering Healing Prayers at both of our worship services that morning. I think this has become a very meaningful time for many in our congregation. Please share the word.

Pastor Mbiche

One of the priests from our sister congregation in Matamba, Tanzania will be with us in worship on Sunday, July 29th. He will be bringing us a greeting from our brothers and sisters in Matamba and an update on their ministry.

In Christ,
Pastor Dave

In Need of Prayer?

People at St. John's are ready to pray for and with you in times of joy and in times of need. To activate this prayer ministry, please contact the church office. Only the information you choose to share will be passed on to the Prayer Ministry participants. Please understand that if you are calling on behalf of another person, in order to respect the right to privacy and for the sake of confidentiality, you must have that individual's permission before we can activate the prayer ministry and pray for them by name. Also, please know that our prayer ministry is ALWAYS open to additional participants. If you would like to be included in either the Prayer Chain where you would receive a telephone contact or the email prayer group, please contact the church office.

Pastoral Visits

Please call the church office to let us know if you desire a pastoral visit, especially if you are going to be hospitalized. If it is an emergency, feel free to call Pastor Dave at home.

St. John's Lutheran Church Council Meeting Date: 6/18/18 Start: 7:00p.m. End: 10:15p.m.

Present: Pastor Dave Nelson, Bill Berry, Steve Miller, Peggy Bodell, Mary Iverson, Matt Honsey, Diane Barkley, Linda Dircks, David Burd, Lonnie Baack, Jason Eastling **Absent:** Makena Gunderson & Derek Groth

Topic	Discussion	Action
Faith Talk:		N/A
Scripture & Prayer	Pastor Dave	N/A
Approval of Agenda	Faith Talk in July (rather than June) Diane Barkley	M/S/P Linda/Mary
Secretary's Report		M/S/P Mary/Peggy
Treasurer's Report	Not Available	M/S/P
Executive Committee Actions	*Linda Dircks, Lonnie Baack, and Stephanie Rindelaub reviewed and identified a few updates needed in our current Staff Policies, especially our Parental Leave Policy. They will be running their recommendations by Pastor Dave before bringing it back to the Executive Committee. *Steve Miller, Steve Niklaus, Ken Schumacher, Val Nelson and Stephanie Rindelaub will be meeting to review and update the current Sabbatical Policy.	N/A
Pastor Dave's Report	*The majority of the Stewardship Team and Pr Alex attended a meeting on May 31 at Salem Lutheran in St. Cloud to learn about Stewardship For All Seasons. Stewardship for All Seasons is a program which St. John's will use this fall. *Continued conversation with Synod Minister Linda Petersen and our sister congregation, Mt. Hermon, regarding how St. John's may offer assistance to Mt. Hermon while they transition from their present pastor to a new pastor. *St. John's was represented by Linda Dircks, Sharon Hermanson, Pastor Alex and Pastor Dave at the Synod Assembly June 8-9. *A training meeting for those men and women interested in becoming a part of Caring Friends is scheduled for Tuesday, June 19. This group will replace the Befriender ministry. They will supplement pastoral care to shut-ins, hospitalized, bereaved, etc. *A possibility for a new pictorial directory was discussed. Such directories are beneficial in helping people put names and faces together. *Rally Sunday is scheduled for September 9. Possible ideas for this kick off to the school year are having one service, followed by a meal and some games. *Father Mbiche from Matamba, Tanzania will once again be with us on Sunday, July 29. He will bring a greeting at both services and an update on what's happening in the lives of our brothers and sisters in Matamba. Following the synod guidelines, the council voted to give Father Mbiche a gift of money as a visiting priest.	M/S/P Lonny/Mary
Pastor Alex's Report	*Hospitality plans—we have been meeting and have some fantastic ideas that will be brought to council in coming months. *Please pray for the youth from St. John's attending the National Youth Gathering in Houston. They depart from St. John's on June 26 and return July 2. Pray for the city of Houston, for all the citizens and the way that God is working already, and how God will use us to walk alongside of them.	N/A
Old Business	This fall, we will be recognizing Robin Jacobson for her leadership of Precious Gifts Precious Preschool for the past 10 years.	N/A
New Business	*Sanctuary Repair and Building Maintenance Repairs Following diligent research and much time spent, the Property Committee presented their recommendations that we proceed with removing acoustical spray of the center ceiling of the sanctuary, cleaning the ceiling and walls and painting the entire sanctuary at a cost of \$27,000. On unknown is what will need to be done once the acoustical spray is removed, but we do have a worst case estimate of somewhere between \$13,000 and \$14,000. They also brought a recommendation to replace ten non-working damper motors that control our 12 furnaces and install sensor thermostats in the sanctuary and the office areas that will be programmed and scheduled online at a cost not to exceed \$6,600. The Executive Committee recommended approval of these recommendations to the Council. The council voted unanimously to proceed with the repairs and improvements using the money we have in savings for Capital Improvements and the Sanctuary Ceiling Fund, and using the money we budgeted in 2018 for Capital Improvements. If new acoustical tiles are required, that expense will be covered wither via the General Fund, or through Savings, or through a Special Offering—or a combination thereof.	M/S/P Bill/Diane
Council Reminders	Faith Talk in July - Diane Barkly Offering Duties - SIGN UP, PLEASE!!!	N/A
Adjournment	Motion to Adjourn at 10:15p.m.	M/S/P Bill/Steve
Announcements & Prayer	Pastor Dave	N/A

Treasurer's Report		Monthly Income	Monthly Expense	General Fund Balance
General Fund	May 2018	\$30,741.40	\$41,120.02 <small>*increased because we caught up on mission payments and benefits were paid twice.</small>	\$49,990.18
	Monthly Average	\$38,025.61	\$36,443.94	
Building Fund		\$7,342.00	Monthly Mortgage \$9,587.00	Building Balance \$25,100.82
Precious Gifts Preschool		\$1790.75	PG Expense \$2,464.89	PG Balance \$11,621.55
Notes:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> The General Fund had nearly \$10,000 more in expenses than income during May, 2018. Those numbers could indicate a poor forecast on our finances for the coming months. In order to meet our obligations, we need to have an increase in income going forward. We continue to maintain a positive fund balance, currently at nearly \$50,000. We maintain a positive Building Fund Balance; mortgage payments are \$9,587/mo. Interest is at 4.5%, loan matures on 2/21/2022. Precious Gifts Preschool Fund balance is positive, however, it declined <i>slightly</i> in May, 2018. <p style="text-align: center;">Remember our mission at St. John's is supported by your talents and generous gifts. THANK YOU!</p>			

SW MN Synod Assembly in Redwood Falls

On June 8 and 9, I enjoyed the opportunity to attend the Southwestern Minnesota Synod Assembly in Redwood Falls. I am being totally honest that I had to think hard about leaving the lake and other activities that occur on a Minnesota summer weekend to attend a two day assembly. But again, being totally honest, I am so thankful that I accepted this invitation. As a new council member, it was a wonderful opportunity to learn more about our synod and meet other members in our synod. I think that they barely had time to scratch the surface of all the work our synod accomplishes during the year, but it was very helpful to me.

I would encourage you to consider attending next year. I would like to thank the entire congregation for allowing me to attend and represent St. John's. - Linda Dircks

Septuafest—Calling ALL Women!

Thursday, July 19 is the annual Septuafest! Pastor Kevin Doely, a musical ventriloquist, will present a new and improved program. He brings laughter and joy to all in attendance. Put this on your calendar and you won't be disappointed. Rides & childcare are available. If needed contact the church office.

Calling All of St. John's

The Crow River Conference is again collecting personal care kits. Please consider helping. The Fall Gathering is at St. John's on Saturday, September 29. Pastor Laura Aase from Rivers of Hope in Hutchinson will "Love To Tell The Story." Kits contain a towel, 2 bars of soap, comb, nail clipper, and a toothbrush. We have some of the supplies on hand.

Congratulations

- ~ Diane (Schmidt) and Gary Reich—married May 19
- ~ Ivy (Stevens) and Matthew Woulet—married May 26
- ~ Jake Mader for making the All-State Team in the MN High School Clay Target League, and for ending the year with one of the top 100 Trap League averages.
- ~ Bree Seagraves, Clair Tikkanen, Jenna Groth, Coach Skip Dolan and rest of the Annandale Girl's Softball Team for takin 4th in State.
- ~ Nicole Nelson and Carly Hendrickson for receiving All Conference Honors in Golf, and to Megan Hendrickson for just missing All Conference Honorable Mention; and to their entire team, and Coach Dave Greve, for being Wright County Conference West Champions.
- ~ Christopher Groth for taking Third Place in the 3200 Meter Run in Section Meet.
- ~ Boyd Rasset and Ben Erickson, and the entire Boy's Golf Team for making it to the Section Tournament.
- ~ Carly Hendrickson, Claudia Lampi, and Bree Seagraves for being 2018 Miss Annandale candidates—good luck—enjoy the experience!

America The Beautiful—Put on by Annandale Christian Women

July 12 at 9:30am here at St. John's Church—Cost \$9

Special Feature: Lori Nohner, Curator, Wright County Historical Society

Music: Rachel Pletke, Le Sueur, MN

Speaker: Paula Zukowski, Maple Grove, MN— "A Real Fixer-Upper"

Call Bev for more information—320-274-8271

No 55+ in July

Summer Worship Schedule

Summer Worship services are at 8:30am and 10am. New this summer, our 8:30am service will be preceded each week with a hymn sing – a chance to sing some of your old favorites, beginning at 8:15am. Please pass the word!

Sunday Scripture Readings

Summer Preaching Series: "Why Jesus?" based on a book by that title by William Willimon. The primary question behind the book and series is this: "Why does the mysterious teacher from Nazareth still call and compel us to follow him after 2,000 years?"

July 1 ~ "Why Jesus? Party Person" Isaiah 25:6-8 and Mark 2:15-19

July 8 ~ "Why Jesus? Preacher" Luke 4:16-30

July 15 ~ "Why Jesus? Magician" Mark 6:30-56

July 22 ~ "Why Jesus? Home Wrecker"

July 29 ~ "Why Jesus? Savior"

Meals On Wheels—August

For the month of August St. John's is responsible for delivering Meals On Wheels. You can sign up now at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/508094cabaa29abf94-meals>

Communion Service at Annandale Care Center

Our monthly service of Holy Communion will be July 6 at 1:30pm. While this worship service is intended for all St. John's members who are residents at the Care Center and Centennial Villa Apartments, it is open to all residents, family and friends.

Pastor Alex will also be leading Sunday worship at the Care Center on Sunday, July 22 at 1:30pm.

Caring Friends Training

We are in the process of starting a new ministry to replace Befrienders, something we are calling Caring Friends. We have already held one training, and will be offering more throughout the summer. We would love to train a large group of men, women and high school youth with some skills so that we might supplement the pastoral ministry of St. John's beyond that of our pastors. We are planning our next training opportunity for TUESDAY, JULY 17TH from 1pm to 3pm (in August, we will offer a training on August 21st from 6pm to 8pm). Our vision is a group of trained caring friends who would be a presence in the lives of people who are homebound or shut-in, who are recovering at home from surgery, who have experienced a significant loss in their life, who live alone and simply need a friend, or folks who are going through a tough time in life and need a listening ear. Training would include things like active listening, beginning and ending a visit, setting personal boundaries, instructions on how to bring Communion to those who request it, resources for sharing Scripture and prayer, etc. Those who serve as Caring Friends would have the opportunity to designate what types of visits they would be willing to make. No one would be asked to make a visit that they are uncomfortable making – e.g. a hospital visit, a visit with someone who is dying, etc. We need BOTH men and women – and we envision training high school youth to serve as positive caring friends among their fellow students. Please sign up at the Welcome Desk to participate in the training, or contact Pastor Dave or Pastor Alex with any questions.

Happy Anniversary on June 27 Jim & Jan Foldenaur

Please celebrate Jim & Jan's 60th wedding anniversary by enjoying the cake they are bringing July 1.

Contemporary Worship

Do you play an instrument? Piano, guitar, saxophone, violin, cello...TUBA? We would love to have you join the contemporary worship team. If interested, contact Pastor Alex or stop in on Sunday.

Precious Gifts Preschool Registration

We are now taking applications for Precious Gifts for the fall of 2018. The first 10 registrations received will be put in a drawing for a tuition discount. We are a preschool that prepares kids for the future!

Toy Donations

We are looking for a few like new toys for the church nursery. Please let the church office know if you have any you would like to donate.

Life Groups—Kick-off in the fall...looking for those who would be interested in being the point person...You would pick a topic and date/time for others to sign up.

Firecracker 5K—July 4—7:30am start time.

Join us for our Firecracker 5K as a participant or a volunteer! This year Jennifer Kulm has taken over organizing this event and could use some help the morning of the 4th. Please let Jen know if you'll be able to assist for a few hours on July 4. You would need to be at St. John's Education Building by 6:30am. We will be done around 9:00am—plenty of time to get to the parade! We will need assistance with setting up the route, registration, passing out race packets, standing at assigned intersections to direct runner/walkers, distribute water and cheer on participants. Please contact Jen at jkulm@isd876.org. Proceeds to help students attending St. John's mission trips.

Scheduling Events

If you are scheduling an event here at St. John's or if your Ministry Team changes the date of their meeting, please be sure to clear it with Chrystal in the office so that we can make sure that we are not double-scheduling our space. Thanks!

Taco Booth

Once again St. John's is busy staffing and supporting the Taco Booth at the park throughout our 4th of July Festival. The proceeds will go toward supporting future Youth Ministry trips and gatherings; but one day's proceeds will go to support our Precious Gifts Preschool. The Taco Booth is always such a huge success because of the strong support of the St. John's congregation. Once again we are grateful for all the donations of bottled water and/or pop (and please keep them coming). You can drop off your donations at the church and stack them under the coat rack next to the Fellowship Hall. We are also grateful for all who have signed up to work the booth. Please check to see if there are still open slots. The sign up board is in the Gathering Area of the Church. Working the booth is a great opportunity to meet other St. John's youth and adults and to have some fun. This year's Taco Booth opened on June 29th and will run through July 4th. We realize that this effort takes a lot of work, but it is our best fundraiser. And don't forget to come to the park to buy some great tacos and invite your friends.

Sound and Slides

We are in need of more volunteers to run the slides and sound for worship. If you have an interest or know of someone who would be interested, please let Pastor Alex know. No experience is required; we will teach people how to do both.

Campfire/Sing-A-Long

Our monthly Campfire/Sing-A-Long will be held, rain or shine, on Thursday, July 19. If it's raining, we will move inside and light lots of candles. Come and join in some good fellowship, some fun music, and a marshmallow or two. Please bring instruments! **If anyone has firewood to donate, it would be GREATLY appreciated!**

Many Thanks

- ~ To those serving on our summer mowing teams - thanks for making our property look good!
- ~ To our garden team for caring for the areas in the front of the church.
- ~ To all who are serving as mentors for our youth preparing for Confirmation this fall.
- ~ To Linda Dircks and Sharon Hermanson who served as voting members to our Synod Assembly.
- ~ To all who planned and organized the 55+ event in June.
- ~ To those who attended the first Caring Friends training.
- ~ To Jennifer Kulm, Lara Kjaer and Todd Sykora for accompanying our youth to the ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston, Texas; and to Pastor Alex for his work with the Community Life Team at the Gathering.
- ~ To all who help set up the Taco Booth and organize the Firecracker 5K—and for all who have and will work at both events.
- ~ To all who have and will donate pop and water for this year's Taco Booth.
- ~ To our anonymous weed puller.

A Prayer For July

This will be a glorious day, oh God! I wake this morning with a heart that is thankful—full of anticipation because “morning has broken.” My heart is bursting with thanks for the life you give to me—life in Annandale, Minnesota, on a hot summer morning in July. Thank you for the blessings of an Annandale Independence Day—for taco stand and parade and happy people, for ferris wheel and flag and soaring fireworks!

And as I celebrate America's 4th of July, I pray to you who are God of this whole wide world. I pray that I always remember the words of a beautiful hymn:

“My country's skies are bluer than the ocean,
and sunlight beams on cloverleaf and pine.
But other lands have sunlight too, and clover,
and skies are everywhere as blue as mine.
So hear my prayer, O God of all the nations,
a song of peace for their land and for mine.” *

Thank you, God, that “morning has broken” on this world you so love. Amen. JS
*ELW 887

Prayer For the Month

Each month of the year, Judy Seaberg and Marge Lundeen will contribute a prayer that they hope you will add to your personal devotions during the month. If you would like to write a prayer for the newsletter, contact Judy or Marge.

Endowment Committee News

Here are a couple of expressions of the great work we are doing through our St. John's Endowment:

“Dear Pastor Dave and the congregation of St. John's, Thank you so much for your ongoing generosity and support of me, as a daughter of the congregation. I am grateful for your financial support and your prayers as I soon enter my 7th year of ordained ministry. Thank you for recognizing the burden that educational costs can be for pastors such as myself. I am pleased to be making progress in paying down my loans with your help.

Starting next week I will be on sabbatical for three months. This time of rest and renewal will allow me to continue to do the challenging work of leadership in today's changing church. Thank you for your support, and blessings on our journey together as church across the country and the world!

*Grace and Peace to you from our Lord Jesus Christ.
Rev. Kirsten Nelson Roenfeldt, Pastor (Mark and Ardis Nelson's daughter)
Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Sturbridge, MA”*

“St. John's Lutheran Church, Words cannot adequately describe how grateful I am for you and for all the support you've surrounded me with as I've followed God's call into ordained ministry. Thank you for all the ways you've encouraged, uplifted and supported me on this journey. And most importantly, thank you for your continued generosity in helping me pay off my seminary debt. I am truly grateful!

*Many thanks,
Pastor Kayla Monson (Pastor Dave and Diane's daughter)
Oak Knoll Lutheran Church, Minnetonka, MN.*

Have you included the St. John's Endowment in your estate plan? If you are not aware, there are a variety of options available to you. To learn about the many ways to make a planned gift, please contact the InFaith Community Foundation at 800-365-4172 (where our St. John's Endowment is held) and they would be happy to explain them to you.

Please know that all gifts and memorials given to our Endowment Fund help us to enhance our mission and outreach as a congregation. We are sincerely grateful for each and every gift given to the St. John's Endowment – no matter the size – whether it's through your estate or as a gift in memory or in honor of someone. Such gifts allow us to support worthwhile ministries within and beyond our congregation! Please remember that a gift given to the Endowment is a gift that “keeps on giving!”

Coming up...

- ~ August 3—Care Center Communion Service
- ~ August 16—Campfire/Sing-A-Long
- ~ August 21—Stewardship For All Seasons Meeting
- ~ August 21—Caring Friends Training
- ~ August 26—Youth Gathering Sunday
- ~ August 27—First Day Of Public School