

**August
2025**

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Pastor's Thoughts...

Grace and peace to you, people of Palm!

Summer heat and summer fun are upon us! I've heard so many great stories from folks this year who have traveled to faraway places and had wondrous adventures. That's awesome, and summer is the perfect time for it. We've got plenty of adventures unfolding at church, too.

The clothing drive collection is already happening, and it's been wonderful to see how generously our congregation gives to those in need. The same goes for our Flood Buckets collection and the other social ministry projects we have going on. Across this area, the country, and the globe, so many needs have arisen this summer. Our prayers and our gifts are definitely helping.

Recently, our congregation was praised by the Lower Susquehanna Synod for our generous spirit. It will be exciting to see where that generosity, and the light of the Holy Spirit, lead us during the rest of the summer. See you in church!

*Grace and peace,
Pr. Carl*

Palm Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes

July 8, 2025 Palm Conference Room

Members present: Pastor Carl Rabbe (phone), Dexter Daubert, Keith Kuhlengel, Debbie Ricker, Barry Felt, Vivian Rexrode, Phyllis Thornton, Bonnie Housel, Mike Bratton, Kim Gillespie, Ron Conard, and Elaine Bender.

- I. Call to order- Dexter called meeting to order at 7:00 pm.
 - II. Opening Devotions- Phyllis shared an inspiring version of the Lord's Prayer.
 - III. Adoption of Agenda- All in favor.
 - IV. Approval of minutes from June 10th meeting—emailed-Ron made motion to approve seconded by Keith.
 - V. Announcements - The two handrails have been installed. Thanks to Don Wolf and Duane Rexrode for their time and talents.
 - VI. Treasurers Report - Mike reported June was a great month of giving. Also Phoenix Center was finalized which will account for a \$3,600 less income next year. Keith made a motion to accept the report and Elaine seconded it. Mike made a motion to name Deb Blanchard to be Assistant Treasurer. Bonnie seconded. All in favor.
 - VII. Pastors Report - Pastor Carl is requesting vacation from 8/20 to 8/27. Substitute pastor has been arranged for 8/24. Also the Dean of Lebanon County Clergy would like to hold monthly meeting on third Thursday of October here at Palm. All in favor of requests.
 - VIII. Committee Reports - Dexter suggested that we have a due date for reports and minutes in the future. It was suggested minutes within 10 days and committee reports a week prior to council meeting. Matt Blanchard reported for Property Committee that he has received an estimate for the relocating of the painting. Bahret Church Interiors has given the estimate of \$11,000. Barry Felt reported that the council directory with email addresses was eliminated from the electronic version of Parable but it will remain in the printed form.
 - IX. Timeline- Dexter reported that Old Annville Days was successfully held on the grounds of LVC. We hope to get a committee together early enough next year so that we can participate in 2026. The date for 2026 is June 13th.
 - X. Old Business - Ron Conard asked how the issue with the Pastors salary is going. Keith reported that there is a meeting coming up at the end of July with Finance Committee, Personnel Committee, and along with synod representative, Joe Stepanski, to discuss. The issue is a "work in progress" and hopefully can be corrected gradually within the next few years.
 - XI. New Business - Dexter brought up the request for Fatima to have remote access and possibly her needing a new laptop to support that type of software. He will look into this with some advice/help from knowledgeable staff/church members.
- Motion to adjourn- Vivian made a motion to adjourn and Phyllis seconded. Everyone stood for the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Debbie Ricker

Next meeting August 12th (meeting for review of SCC Survey at 6:30 p.m.)

Music Notes From Holly

In the declining years of the Roman Empire, a Christian man from Milan, Italy, rose in prominence for the Western church: Saint Ambrose. In Greek his name means "immortal" or "divine" (ever have an ambrosia salad i.e. food of the gods?). While we may debate how accurately named Ambrose was, there is no denying that he was a faithful servant of the Church and left a lasting legacy.

Unexpectedly (at least to him) elected as Bishop of Milan, history has named him the patron saint of beekeepers for his honey-tongue, of beggars for his generosity to the poor, of learning for being an educated man, and of Milan for his service there as a bishop. Ambrose is remembered for fiercely defending the equality of the Trinity and was also one of the earliest writers of Christian hymnody. His hymns reflect his affirmation of a co-equal Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. His eloquent sermons and hymn texts have stood the test of time and are said to have played a role in the conversion of Saint Augustine.

Ambrose introduced metered hymn writing to the western church (versus the more chant-like style of psalms); his hymn writing style became so popular that it came to be known as Ambrosian-style, a format copied and still used today! Some of his hymn texts are included in ELW: O Splendor of God's Glory Bright, O Trinity O Blessed Light, and Savior of the Nation's Come.

I am always awed at how an ancient hymn and a contemporary hymn sit literally across from each other in our hymnals. They anchor us to the past while propelling us toward the future. They are a reflection of the Spirit's inspiration to lift up writers and composers for Christ's Church in every age, and they are such a gift to us, as is YOUR voice in the communal song of Palm as we sing our way thru worship each week!

Fun fact: Studies have shown that singing improves lung function, reduces snoring, and releases endorphins which may help with pain relief. Literally good for you!

In song, Holly

Social Ministries

The Social Ministry Committee's Flood Buckets project continues.

If you write a check, please note in the memo it is for the Flood Bucket project. When all supplies are collected, we will ask for volunteers to assemble them. Finished buckets will then be taken to First UMC Church which is a Hub, then be moved to a staging site at Mission Central in Mechanicsburg where they are distributed locally and throughout the United States. If anyone has 5-gallon plastic buckets with lids, please feel free to donate them. They must be clean and have lids. Advertisements on the outside are acceptable. We will also be making Pillowcases of Love. Date to be determined. We will need sewers, machines, pins, scissors, irons and ironing boards. When finished, these pillowcases go to the Pillowcases of Love and are stamped with a Bible verse and a Bible is put inside for the adults and a Christian book for children. They are then sent to people in need such as battered women in all surrounding counties. All we need for this worthwhile project is a small amount of your time.

Social Ministries is still collecting Food for the Caring Cupboard Children's Lunch Program through August 23. Please see the bulletin board in the Narthex for the needed items.

Stephen Ministries

THE FOCUS OF PENTECOST



The Christian church is currently in the season of Pentecost, the longest church season of the year. The season begins after the Easter season on Pentecost Sunday and continues until the first Sunday of Advent, 23-28 weeks. (The dates and length are flexible because Easter is not a fixed date.) It was on the day of Pentecost that the Holy Spirit appeared as “tongues of fire” resting on the apostles, who then spoke the message of Christ as Messiah in the languages of the many who were present. (Acts 2:3-4) As a result, the multitude “devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching.” (Acts 2: 42) The scriptures during Pentecost focus on Christ’s ministry and the ministry of his apostles after his resurrection and ascension.

Today’s Christians are just as compelled to carry on Christ’s ministry and share it with others as those who experienced it first-hand in their lifetime did. Christ commands us to “Love one another; even as I have loved you,” (John 13:34.) Agape (ah-gah-pay) is the Greek word used to mean the unconditional love that defines God’s love. Agape seeks all people’s eternal well-being, and is the very foundation of outreach and social ministry.

In today’s world it is really difficult to feel this agape toward everyone. We know, in our minds, that this love is meant to be given unconditionally, regardless of status, religion or politics. But, in our hearts, there are some people that just are really hard to love.

That said, there is also an over-abundance of people hurting in this world right now due to natural disasters and human conflicts. Now is the time to share that agape with those who need it most by supporting Palm’s efforts to Caring Cupboard and Flood Buckets, or other world relief efforts. We need to follow Christ’s commandment to “Love one another” now more than ever.

“We ask Your Holy Spirit to work in us and through us. May we not be led by our flesh but be guided by Your Spirit in both our speech and our deeds. May we truly live as the temple of God, knowing that Your Spirit lives within us.” (soveryblessed.com)

If you, or someone you know could benefit from the support of Stephen Ministry, please don’t hesitate to call Pastor Carl or one of our Stephen Ministry leaders:

Ann Miller (717)507-4807, Sandy Geib (717)964-1823, Kitty Wolf
(717)383-6355, Kristie Cavallaro (717)576-1595, or Suzy Fox (717)813-1844

Our Stephen Ministers are available and can offer a listening ear and caring Christian support.

Kitty Wolf

CLOTHING DRIVE August 16, 2025

Collection of clothing and accessories started July 21, 2025 and will continue through August 14, 2025. A drop-off trailer is located in Palm Church's Parking lot. Please do **NOT** drop off clothes inside the church, **NOR CONTACT** church staff to open the trailer door.

Clothes need to be clean and gently used, no tears, holes or stains. All sizes of clothing for women, men, children and infants will be accepted. This also includes coats, suits, and accessories (shoes, handbags, belts, gloves, mittens and hats). All items should be placed into a bag/box. Please indicate on the front of the bag/box the gender and size of the articles.

There are sign-up sheets on the table in the narthex. If you could give a couple hours of your time, or more, to assist in sorting the clothing, please sign up. It would be greatly appreciated. Times and dates are on the sign-up sheets. More hands make light work and in this world we live in today, there is a need in our, and surrounding communities for such a worthwhile cause. Thank you in advance for your help.

Hope to see you there! If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Phyllis Moyer at 717-304-2872.

Property Committee

The Property Committee would like to thank Duane Rexrode, Don and Kitty Wolf and Tim Miller for the design and installation of the two (2) new handrails along the side stairs of the chancel. Both steps now have the option of a left or right handrail to use for your convenience to enter or exit the chancel. Thank you, Duane, Don, Kitty and Tim!"

Book Study

We will take a break for the rest of August and resume on September 8 with 'X is for Oxen', Luke 14: 15-24. We then have two more chapters to finish the book 'A is for Alabaster' We will then need a new book to read. Open to suggestions. See Linda Williams if you have a book to recommend or if you want to browse through my bag of possible reads. Our Monday discussions are great. Looking forward to diving into a new book (after we finish X, Oxen, Y, Yeast and Z, Zaccheus). Point of contact, ***Linda Williams.***

Dear Palm Family

Thank you for all of the caring messages, cards, prayers, and the prayer shawl as I underwent knee surgery and throughout the recovery. All are greatly appreciated. I am grateful to be part of such a caring church community and felt so very supported through this journey. Thank you again. In God's love,
Rosalie Jerpe

Lay Assistant, Ushers for August Services

If you are unable to participate on a given day, please contact **Sue Nale** at **snale@verizon.net** or **(717) 884-5239** to make arrangements. Only contact the office when you know the replacement, so that the bulletin can be updated. All changes and questions go through the Director of Volunteer Ministries.

Please Pick Up A Copy In The Narthex

Lay Assistant	August 3 10:00 AM	August 10 10:00 AM	August 17 10:00 AM	August 24 10:00 AM	August 31 10:00 AM
Assisting Minister	Laurie Miller	Phyllis Moyer	Keith Kuhlengel	Evvie Kohl	Laurie Miller
Communion Assistants	Patty Van Scyoc Vivian Rexrode	Steve Kahl Ben Ricker	Norah Kisekka Laurie Miller	Patty Van Scyoc Vivian Rexrode	Keith Kuhlengel Steve Kahl
Acolyte	Laurie Miller	Phyllis Moyer	Keith Kuhlengel	Evvie Kohl	Laurie Miller
Torch Bearers	Patty Van Scyoc Vivian Rexrode	Steve Kahl Ben Ricker	Norah Kisekka Laurie Miller	Patty Van Scyoc Vivian Rexrode	Keith Kuhlengel Steve Kahl
Lector	Susan Williams	Sue Kotzatoski	Steve Oliver	Norah Kisekka	Ben Ricker
Greeters	Ann Miller Todd Miller	Steve Oliver David Rorabaugh	Phyllis Moyer Charles Moyer	Deb Ricker Steve Ricker	Suzy Fox Wayne Fox
Ushers	Cory Bender Larry Geib Tim Miller Glenn Snover	Cory Bender Larry Geib Tim Miller Glenn Snover	Cory Bender Larry Geib Tim Miller Glenn Snover	Cory Bender Larry Geib Tim Miller Glenn Snover	Cory Bender Larry Geib Tim Miller Glenn Snover
Altar Guild	Deb Ricker Patty Van Scyoc	Phyllis Moyer Vivian Rexrode	Allison Felt Dorothy Felt	Deb Ricker Sue Kotzatoski	Allison Felt Dorothy Felt
Children's Sermon	Craig Meyer	Pastor Carl	Michael Williams	Kathy Meyer	Evvie Kohl
A/V Ministry	Scott Thomas	Scott Thomas	Scott Thomas	Scott Thomas	Scott Thomas

For everything there is a season, a time for every activity under heaven.



Dear Palm Lutheran Church,

We are entering a Season of Change. After much prayer and discernment, we have resigned from our role as missionaries in the ELCA. Our last day with the ELCA will be October 31, 2025. We know this may come to many of you as a surprise. While this is a significant change, we hope that this does not mean that our relationship with you will come to an end. And so before we explain, we want to say thank you. For walking with us these past 12 years. We have seen the work of God, in the midst of challenges and setbacks. The Lord has been with us, and so have you.

We have witnessed countless babies and children survive and go home with their parents, living with profound joy instead of sorrow because of this ministry that you have supported. Some of the many highlights of the past twelve years include:

- Transforming the NICU at Arusha Medical Lutheran Center (ALMC) into a leading NICU in East Africa.

- Mentoring nurses and 20 doctors, who now work in pediatrics and neonatology throughout Tanzania and Africa.

- Launching and hosting the annual “Tiny Feet, Big Steps” African Neonatology Conference and writing a Neonatology Handbook, through which vital knowledge has been passed onto medical teams from over 25 countries.

- Developing nutritional education programs in a Maasai school and health centers in the rural areas of Arusha.

- Building and sustaining a rehabilitation program for severely malnourished children.

- Treating so many Tanzanian children in clinic.

While we are grateful for the financial gift of each congregation and individual, we have also enjoyed connecting personally with individual ELCA congregations. We’ve appreciated the opportunity to speak in your fellowship halls, enjoy meals with your outreach boards and in some cases, even stay in guest rooms in your houses! We also have taken great comfort knowing that you were lifting us up in prayer during your worship services.

A New Chapter

While we are ending our employment with the ELCA, we are continuing our work with infants, children and mothers in Arusha. We are not leaving Tanzania. We plan to continue on in the work we have been doing the past decade: training healthcare workers and fostering innovation in neonatology in ways that are specific to the African context. In order to support and sustain this work, we have founded a non-profit organization called Institute for Child Healthcare Africa (ICHA). ALMC and ICHA are in discussions about how ICHA will assume operational and financial responsibility for running the Department of Pediatrics and the NICU at ALMC. ICHA is also developing the first free-standing specialty outpatient pediatric clinic in Tanzania. We have a Board in the USA and a local Tanzanian Board of Directors, and are registered as a 501(c)(3). This is a non-governmental, not-for-profit organization.

ICHA will continue to host the annual “Tiny Feet, Big Steps” conferences. We are preparing for the arrival of doctors and nurses from nearly 120 different medical facilities and 25 countries this November at our 5th African Neonatology Conference in Arusha. We have been invited to expand the conferences into other African countries and early December we will be running a Tiny Feet, Big Steps conference in Ethiopia! Next year we are looking to bring the conference to Ghana and Uganda, and have teaching opportunities across the continent.

Further Partnership

The ELCA invites you to continue in financial and prayer partnership with other missionaries on their staff. We wish to encourage this! Daudi and Kellen Msseemmaa have been working in East Africa since 2019 as East African Representatives. They are involved in some wonderful work, strengthening relationships between ELCA churches and the partners in East Africa. Daudi also serves on the leadership board for the church and clinic of the Lutheran Mission in South Sudan. They have founded Empowered Girls, which teaches life skills to girls and builds supportive environments for their education. You will find information on the ELCA Missionary Giving site and specify “Msseemmaa GCS 2058”. They are wonderful ELCA mission colleagues and friends in Tanzania, and we admire their work. Please do invest in them!

We Remain in Relationship

If you are interested in continuing to receive our newsletters, please let us know by replying to this email or emailing Jodi at jodiswanson@yahoo.com or Steve at stephen.swanson@ichafrica.org.

At the very least, if you have been supporting us in the past years, we ask that you continue to pray for us, our family and the work we have been doing. This transition has been quite taxing on our family and there is uncertainty ahead--but we do know that Jesus walks alongside us. In all of these uncertainties, we sense His presence and His guidance.

If you would like more information about how you could continue to support the work at the NICU, the education of doctors and nurses and the conferences, we would be happy to discuss this with you. We know that how churches choose to use their funds, particularly around mission, often have clear guidelines. Again, we also do not wish for congregations to reduce their support to the ELCA.

Thank you for all the work we have done in the past years together. We have been humbled by God’s faithfulness and the times and places, just when we thought hope was lost, that Jesus showed up to give us strength to carry on. As we head into this next chapter, we hope and pray that we can continue to be in partnership together. Many thanks,

Steve and Jodi Swanson

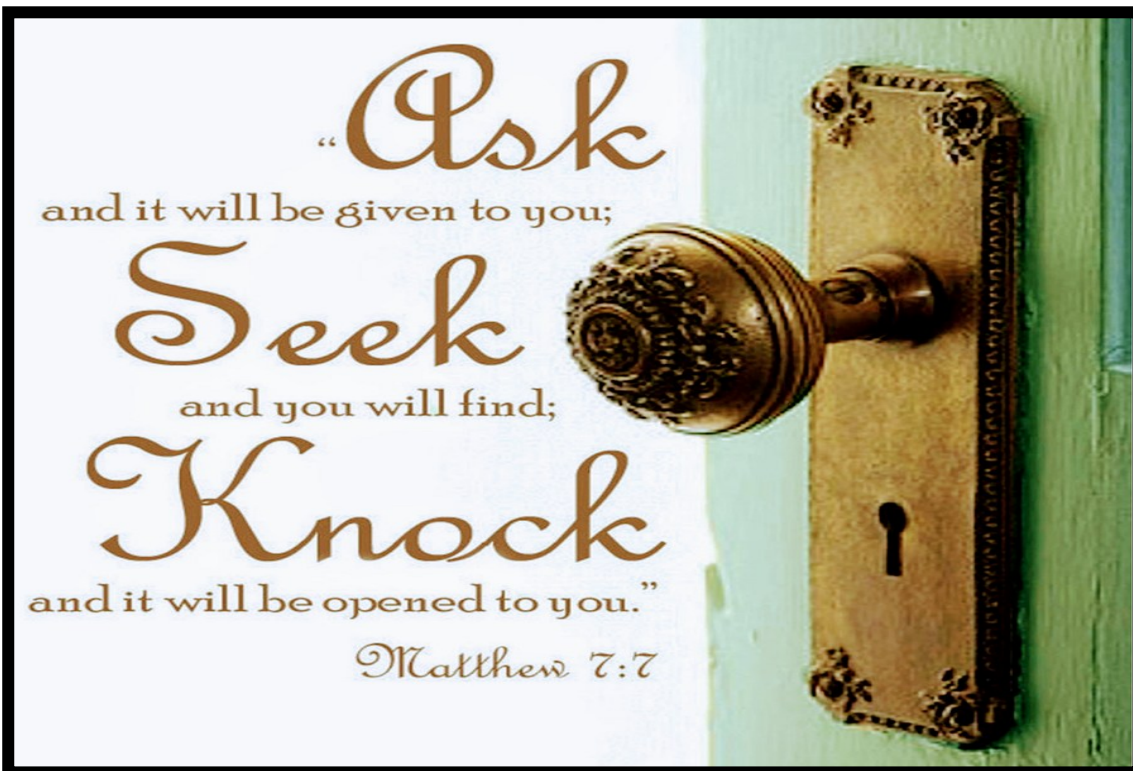
Large Print Sunday Bulletins

If you need a large print bulletin for Sunday services, please contact Fatima Nelson, our Church Administrator via email (parish.secretary@palmchurch.org) or call the office (717-838-3311) the Wednesday before you plan to attend. This will ensure that a large print bulletin will be there for you. We are using this approach in order to make sure the large print bulletin is available to those that need it and also reduce waste of our resources.



Londonderry Village

Communion Service will not be held this August. Pastor Carl Rabbe will be on vacation and the substitute Pastor is not available.



FREE

Medical Care to ALL low income Lebanon County Adults. Absolutely NO COST to YOU!
Sore Throat, Asthma, Flu, Bronchitis, Urinary Tract Infection and other Minor Illnesses
Call (717) 272-2252 Monday thru Friday 9AM to 4PM To schedule an appointment
Lebanon Valley Volunteers in Medicine 711 S. 8th Street, Lebanon.

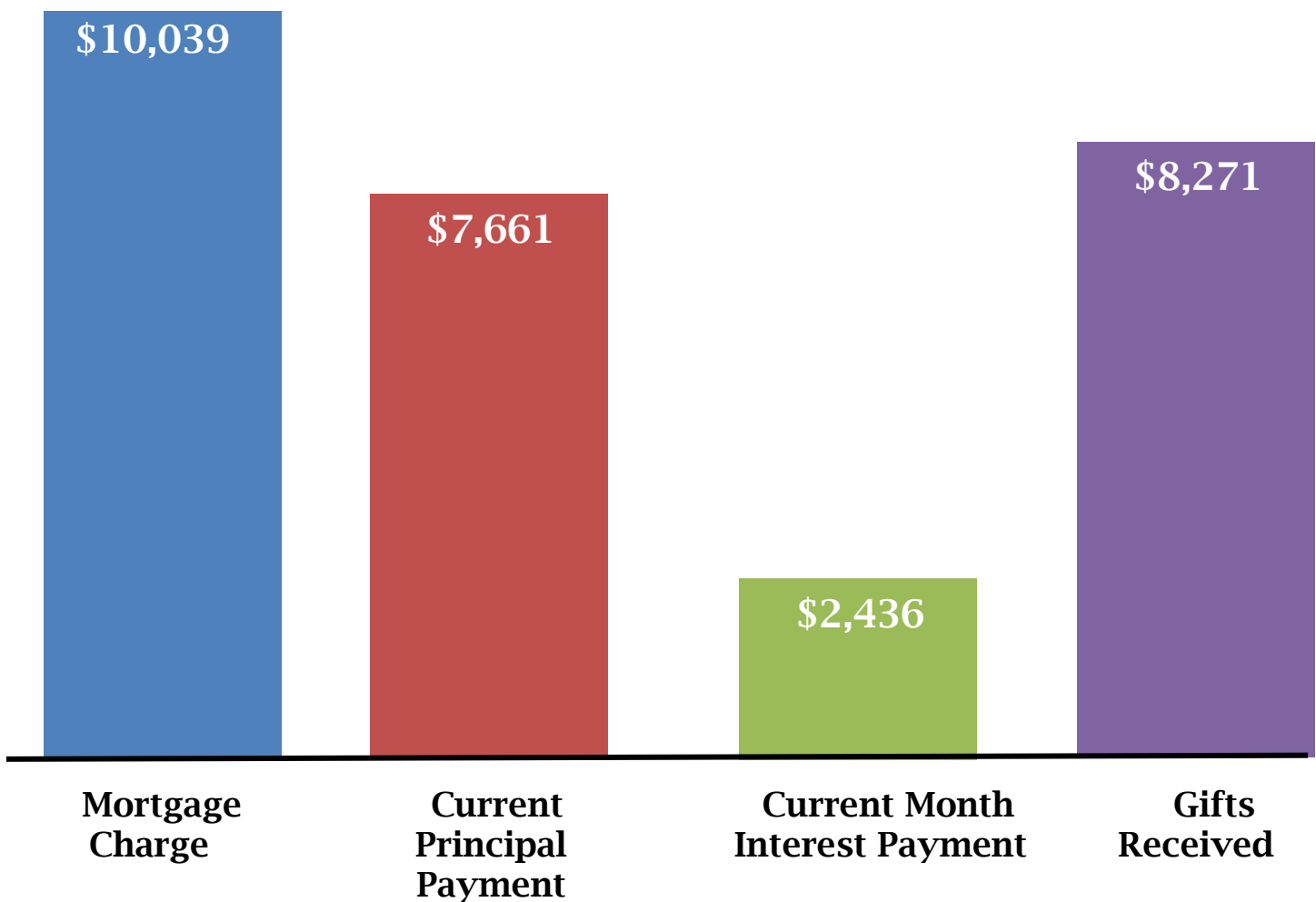
Building into Christ's Future

Mortgage Loan Update June 31, 2025

Beginning Mortgage Principal Balance:	\$1,720,000
Current Mortgage Principal Balance:	\$ 862,668
Gifts Received less Mortgage Payment:	\$ - 1,767

Designated Offering for August 2025

Confirmation Camp



Alcoholics Anonymous
Al-Anon
American Red Cross

717-279-4989
717-270-4974
717-273-2671

Poison Control Center
Luthercare
Narcotics Anonymous

800-222-1222
717-626-1171
717-277-7500



August

August 1

Mildred Light
Sally Wood

August 3

Stacey LaPine
Donald Wolf, Jr.

August 5

Jenna Furman

August 6

Lee Phillips

August 7

Carolyn Conard

August 8

Andrew Conard
Suzanne Fureman

August 9

Ruth Barley

August 11

Wanda Hebert

August 15

Gary Grumbein
Glenn Snover

August 16

Amanda Kohr
Elizabeth Wentling

August 17

Mildred Shreffler
Cole Birch

August 22

Vivian Rexrode

August 24

Francine Rusho Drupp

August 25

Kenneth Lehman

August 27

Rita Heffelfinger

August 30

Chase Blanchard

August 31

Kathy Meyer

August

August 1

Gary & Carol Zellner 43 yrs

August 6

Ray & Wanda Hebert 59 yrs

Kevin & Kimber-Leigh Love 42 yrs

August 8

Michael & Irene Fox 10 yrs

August 10

Kristie & Dominic Cavallaro 51 yrs

August 14

Larry & Sandra Geibe 54 yrs

Frederick & Elizabeth Wentling 54 yrs

August 17

Todd & Ann Miller 51 yrs

Gene & Miriam Sindlinger 68 yrs

Congratulations to everyone celebrating a birthday or an anniversary during the month of August. If your name is missing, kindly contact the church office via email and we will update our records. Thank you!



August 4-September 16 2025

Upcoming Meetings/Events

Social Ministries	August 5, 10:00-11:00 Parlor
Property Committee	August 5, 7:00-8:00 pm CR
PEO	August 12, 6:30 -9:30 pm MPR
Council Meeting	August 12, 7:00-8:30 pm CR
Memory Care Group	August 14, 10:00-11:30 am
Clothing Drive & Free Meal	August 16, 9:00 am -1:00 pm
Parish Visitor Committee	August 19, 10:00 am GA
Noon Meal	August 21, 12:00-1:00 MPR
Book Club	September 1, 10:30-11:30 am GA
Social Ministries	September 2, 10:00-11:00 am Parlor
Property Committee	September 2, 7:00-8:00 pm CR
Yoko Tokuda Recital	September 5, 6:30-7:30 pm Sanctuary
Book Club	September 8, 10:30-11:30 am GA
PEO	September 12, 6:30-9:30 pm MPR
Council Meeting	September 12, 7:00-8:30 pm CA
Memory Care Group	September 14, 10:00-11:30 Parlor

Lift classes Mondays and Wednesdays from 9:00 am to 10:00 am in the MPR

Committee Chair Directory

Church Council



Director of Volunteer Ministries (Volunteer Coordinator)

Contact: Sue Nale, 717-884-5239
sanale@verizon.net

Archives Committee

Contact: Craig Meyer 717-867-1979
csksmeyer@comcast.net

Christian Education

Contact: Craig Meyer, 717-867-1979
csksmeyer@comcast.net

Communication Committee,

Contact: Elaine Bender, 717-421-8986,
elaine.bender@verizon.net

Finance Committee

Contact: Mike Bratton, 717-838-7353
treasurer@palmlutheran.org

Hospitality Committee

Contact: Sue Nale, 717-884-5239
sanale@verizon.net

Lebanon County Lutheran Men

Contact: Cory Bender, 717-421-8971

Parish Visitor Committee

Contact: Ann Miller, 717-838-6122
annkmiller33@gmail.com

Personnel and Salary Committee

Contact: Keith Kuhlengel
717-917-8659
krkuhlengel@gmail.com

Property Committee

Contact: Matt Blanchard
717-832-0548
mdblanchard@comcast.net

Safety & Security Committee

Contact: Cory Bender, 717-421-8971
benderc267@gmail.com

Social Ministry

Contact: Phyllis Moyer
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phyljtm@gmail.com

Sewing Group

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Shawl Ministry

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Stephen Ministry Committee

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phyljtm@gmail.com

Vivian Rexrode, Member

2005 W. Oak St
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sundance2242@icloud.com
Home: 717-273-0522
Cell: 223-316-8159

Church Officers

Michael Bratton, Treasurer*

122 N. Thistledown Drive
Palmyra, PA 17078
717-838-7353

Fran LaPine, Financial Secretary*

307 Stone Harvest Way
Palmyra, PA 17078
717-838-2030
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***Appointed, non-voting
position of Council**

Palm Lutheran Church



Palm Lutheran Church

11 West Cherry Street, Palmyra, Pennsylvania 17078

717.838.3311

www.palmlutheran.org

Office Hours: Monday –Thursday, 8:30 AM. to 2:30 PM

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Director of Music	Holly Gainor 717-579-9375 palmlutheranmusic@gmail.com
Parish Administrator	Fatima Nelson 717-838-3311 parish.secretary@palmlutheran.org
Director of Volunteer Ministries	Sue Nale 717-884-5239 sanale@verizon.net
Sexton	Lauren Conard

Palm Parable is published monthly by **Palm Lutheran Church**
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