



From the Pastor's Perspective

Better than Gold!

"The twelve gates were twelve pearls, each gate made of a single pearl. The great street of the city was of gold, as pure as transparent glass." -Rev. 21:21

Is heaven really paved with gold?

We ask this question partly out of curiosity. But we also ask it in order to tap into the motivation we need for living our lives fully right now. Heaven is not just a future reality. It is a secure promise that centers us now, filling us with joy and hope to carry us through each day. When we climb the steep inclines of life, we look out into the distance to see Jesus' promise of the glorious (both wonderful and literally "full of glory") future to come. That keeps our feet going!

The picture John is given about heaven in Revelation 21, however, is not given as a literal description. Instead, it is a symbolic description given to bolster our confidence, lift our spirits and well up joy that flows from the inside out.

It's about comparison. In heaven, as we have learned, we will live in our physical bodies on a material (albeit perfected) earth. But Revelation 21 is not trying to give a literal picture of heaven: all sparkly, bejeweled, shining in gold and bewildering in precious materials.

That is, after all, merely the best that people can produce. Rulers and the rich have built palaces like this. Think of the Taj Mahal. Or The Palace of Versailles. Or The Temple of the Emerald Buddha. Amazing, for sure. And they do evoke a "heavenly" splendor.

These descriptions, however, are given to help us consider the dramatic comparison of how much better heaven is (beyond) than what we can ever conceive. So, what we know as most valuable now (gold, pearls, jewels) is shown to be commonplace in heaven. What we use sparingly (for they are rare and precious) and reserve for only what is most valuable (gold-leaf decorations, gems accentuated as centerpieces, jewels set apart in attention-grabbing ways), becomes least valuable. Gold is so plentiful that it's used as pavement. Pearls (far more precious than any other gem in the ancient world) are used as a building material.

Now there is even more meaning in this symbolism, but don't miss the comparison. Heaven is far better than anything we have here. So, don't limit your view by hoping that in heaven you'll get the best of what we have in this life. Yes, there will be no pain or sorrow, no disease or death, no hunger or injustice. There will be abundance of all that is good. Relationships will be whole and we will have the joy like we have when at our best with loved ones.

But that is not what heaven is! It is so much better than that. Heaven is being with Jesus, face-to-face, dwelling in His immediate, glorious presence. We can't yet imagine how good this will be. So, we are told to imagine the best we have now, and then believe that the reality will be so much better. The picture of Jerusalem the Golden is merely to launch us beyond gold!

So, as you look into the future to see the promise of what is to come, see the shiny glow as a beacon calling you forward. Heaven is not wonderful because it is made of gold. That will be inconsequential. It is wonderful because that golden glow is Jesus, and we will be with Him just as we were intended.

Today, that promise drives you forward. That vision renews the hope within you. The embrace of Jesus one day grows joy right now. We have a golden motivation, but it is not gold. The gold that keeps us going is the "first-place" reward that we cannot even begin to imagine. But we do have the secure promise that "it's gonna be sooo good!" And because of that, right here, right now: we're golden!

Pastor David

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Office Closed on July 3

The church office will be closed on Friday, July 3, in observance of Independence Day on Saturday, July 4. As we celebrate our nation's freedoms and blessings, please pray for our country and all its people. May God bring healing, wisdom & peace to our nation.

2026 MN Annual Conference Highlights

Jeff Lansdowne (Evangel's Lay Leader) and Pastor David represented Evangel at the Annual Conference gathering of United Methodists in MN on June 16-18 in St. Cloud. The theme was "Serving Joyfully" & was anchored in Philippians 4:4-9. Over 400 delegates networked, worshiped, learned & visioned together. Special speaker Bishop Cedrick D. Bridgeforth of the Greater Northwest Episcopal Area gave sessions on the difference between happiness & joy & the need for renewing practices. The Conference was preceded by a Day of Justice when attendees learned about acts of justice & standing for truth & justice during challenging times right here in Minnesota.

The ministries of Conference pastors were celebrated & marked in retirements, deaths, ordinations & appointments. Lay people were lifted as key to living out the Church's calling. Further, plans are being made to host General Conference (with delegates from around the world) at the Minneapolis Convention Center in 2028. For highlights, video recaps & information, click on the links below, or visit: www.minnesotaumc.org/news



[2026 Conference highlights](#)

[Annual Conference Recap Video](#)

[PowerPoint Slide Presentation](#)

Generous Evangel!

Evangel Church generously gave \$1,535 to the 2026 Love Offering. Jeff Lansdowne and Pastor David attended Annual Conference Session where offerings were collected from churches across the state for the Love Offering. This year's collection is allocated to: Midwest Mission, Love Boldly Mental Health Ministries Grant, the Endowment for Ministerial Education, Minnesota Conference's Emergency Response Fund and Volunteers in Mission Scholarships. In addition, Evangel donated 30 boxes of surplus school supplies for Midwest Missions distribution to schools in Honduras!

Evangel UMC Honored at Annual Conference by Midwest Mission



During Midwest Mission's presentation at Annual Conference this past week, they highlighted the long-term and ongoing support from Evangel. Evangel has provided kits, cleaning supplies, medical supplies, school supplies (most recently 30 boxes delivered at Annual Conference!) and, of course, lots of funding for various drives and needs. They presented Evangel with their "Legacy of Hope" award "For faithful partnership that has strengthened the ministry of Midwest Mission from its early years to today, and brought hope to countless lives." Way to be the hands and feet of Jesus, Evangel! We look forward to working with Midwest Mission in the future to keep sharing the love of Jesus in tangible ways that make a difference!

Celebrate and Sing This Summer! (Potlucks & Hymn/Song Sings)

Wed., July 8 | 5:30pm-Potluck Meal in the Dinette | 6:30pm-Hymn & Song Sing in the Sanctuary

"Glory!", our summer message series is all about heaven. Knowing we have a future in heaven directly affects our daily lives now. We are lifted in hope, assured of full healing and resolution and trusting that there is a better future coming. In fact, heaven keeps us singing here and now! There are seemingly limitless worship songs and hymns about heaven for the believer to keep in heart, mind and mouth. So, in addition to what we will be exploring in the Bible about heaven on Sundays, we also need to celebrate and sing about this joy that carries us. We're going to host monthly potlucks and hymn/song sings this summer. Bring a dish to share if you can (perhaps consider a "heaven" theme dish...like angel hair pasta or angel food cake!) or simply come and eat. We'll then move into the sanctuary for "a good sing!"

Financial Summary of Church Operations through May 2026

Income from Church Congregational Giving	\$ 261,382
Other Operating Income	\$ 57,519
Total Income from Operations	\$ 318,901
Total Expense from Operations	\$ 303,058
Net Income/(Loss) from Operations	\$ 15,843

Giving for the month is above budget (\$67,076 vs \$49,037) as we had 2 families gave their annual giving this month. Year-to-date Net operating (income/loss) is positive by \$15,843. No unexpected expenses occurred. Finances are strong and team has no concerns to report. For questions or for more information, contact Arlene Morris, Chair of the Finance Team, at vammorris@gmail.com.

United Methodist Women

Sewing Circle - Mondays throughout July in Room 223 at 1pm

Women's Gathering - Faithful women of Evangel, we are taking a break for the summer months. We will be resuming our meetings in the fall. Be on the lookout for our next meeting announcement in the August Reporter. Until then, have a great summer and we hope to see you in church through the summer. Blessings to you all until we meet again! - With love and prayers from Susie and Becky

Sign Up for the Youth In-Town Mission Week

Youth are invited to participate in our In-Town Mission Week, July 12–16. Each day after Mega Camp, students will partner with local ministries and community organizations to serve throughout the area. We are excited to work alongside the Brooklyn Center group that will be serving with us that week, strengthening our partnership and making a meaningful impact together.

A participation form will be included in the weekly Youth Families email or contact Youth Minister Stephanie Mettler: smettler@evangelum.org. Please sign up your student for this exciting week of service, fellowship, and outreach!

Evangel's "Over 90" Club: Janet Hoar



Janet celebrated her 90th birthday on March 11, 2024.

Janet grew up in Walthill, a small town in Nebraska. Her family was active in the local Presbyterian Church, and after it closed, they transferred to the local Methodist Church. Bob Hoar, a boy both in her school and Methodist church, took Janet to his senior prom when she was a sophomore. This "first date" led to a lasting relationship, and the two were married in 1952. Bob joined the Navy, and the two got engaged when he was home on furlough. He then invited her out to visit him where he was serving in San Diego, California, where they got married. After the Navy, Bob went to college and then was hired on by IBM. They first lived in Omaha, but Bob was then transferred to Rochester in 1964.

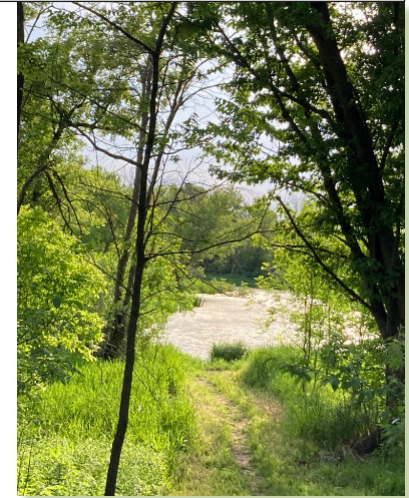
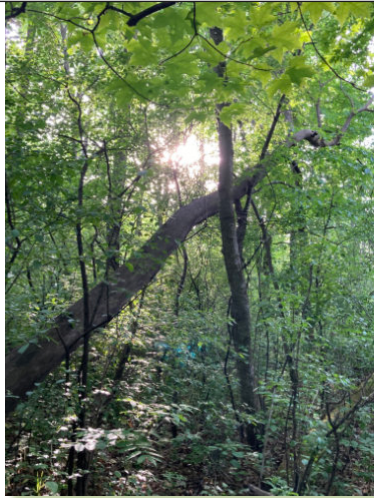
They joined First (Christ) Methodist in Rochester. Since they were looking for a smaller church, however, they later joined Bethany UMC in the 1980s. By the time they joined with Evangel in 2016, Bob was struggling with medical issues. Janet has not been able to be very active at Evangel.

Janet has three children, Jean, Kelly & Scott. When Scott was in grade school, Janet began working at Mayo in lab & research. She retired after 23 years. Interestingly, Janet had known Becky Pierce from their work at Mayo. In their retirement, Janet and Bob enjoyed traveling and their growing family: Janet has 5 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren. Janet enjoys reading, crossword puzzles, jigsaw puzzles and working in her yard.

Bob died of cancer in March of 2020; they were married 67-and-a-half years! Janet shares these keys for their good marriage: "I think you have to have a lot of patience. It's difficult. And communicate. We talked things through when something came up. You have to be prepared to adjust and work together."

Janet's favorite Bible passage is Psalm 23. She explains that her faith is a personal, day-to-day thing. God is someone to rely on, who helps you right now. He provides stability, bringing you back to sanity and keeps you leveled. To young people, she offers: "Be true to yourselves. You need a good base to start from."

The Take-a-Hike Group Explored the Izaak Walton Wet Lands on May 28



Evangel's Moving Ministry- A Blessing to the Community!



Jim Klepper, Director of Connections & Growth: jklepper@evangelum.org
 Clancy Craven, Assoc. Dir. of Connections & Growth: ccraven@evangelum.org

Connections and Growth Calendar for June

Every Sunday	Children's Church at 8:30am and 10:30am
Every Sunday	Nursery open at 8:30am and 10:30am
Thursday, July 9	Mega Kids Camp Training
Sunday, July 12	Mega Kids Camp set up
July 13-16	Mega Kids Camp at Century High School
Wednesday, July 22	Connections & Growth Team
Thursday, July 23	Unite@ Mayo Field for Honkers Baseball Game
Sunday, July 26	Youth Group - Games and Bonfire at the Kleppers'

Children's Church – All Summer Long During Both Worship Services!

We're excited to welcome all children from Pre.K through Grade 5 to Evangel Children's Church this summer! Join us in Room 225 during both the 8:30am and 10:30am worship services.

At Children's Church, we don't teach in the traditional way. Instead, we teach like Jesus did—using everyday objects such as a mustard seed, a fig tree, or a lost coin to reveal life-changing truths. Through fun, hands-on experiences that children can touch, see, and even smell, biblical lessons come to life and become unforgettable. We use the GROW Curriculum, one of today's most innovative and relevant children's ministry programs. Each week includes interactive activities, polls, Bible study, engaging GROW videos, themed art projects, reflection time, and practical Bible verse application. Every lesson is designed to be meaningful, memorable, and fun! Evangel Children's Church: Innovative and creative? Absolutely. Boring? Never!

July Children's Church Schedule:

- July 5 – No Children's Church (Children's activity books available in worship)
- July 12 – We Are Made in God's Image: God Creates Humans
- July 19 – God Made a Plan to Save Us: Adam and Eve
- July 26 – God Helps Us Make Good Choices: Cain and Abel

Primary leaders Jim Klepper and Clancy Craven will guide each session with support from youth leaders Nora Day, Gretchen Kroneman, Gavin Homerding, Becca Steele and other amazing team members as needed.



We invite your children to join us this summer in the Children's Library for a joyful, faith-filled experience where they will grow in their understanding of God's love and His plan for their lives.

Mega Kids Camp Volunteers Still Needed!

July 13–16 at Century High School

Mega Kids Camp is just around the corner, and we are in the final stages of recruiting volunteers to help serve the more than 420 children expected to attend camp this year!

These children need caring youth and adults who are willing to invest a few days helping them have fun, build friendships, and discover Jesus.

Mega Kids Camp is always a tremendous step of faith. We prepare the rallies, recruit volunteers, order supplies, rent facilities, and invest significant resources because we believe God will use this ministry to impact hundreds of children and families. What could be more important than helping children meet Jesus?

We need your help!

To learn more about volunteer opportunities, call **507-289-4817** or contact Jim Klepper or Clancy Craven at:
jklepper@evangelum.org ccraven@evangelum.org

To learn more about Mega Kids Camp and register online, click:

[MegaCampVolunteerSignup](#)

The website includes descriptions of all volunteer opportunities and will help you find a role that fits your gifts and interests. Thank you for considering serving this year. We are excited about our **Mission Cup** theme and all that God is going to do through Mega Kids Camp!

Mega Kids Camp Volunteer Training Is On Thursday, July 9 • 6:30–8:00pm

Evangel Sanctuary

At Mega Kids Camp, we make sure every volunteer has the training and support needed for a fun, successful, and stress-free experience. Training will include:

- Meet the Mega Kids Camp Leadership Team
- Inspirational Devotion
- Staff Introductions and Team Assignments
- A complete walkthrough of a typical camp day
- Registration updates and procedures
- Review of the final registration letter
- Huddle Coach guidelines
- Behavior Specialist briefing
- Team breakouts led by Head Coaches
- Questions and answers throughout the evening

Our goal is to make training informative, fast-paced, & enjoyable while ensuring everyone feels confident & prepared for camp. If you have questions, please contact Jim or Clancy. We look forward to seeing you on July 9!



Rochester Honkers Baseball Game On Thur, July 23 at 6:35pm

For 2026, Evangel Day at the Ballpark will take us to beautiful Mayo Field, home of the Rochester Honkers of the Northwoods League. We'll take a one-year break from attending a Minnesota Twins game as we gather to cheer on our local team!

The Northwoods League showcases some of the best collegiate baseball players in the country. Over the years, more than 100 former Northwoods League players have gone on to play Major League Baseball, with several becoming All-Stars.

Tickets for the game are just **\$6 each—a 50% discount!** It's one of the best entertainment values in Rochester and a wonderful opportunity to enjoy quality baseball, fellowship, and family fun.

To register, click: [Honkers Game Sign Up](#), or sign up on the Honkers board located in the church lobby. We hope you'll join us for a great evening at the ballpark! Contact Jim or Clancy with questions

Kick-Off Sunday: "The Jesus Way" On Sunday, September 13 at 10:30am

Mark your calendars now for Evangel's annual all-church rally as we come together as the family of God and launch a new and exciting year of Sunday School!

Come and enjoy big object lessons, the Senior Choir, and the Good News Worship Team as they lead favorites such as *Pharaoh, Pharaoh*. There will be skits, lots of laughter, special surprises, and much more. Plus, everyone will receive a brand-new 2026 T-shirt!

Our theme this year is **The Jesus Way**. Join us on an unforgettable journey of faith, adventure, and discovery as we learn what it means to follow Jesus every day.



Following the service, everyone is invited to a BBQ in the south parking lot featuring games, large inflatables, and fun for all ages. Later that afternoon, join us for the first **Unite@ Intergenerational Gathering** of the season.

Start Saving Your "Stuff" for the Annual Rummage Sale On Saturday, November 7



The annual Evangel Rummage Sale is our only Connections & Growth fundraiser. Best of all, **100% of the proceeds** support our educational and outreach ministries, including:

Mega Kids Camp	Community Easter Egg Hunt
Fall Outreach Events	Mental Health Forums
And many other ministry opportunities	

Please begin setting aside items to donate. We are especially interested in furniture, which has sold very successfully through Facebook Marketplace in past years.

If you have questions, please contact Gayle Holter, Carolyn Barsness, Jim Klepper, or Clancy Craven.

MEGA KIDS CAMP MISSION CUP



MEGA KIDS CAMP IS HERE!



JULY 13-16, 2026



8:30AM – 12:30PM



**The National Volleyball Center
at Century High School**

*THIS SUMMER, EVANGEL IS INVITING KIDS
INTO A **LIFE-CHANGING RELATIONSHIP**
WITH JESUS.*



**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES
STILL AVAILABLE!**

TO SIGN UP, CLICK:

[**MegaCampVolunteerSignup**](#)



**PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR KIDS
AND LEADERS EVERY DAY.**



This summer, we will invite kids into the opportunity to *meet Jesus* and *make a difference!* Inspired by the **FIFA World Cup** soccer tournament, kids' passion will be directed to Jesus and the purpose He has for them in their lives. Just as athletes and artists dedicate themselves to rigorous training with the goal of reaching the world's biggest competitions, "Mission Cup" will teach kids how to live "on mission".



THANK YOU FOR YOUR PRAYERS AND SUPPORT!

Women of God



Gathering Hearts • Growing Faith • Celebrating Friendship

SATURDAY, AUGUST 22 | 9 AM-3 PM

Ladies, you're invited to join us for a special day of encouragement, friendship, and faith as we gather together for a **Women's Conference at Evangel!**

Bring a friend and come enjoy a meaningful day featuring the Beth Moore video study **"Women of God"** — a powerful reminder of who we are and how God continues to work in our lives.



Breakfast & lunch included



Fellowship with friends



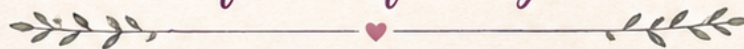
Inspiring message and time together



TICKETS: \$25

(Tickets go on sale in July — watch for more details)

All women and friends of Evangel are welcome!



QUESTIONS? CONTACT:

Cyndy Tischer (261-3048) or Kay Hess (696-3844)

A Day to Refresh, Renew & Connect!



CROSSFIRE NEWS

Stephanie Mettler, Youth Minister
507-289-4817; smettler@evangelum.org

SUPPORTING OUR YOUTH IN MISSIONS

July is the month of mission trips for our youth, one local and one across the country.

Here is how to pray for both trips:

June 28-July 3

We have 14 youth and adults heading to the East Coast for 5 days to minister in unfamiliar places, knowing only what to pack and to expect to go with the flow and serve where they are asked to serve. Please pray for safe travels, deepening relationships, open hearts to what God will show them each day, and meaningful service.

July 12-16

We will have an estimated 45 youth and adults serving together during In-Town Mission. Brooklyn Center is planning to bring a large team to serve with us at Mega Camp in the mornings and around Rochester later on each day, and we are excited to partner together. Please pray for wise interactions, deepening relationships, and receptivity to needs and opportunities God may be calling us to in Rochester.



UPCOMING Youth Events!

<p>JUNE 28-JULY 3</p>  <p>VIRGINIA <i>mission</i></p>	<p>JULY 12</p>  <p>YOUTH SUNDAY <i>both services</i></p>	<p>JULY 12-16</p>  <p>IN-TOWN <i>mission</i></p>	<p>JULY 26</p>  <p>DINNER, BOARD GAMES & BONFIRE <i>at Kleppers' house</i></p>
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Friends. Fun. Faith. Making a Difference.


Mission Team Update

- The Jumpin' Jehosaphats concert raised just over \$1,000 for the Mission 2nd Mile Fund. Thank you for your generosity!
- Abby Miles visited Evangel on Sun., June 21. Abby is a missionary in the Middle East supported by the Missions Team and is a "granddaughter of Evangel" as her grandparents are Kay Hess and Bob & Ruth Ann Miles.
- The Mission Team did not meet in June. Missionary disbursements that were approved for June in the May meeting were disbursed.



You Can Give to the General Mission Fund By:

1. CHECK: Write 2nd Mile Gift on the memo line and turn it into the Church Office or place in the Sunday offering.
2. ONLINE: Click [Give \(elexiogiving.com\)](http://Give(elexiogiving.com)) and select Missions—2nd Mile.
3. QR Code: Scan the QR code to the left with your cellphone and select Missions—2nd Mile.

***** No Mission Team in July *****

The Mission Team will meet on Wednesday August 12, 2026, at 4:00pm in the Fireside Room. Zoom will be available. If you have questions or ideas or want to be involved with the Team, contact any member of the Mission Team: Becky Pierce, Bev Morgan, Linda Gregg, Evie Ellenbaum, Carol Madsen, Colleen Stacey, Roger Guderian, or Pastor David Werner.

EvangelCares

EvangelCares seeks to connect those who could use some help with those willing to help. EvangelCares needs volunteers willing to help with transportation to church services and light household cleaning.

To Become a Volunteer: Email or call one any of the contacts below. You can also click this link: [BecomeaEvangelCaresVolunteer.](#)

Ways to request help:

Click: [Evangel Cares Needs Form](#)

1. Complete a request form at the church information center.
2. Contact the EvangelCares coordinator (see below).
3. Please allow for at least a 1-week turnaround time.



If you have questions, feel free to contact Roger or Janet Guderian. We'd love to explain what we offer and to answer any questions that you have.

EvangelCares Coordinator: evangelcares@evangelum.org; 507-910-3230;
 Roger Guderian: guderian.roger@gmail.com; 507-254-1432 |
 Janet Guderian: guderian.janet@gmail.com; 507-269-0653

Special
WED NIGHT
Meal

JULY 15 | (MEGA CAMP WEEK)
5-6:15PM

Join us for a meal and time to visit with our friends from **BROOKLYN CENTER UMC.**

Brooklyn Center
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



JULY 2026

EVANGEL UMC

C A L E N D A R

DATE	TIME	EVENT
Wednesday, July 1	6:15pm	Good News Team Practice
Thursday, July 2	11:00am 6:00pm	Older Folders Meal hosting at Dorothy Day House
Friday, July 3		OFFICE CLOSED - 4TH OF JULY
Sunday, July 5	8:15am 8:30am 9:30am 9:30am 10:30am	Prayer for Worship Traditional Worship Children's Church Upper Room Study Drop-In Class Contemporary Worship Children's Church
Monday, July 6	1:00pm	Sewing Circle
Tuesday, July 7	6:15pm	Good News Team Practice
Wednesday, July 8	5:30pm	Celebrate & Sing
Thursday, July 9	6:30pm 6:30pm	Finance Team Mega Camp volunteer training
Friday, July 10	11:00am	Older Folders
Sunday, July 12 YOUTH SUNDAY	8:15am 8:30am 9:30am 10:30am 11:45am	Prayer for Worship Traditional Worship Children's Church Drop-In Class Contemporary Worship Children's Church Youth Leadership Team
Monday, July 13	8:30am 1:00pm	Mega Kids Camp Sewing Circle
Tuesday, July 14	8:15am 7:00pm	Mega Kids Camp Trustees

DATE	TIME	EVENT
Wednesday, July 15	8:15am 3:00pm 5pm 6:15pm	Mega Kids Camp Confirmation Wed. Night Meal Good News Team Practice
Thursday, July 16	8:15am	Mega Kids Camp
Friday, July 17	11:00am	Older Folders
Sunday, July 19	8:15am 8:30am 9:30am 9:30am 10:30am	Prayer for Worship Traditional Worship Children's Church Upper Room Study Drop-In Class Contemporary Worship Children's Church
Monday, July 20	1:00pm 6:30pm	Sewing Circle Church Council
Tuesday, July 21	4:30pm	Connections & Growth Team
Wednesday, July 22	6:15pm	Good News Team practice
Thursday, July 23	6:30pm	Honkers Game
Friday, July 24	11:00am	Older Folders
Sunday, July 26 NEW MEMBERS SUNDAY	8:15am 8:30am 9:30am 10:30am 6:30pm	Prayer for Worship Traditional Worship Drop-In Class Contemporary Worship Youth bonfire at the Kleppers'
Monday, July 27	1:00pm	Sewing Circle
Wednesday, July 29	5:15pm 6:15pm	Youth Leadership Team Good News Team practice
Friday, July 31	11:00am	Older Folders

Evangel United Methodist Church
2645 North Broadway
Rochester, MN 55906

(Address Service Requested)

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

8:30am - Traditional Service

9:30am - Drop-In Class & Upper Room Study

10:30am - Contemporary Service

(Children's Church offered at both services)



Wherever you are on your journey, you are welcome here!