

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Grace, mercy, and peace to you from God our Father, and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen

"and when He got into the boat, he who had been demon possessed begged Him that he might be with Him. However, Jesus did not permit him, but said to him, "go home to your friends, and tell them what great things the lord has done for you, and how he has had compassion on you." Mark 5:18-19

Can you imagine, begging Jesus to follow Him, to go where ever He goes, and the answer you receive is, no. Stay here. Go home. I point this out because this is what Jesus has said to most of us. This man, at the beginning, is filled with a legion of demons. He is naked, living among the dead and unable to be bound. After meeting Jesus, he is clothed and in his right mind.

He wants to go where Jesus goes. He wants to be continually in his presence.

He's not the only one is he? We often seek to continue to be in God's presence. We seek to go where He goes. There's nothing wrong with that **unless** it prevents us from doing what Christ tells us to do.

This man was naked, possessed, completely out of control and unable to help himself. Without Christ, we are no better. Now he is clothed in righteousness, healed, with the Holy Spirit working in his heart, a child of God. With Christ, through our baptism, again we are the same.

At the end of every worship service Jesus tells us, "go home and tell your friends what great things God has done for you."

I know we hear him say that through your pastor, because when I say "Go in peace to serve the Lord," you respond "Thanks be to God." We see this as an ending but really it's not. It's a beginning. A beginning to do The work we are called to do.

The remarkable part of this is, we often don't go and tell our friends the great things God has done for us. We want to be in God's presence by going where He goes but He winds up going all week to our kitchen, our living room, to take a nap, or watch TV. That is because Jesus goes with us wherever we go.

When we fall into sin, Jesus is with us. When we face trials in life, Jesus is with us. When we experience the joys of life, Jesus is with us.

Jesus tells, the formally possessed man, to stay home. The man's presence will be a constant reminder of what great things God has done. Jesus says to the man, that he should tell his friends because Jesus wants to be with the man's friends. He wants to be there in the midst of their fun and fellowship. He wants to be present at their discussions. He wants to be with them at their times of grieving. He wants to be with them in their times of joy.

Jesus wants to be with our friends as well. We don't need to go somewhere else far away with Jesus, unless He calls us to. Jesus is with us always, even until the end of the age. Wherever we are, He is there also. That's His promise.

Every week as we leave our worship service, the service in which God has given us forgiveness of sins, his word, his body and blood and so much more, let's not just say "thanks be to God." Let's live it. Let's go with Jesus somewhere He's probably not known. Let's go with Him to people who are still afflicted by their sins and have Jesus change their lives by the power of the Holy Spirit, that they may be clothed in righteousness. Stay, here in your hometown, in your own neighborhood, let your presence be a constant witness of Jesus and the great things that he has done for you. Go tell your friends. Go in peace to serve the Lord. Amen.

SDG,

Pastor

News of Lutheran Education!

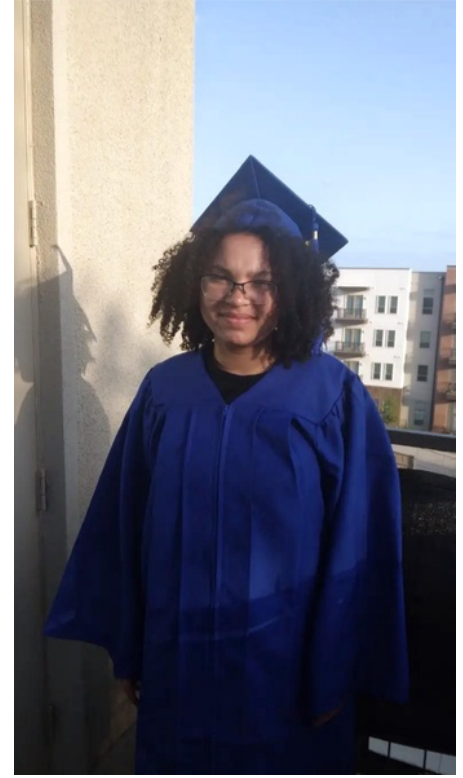
Working in partnership with God's people to raise up a new generation of faithful Christian men and women!

On Monday, June 6th at 6:30pm **8th Grade Graduation** was held at The Lutheran Academy. Please join us and continue to pray for God's blessings on these graduates as they head into High School and beyond. May they be Christ's light into the world wherever they go.



Pictured here to the left are Aliyah and Nathan after the graduation ceremony. Aliyah was the class salutatorian, and Nathan was the valedictorian.

Pictured to the right is Essance who completed her final months with The Lutheran Academy virtually as she and her family moved to the Fort Worth, Texas area. Essance joined the ceremony via Zoom.



On Saturday, June 25th, one of our academy students, Gabriella, was baptized by Pastor Babbitts at Peace Lutheran Church! Please lift her and her family in prayer as we welcome her as a fellow member of the body of Christ.



ENROLLING FOR FALL 2022

The Lutheran Academy is currently accepting new student applications. Please share with everyone you know the option of a small, safe, Christian environment for their Kindergarten-8th grade students.

NEPA GIVES - Friday, June 3rd

The Lutheran Academy joined 250+ other area non-profits in Northeast PA for a 24-hour day of giving. We are glad to have been part of this history-making event, and want to thank all who supported the academy.

Thank you for your support of all the great things happening at The Lutheran Academy!

Pray without ceasing - I Thes. 5:17

Remember to ask: "How can I pray for you?"

To all the Ladies!

On Sunday, July 24, we will have a lite lunch and LWML project event after church. Please plan to attend and bring all your friends, church and unchurched. Susan Bell will be our special guest as we work to revitalize our LWML group here at Peace Lutheran Church.



Summer Worship Hours

Saturdays at 5:00pm

ONE worship service on Sundays at 9:18am

Fall hours return on September 11th

Human trafficking, abortion, and many other issues are facing our nation. Our congregation needs to be able to address these issues in a loving way. We can do this by forming a **Life Team**. If these and any other issues of life concern you, contact Pastor or Amy at the church office and let us know.

DON'T limit this to current members. Get the word out to family and friends in the community. Anyone and everyone you know concerned with these issues, have them contact us.



Vacation Bible School

August 1-5

5:30-8:00pm

Held at Peace Lutheran Church

At Rainforest Explorers, learn how Jesus is our ultimate guide in the rainforest and throughout our lives. We might feel lost, but He'll show us the way. He'll never leave us!

Children age 4-8th grade are invited to attend. Spread the word, invite your neighbors, and enjoy a week of VBS.

+ HYMN OF THE MONTH: **How Shall they Hear Who Have Not Heard #831**

"Go while the great commission Stands" is what this hymn encourages to do. "How shall they Hear" is just one of four hundred hymns that were penned by retired Anglican Bishop Timothy Dudley-Smith. Born in December of 1926, Smith served in the ministry for forty-two years from his ordination in 1950 until his retirement in 1992.

The hymn title and first verse are based on Romans 10:14 begging the question of how can people hear the Gospel, know they are reconciled, and trust a Savior they've never be told of.

The second verse echo's for us the great commission (Matthew 28:18-20) that Christ has given us, and the sense of urgency we must show since the time to come to faith is limited.

God's call in Isaiah (6:8) becomes the focus of verses three and four as Smith writes "Whom shall I send?...To bring the lost world home again?"

Why we do this is answered in verse five. It is the Spirit of Love moving in us.

How shall we answer the questions posed in the hymn? It is clear that God looks to us to be His hands, His feet, and His voice in this lost world. Not to use our voice in condemnation, only for the language of the law the world understands all too well. Rather, we are called to action and to go out sharing Christ with all we meet.

May God help us so to do.

Getting to know our High School Seniors



Nora Betts

I graduated from Holy Cross High School. I will be attending Concordia University, Nebraska. I will double-major in English and Journalism & Public Relations with a Pre-Deaconess minor.

I am excited to learn at a higher level and explore the things I'm passionate about. I hope to have

opportunities to travel and expand my worldview. Peace Lutheran Church has been the foundation of my life, a constant throughout my 12 years in Scranton. I began attending the Lutheran Academy in 2nd grade, starting me on the path of eager learning through Christ. Peace gave me my best friend, Sarah Bjornstad. I graduated from TLA, incredibly prepared for my future academics at Holy Cross; I earned distinguished honors every quarter, took Latin classes a grade level ahead, and gained admission into the dual-enrollment program with Marywood University. When I participated in the National Youth Gathering in 2019, I decided to attend one of the Concordias for college. I continued to be active in my faith through service as a Sunday school teacher and organist. Now, through connections with a former teacher at TLA, I will be spending a month in South Africa serving as a teacher's aide at a Christian school. I credit Peace with the foundation of my faith, to which I owe many of my achievements.

Please pray that I have wisdom and confidence in my abilities. I need to take my God-given gifts and use them to reflect Christ's love wherever I go: to South Africa, to Nebraska, and beyond. Pray that I trust in God's plan for my life.

I graduated from Reach Connections Academy. I am most excited about the freedom to pursue more things in life with this extra time.

Peace Lutheran Church has meant everything to me. It has been my rock when needed, and supported me through anything I've done. I've had so much fun helping out and hope to continue to run VBS and help the church in other ways for years to come.

Please pray for my health, both mentally and physically.

Monica Fornaszewski

I graduated from Scranton Preparatory School and I will be attending Lehigh University this fall. I will be studying computer science. I am very excited about meeting new people and hopefully making long lasting connections.

Peace Lutheran Church has had a big impact on my life and I am very thankful to be a member. I joined this church at 8 years old and it has helped me grow into the person I am today.

As I move on to college, I ask that you can please pray that God gives me guidance on this new path.



Class
of
2022

Isabelle Kramer



Getting to know our High School Seniors Continued...

I graduated from Mid Valley Secondary Center and will be attending Rochester Institute of Technology in Rochester New York.
I have been accepted into the accelerated Master's program for Computational Mathematics. I will receive both my bachelors & Masters within 4 1/2 years.
I am excited to study Mathematics and only have classes that deal with my interest. I am also excited to continue playing with a Steel Pan ensemble at RIT like I did with Mid Valley.
The people at Peace Lutheran have been very welcoming and I loved the time spent with Pastor Bjornstad.
Pray that I know that God is always there for me.

Zachary Wilson



| JULY | |
|--------------------------|----|
| <u>Birthdays</u> | |
| Zach Wilson | 6 |
| Joann Roberts | 11 |
| <u>Baptism Birthdays</u> | |
| Tanya Babbitts | 3 |
| Ky Betts | 14 |

Chicken BBQ Dinner Fundraiser

Saturday, July 30th
4:00-6:00 pm

Peace Lutheran Church
2506 N Main Avenue
Scranton, PA 18508

\$12 each

Get tickets by calling the office
at 570-703-0607
or visit www.yourpeace.org

Eat in or Take out

Dinner includes:
1/2 Chicken, Potato,
Baked Beans, Corn,
Roll & Dessert



Proceeds to benefit the work of Peace Lutheran Church and the community it serves.

Grace, mercy and peace to you from God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen

It was the privilege of Kinsley Black and I to represent Peace Lutheran Church, at the 100th Convention of the Eastern District of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. The conference was held at First Trinity Lutheran Church in Tonawanda, New York. This congregation was one of the founding congregations of our district.

During the convention, District Pres. Chris Wicher put on all the nametags of the different events and conventions in which he represented the Eastern District. Pres. Wicher stated that moving forward we need to as a district

- * Rub out apathy
- * Reclaim our youth
- * Encourage our seniors

We elected a new District President Rev. John Pingel. He won with a vote of 85 to 53. In his acceptance remarks President-elect Pingel said he has always had a heart for reaching the unchurched. He stated it is time for us to work together and to get something done.

There was a realignment of all circuits in the district to bring us into compliance with Synodical voting circuit requirements. This will not effect the individual congregations in anyway.

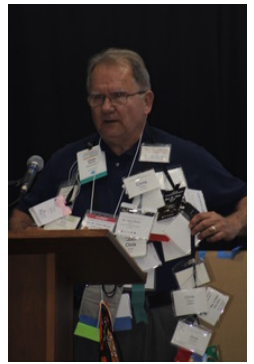
Synodical President Matthew Harrison delivered a very optimistic and uplifting report. Some of the highlights of that report:

- We are making such great headway in Iran that if conversions continue at the present rate or greater it is believed the Muslim regime will fall in the next five years.
- In Germany we are seeing many Muslim converts
- We are making inroads into Afghanistan and Pakistan.
- For those church workers seeking reinstatement, 0 were removed or resigned originally because of sexual harassment or misconduct cases
- The mayor of New Orleans recently stated had it not been for the Lutherans, Northeast New Orleans would still not have recovered. We restored over 6000 homes
- We currently have 100 missionaries. They are fully funded for a year. We need to get up to 140 missionaries.
- Prior to the conflict with Russia, the Ukrainian President had mistreated the Lutheran bishop. We have received a request for helmets and flak jackets from the government so that our pastors can take care of the people effected by this conflict.
- In Wittenberg - in an old Latin school that the Synod owns is a church plant next to the church that Luther preached at of Ukrainian refugees.
- Because of the recent lawsuit against the Lutheran bishop and member of Parliament in Finland the church is growing.
- In Madagascar, 4.5 million Lutherans worship on a Sunday. They do not count membership only those physically in attendance. This is more on a Sunday then ALL of the Lutheran church bodies in the United States combined. They have established 40 new congregations in the last 10 years.
- It is likely that we will be in altar and pulpit fellowship with the Lutheran Church in Sudan.
- 2,000 of our 6,000 congregations support our missionaries abroad.
- The seminary in the Dominican Republic has produced over 200 pastors and 160 deaconesses.
- The Spanish translation of the LSB hymnal has delivered 20,000 copies with 20,000 more on their way. They are being snatched up quicker and we can print them.
- The Synod has learned that to reach the cities, the small rural and suburban congregations must be maintained.
- In Madagascar it is common for a group to grow to 10 to 20 people and then to start a new church plant.
- Our professors currently teach at 15 African seminaries
- The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod is currently in the best financial state it has ever been in.
- Concordia Nebraska, Chicago, Irvine, and St. Paul have very strong theological departments.
- Concordia Texas no longer wishes to be under Synodical governance. Discussions are ongoing.
- We are pulling out of the seminary in Taiwan which was a joint effort. And will be establishing a new orthodox Mandarin seminary.
- We will be breaking altar and pulpit fellowship with the Lutheran Church in Japan who has decided to ordain women.
- At the current time 475 congregations are without a pastor.

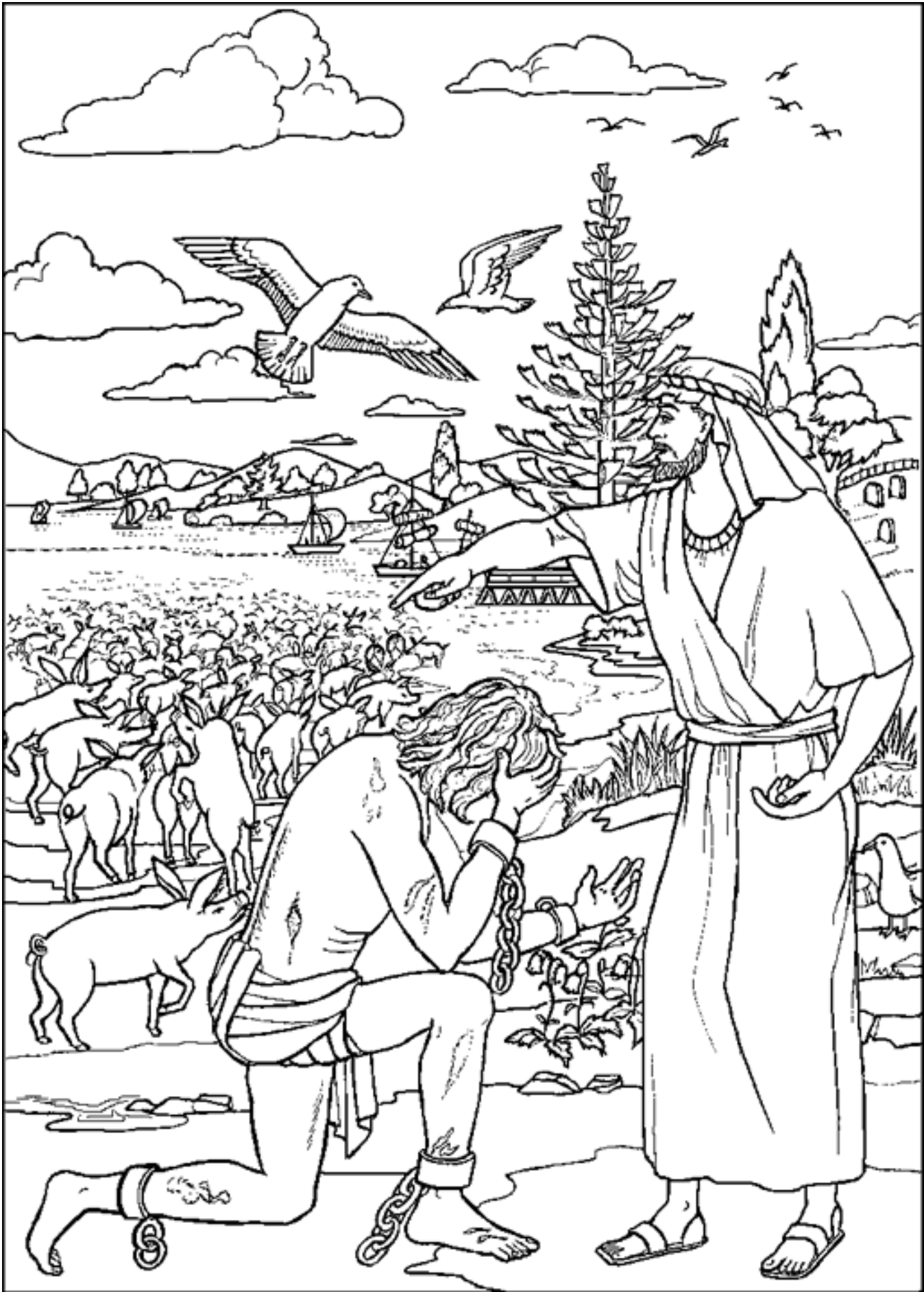
There was more information shared at the convention. If you have questions for Kinsley or I about a particular topic we would be happy to discuss them with you.

Finally, one special note, our own Amy Betts was elected to the position of Lay committee member for the 2025 Convention Eastern District Regional nominating committee. Congratulations Amy!

SDG,
Pastor



God Bless You! From your friend _____ at Peace Lutheran Church.



JULY 2022

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

PRAAYER CALENDAR

Praying for NC churches and for God to call men into the ministry.

3

Rev. Ralph Abernathy
III, Mount Olive
Lutheran Church,
Newton, NC

4

Rev. Jonathan
Christensen, Mount
Pisgath Lutheran,
Hendersonville, NC

5

Rev. Bryan Chestnutt,
Mountainside
Lutheran Church,
Linville, NC

6

Rev. Luke Self, New
Hope Lutheran
Church, Mooresville,
NC

7

Rev. Daniel Nedjo,
Ormo Evangelical
Lutheran Church of
NC, Cary, NC

8

Rev. Ted Rappe, Our
Redeemer Lutheran
Church, Fayetteville,
NC

9

Our Redeemer
Lutheran Church,
Wilson, NC

10

Rev. Kevin Martin,
Our Savior Lutheran
Church, Raleigh, NC

11

Rev. Jonathan Misch,
Our Savior Lutheran
Church, Clyde, NC

12

Rev. Mark Seaman,
Our Savior Lutheran
Church, Hickory, NC

13

Peace Lutheran
Church, Goldsboro,
NC

14

Point of Grace
Lutheran Church,
Huntersville, NC

15

Prince of Peace
Lutheran Church,
Charlotte, NC

16

Rev. David Daniels,
Redeemer Lutheran
Church, Catawa, NC

17

Dr. Charles Spamer,
Redeemer Lutheran
Church, NC

18

Resurrection Lutheran
Church, Franklin, NC

19

Rev. Dr. Jonathan
Blanke, Resurrection
Lutheran
Church, Cary, NC

20

Saint James Lutheran
Church, Southern
Pines, NC

21

Rev. Thomas
Clocker, Saint John's
Lutheran Church,
Winston-Salem, NC

22

Rev. Scott Johnson,
St. Johns Lutheran
Church, Conover, NC

23

Rev. James
McDaniels, St. Luke
Lutheran Church,
Archdale, NC

24

St. Mark Lutheran
Church, Winston-
Salem, NC

25

St. Matthews
Lutheran Church,
Marion, NC

26

Rev. James Daub,
Saint Paul Lutheran
Church, Havelock,
NC

27

St. Paul Lutheran
Church, Whispering
Pines, NC

28

Rev. Corey Brooks,
St. Paul's Lutheran
Church, Ridgeway,
NC

29

Rev. Kevin Graudin,
St. Peter Lutheran
Church, Conover, NC

30

St. Stephen's
Lutheran Church,
Hickory, N.C

31

St. Peter Lutheran
Church, Concord, NC

JULY 2022

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|---------|-----------|----------|--------|--|
| | | | | | 1 | 2 5:00pm Worship with Holy Communion |
| 3 9:18am Worship Service with communion | 4 HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY! | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 5:00pm Worship with Holy Communion [-----] |
| 10 9:18am Worship Service ----- | 11 LCMS National Youth Gathering - Houston, TX [-----] | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 5:00pm Worship with Holy Communion |
| 17 9:18am Worship Service with communion | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 5:00pm Worship with Holy Communion |
| 24 9:18am Worship Service LWML lunch & project | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 4-6pm Chicken BBQ Dinner Fundraiser 5:00pm Worship with Holy Communion |
| 31 9:18am Worship Service | LOOKING AHEAD AUGUST 1-5 Vacation Bible School 5:30-8:00pm SEPTEMBER 11 Rally Day (return to fall hours) | | | | | |