



ORFORDVILLE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God.

210 N. Main Street – P.O. Box 137, Orfordville, WI 53576

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Contact Pastor Tom: Email: pastorkreis@gmail.com ~ Phone: (608) 577-4851

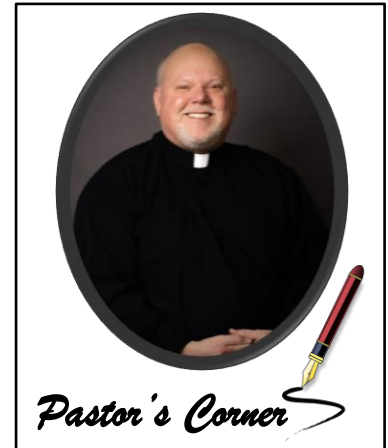


AUGUST 2025 NEWSLETTER

Ecclesiastes 3: 1-8

For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven:

- a time to be born and a time to die;
- a time to plant and a time to pluck up what is planted;
- a time to kill and a time to heal;
- a time to break down and a time to build up;
- a time to weep and a time to laugh;
- a time to mourn and a time to dance;
- a time to throw away stones and a time to gather stones together;
- a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing;
- a time to seek and a time to lose;
- a time to keep and a time to throw away;
- a time to tear and a time to sew;
- a time to keep silent and a time to speak;
- a time to love and a time to hate;
- a time for war and a time for peace.



The reading from Ecclesiastes is pretty well known by religious people and non-religious people. The 1960s rock band the Byrds had a hit song titled, Turn, Turn, Turn (To Everything There Is a Season). The song quotes the reading from Ecclesiastes. Since I have become your pastor, families have often chosen this as one of the readings for loved ones' funeral services. This Ecclesiastes reading covers life, death, sadness, joy, war, peace, silence, and laughter. It encompasses each of our lives, and it is brilliantly written.

Together we have come to the place where we mourn and dance as my time with you as your pastor grows short. Karen and I are very sad about leaving, but the time is right for our extended family. In order to care for multiple family members who live some distance away, this change in location and call will help us and reduce a certain amount of stress in our lives and give us some time together. I realize that you may be having some emotions, maybe you are happy for me, maybe you are sad, or even mad. All of these emotions are normal and understandable. But you will be okay, and you will get a pastor who loves you as much as I do.

As Christians, we always have hope in the future. I am not just talking about eternal life, but our lives with each other, in and outside our communities. Both Orfordville Lutheran Church and Luther Valley church will be okay. You are both loving congregations who care for each other and your neighbor. I thank God for letting me be part of these communities over the last four years.

New beginnings can be scary and exciting. I am headed to a new call, praying that God will guide me and that I will love the community I am headed to as much as I love you all. And for both of our churches here in the Orfordville area, you will have a new beginning, a new chapter too. You will share in ministry and continue to be a beacon of hope for this area.

When I was in seminary, one of the steps you go through yearly is being interviewed by seminary staff, our synod, and sometimes lay people. One of the questions I was asked during my last interview was, “How do you envision your ministry?” I said that I saw my ministry as one of invitation and loving our neighbor. These are two things that Jesus taught, and I have also felt both of these things in my life multiple times, which also includes my time here with you.

I would also be remiss if I didn’t thank all of you. To the Call Committee who first trusted me with the call at our two churches. To the council members and Presidents who have served while I’ve been your pastor. To those many people working behind the scenes to make things happen, even if they don’t get much credit. To both secretaries at OLC and LVC—you all know that Vicky and Sue really are in charge, right?! I’d be lost without them. To everyone who participated in Bible studies, Men’s group, music ministry, and those who helped at funerals, weddings, and other events. To all who helped with home visits and church upkeep. I’m purposely not mentioning names, to avoid leaving anyone out, but please know I recognize that the church is all of you. With your partnership over these last four years, we have all made a difference.

So, as my time winds down, I pray for you all. I pray that your ministries continue, that you love God and one another, and that you all remember you are greater than any one pastor; you are truly beloved children of God. Peace be with you.

Pastor Tom

Pastoral Care and Prayer

If you are facing a surgery or crisis (or if you just need someone to talk to); please reach out to Pastor Tom at 608-577-4851. If you would like to be supported in prayer, by our prayer chain, please call Nancy Dickison at 608-879-2638 or Pastor Tom. You may also contact Pastor Tom via email at pastorkreis@gmail.com. **Note: After August 17th, please contact Ellen Pautsch for any pastoral needs. She may be reached at 608-921-8089 or via email at epauts0212@gmail.com.**

Vacation Bible School at Luther Valley Church – August 4th – 6th

Luther Valley Church is excited to offer their 3-day Vacation Bible School program for children entering K - 6th grade (recommended ages, exceptions considered). This year’s session has the theme *True North*. VBS meets Monday through Wednesday (9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.) Lunch and snacks will be provided each day. **(All are welcome!)**



Please fill out the online form for each child attending by **7/31/25**. Use the QR code or access the form at Google docs using the web address: <https://forms.gle/LhWwkszjtd8GqkFj6>. You may also call the LV church office at 608-879-2934 (hours M-Th, 9A-1P).

We hope your kids will join us as we learn about “Trusting Jesus in a Wild World” at VBS!



Announcements & Upcoming Events

Treasurer's Report - by Steve Haugen

As we end the 2nd Quarter (April-June) of 2025, below is a summary of offering receipts and operating expenses for year-to-date (January-June).

	<u>Jan-June 2025</u>	<u>Jan-June 2024</u>
Offering Receipts	\$38,735	\$41,854
Operating Expenses	48,858	44,852
Operating Surplus (Deficit)	\$(10,123)	\$ (2,998)
Cash in Bank-6/30/25	\$75,045	\$75,073 General Fund

Offering Receipts fell behind the previous year this quarter, therefore, any increase in contributions members can provide going forward would be much appreciated.

Expenses for 2025 are higher than 2024 for the year by \$4,006. Two thousand (\$2,000) of this increase is the timing of paying our property and liability insurance premiums, which we didn't pay in 2024 until May-December.

Utility costs have also increased \$1,200 year-to-date. Jason Burtness has transitioned the Church over to a new provider for our phone and internet services, which will save us approximately \$200/month. Thanks to Jason!

Tax Tip

If you are 70.5 years of age or older and have an IRA or 401K account, any distribution/withdrawal from this account and made directly to a Church is tax deductible. If you want more information about this, please contact me or talk to your tax advisor.

Your continued financial support of the Church and its mission is much appreciated!

Collecting School Supplies for Lutheran World Relief (LWR)



It's that time of year when we collect items for our LWR School Kits. A bin will be placed in the Narthex to gather the school supplies. All school kit items should be turned in by August 31st. Below is a list of items we are seeking:

- **70-sheet notebooks (wide or college ruled) – Four (4) needed per kit**
- Ruler – must have centimeters on one side
- Blunt Scissors
- 2 ½" Erasers
- Black or Blue Ballpoint Pens (No Gel Ink)

Guidelines: Please do not donate items with any religious symbols or messages. Items decorated with a U.S. flag, patriotic or military symbols or references to the armed forces; including camouflage are banned as well. Questions should be directed to Sue Draves, in the church office, at 608-879-2575 or via email at office@orfordvillelutheran.org

Worship Reader Sign-up – August

We are still seeking readers for our August worship services. The *Worship Assistant Sign-Up* sheet is on the table in the Narthex. You are invited to stop by the table to sign-up. Thank you so much!

Sunday Night Church League – Orfordville Lutheran Church Softball Team

Thank you to those that have taken the time to cheer on your OLC Softball Team. They really appreciate your support! Only two (2) games left to play in Brodhead (Hwy 11 & Cty Rd E).

- August 3rd – 5:30 p.m. OLC vs. Living Word
- August 10th – “Bye Week” ***OLC is not scheduled to Play***
- August 17th – 7:30 p.m. OLC vs. Congregational UCC
- August 24th *Rain make-up week; if needed*



Jt. Outdoor Worship Service & Potluck – Sunday, August 10th at OLC (10:00 a.m.)

This month the Joint Outdoor Worship service will take place at Orfordville Lutheran Church at **10:00 a.m.** on August 10th. Don’t forget your lawn chair(s). In the event of rain (or extreme heat), the service will be held indoors. **Following the worship service, we will be gathering in the church basement for a Potluck. Please bring a dish to pass.** Questions: Contact Ellen Pautsch at 608/921-8089 or via email at epauts0212@gmail.com

Mission Quilting – Tuesday, August 19th at 9:00 a.m.

The Mission Quilting group will be meeting on Tuesday, August 19th at 9:00 a.m. Questions may be directed to Pat Burtness.

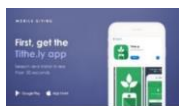
Norwegian Dinner Planning Meeting – Thursday, August 21st at 6:00 p.m.

We are still seeking additional input for planning this year’s Norwegian Dinner. Please join in the conversation on Thursday, August 21st at 6:00 p.m. in the Narthex. Everyone is encouraged and welcome to attend.

September Newsletter Deadline – Monday, August 25th

Articles, announcements and/or pictures for the September newsletter should be submitted by Monday, August 25th. Please send via email to: office@orfordvillelutheran.org or feel free to contact Sue Draves in the church office.

Online and Mobile Giving Available



OLC offers online and mobile giving through Tithe.ly. Visit www.orfordvillelutheran.org and click on the “Give” tab to give online. You may also download the Tithe.ly app on your smartphone and search for “Orfordville Lutheran.”

August Birthdays

1	Dalton Peterson	19	Hillary Hazeltine
3	Mary Ehle	19	Steve Klund
5	Collin Burtness	21	Alex Burtness
6	Jim Dickison	25	Jill Case
9	Kathy Schindler	27	Connie Johnson
11	Jackie Gerber	27	Karsynn Arnold
13	Janice Vigdahl		

Note:

Please help us keep our birthday lists up to date. If you see an error or if we missed someone, send us an email at office@orfordvillelutheran.org



AUGUST 2025



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 9:00 am Crafting 7:00 pm AA Meeting	2
3 10:00 am Worship 5:30 p.m. Softball OLC vs Living Word	4	5	6	7 9:00-11:00 am C.U.P.	8 7:00 pm AA Meeting	9
10 10:00 am Jt. Outdoor Worship Service & Potluck at OLC  <i>No</i> <i>Softball Today</i>	11	12	13	14 9:00-11:00 am C.U.P.	15 7:00 pm AA Meeting	16
17 10:00 am Worship 7:30 p.m. Softball OLC vs Congregational UCC	18	19 9:00 am Mission Quilting	20	21 9:00-11:00 am C.U.P. 6:00 p.m. Norwegian Dinner Planning Meeting	22 7:00 pm AA Meeting	23
Sue – Not in the Office						
24 10:00 am Worship <i>Softball</i> <i>Make-up</i> <i>Rain Date</i>	25 9:00 am Rock Valley Quilt Guild September Newsletter Deadline	26	27	28 9:00-11:00 am C.U.P.	29	30 9:00 am Sassy Farm Chicks
31 10:00 am Worship <i>LWR School</i> <i>Kit Donations</i> <i>Due</i>						

39th LUTHERDALE FEST

FREE ADMISSION & PARKING

QUILT AUCTION • SILENT AUCTION
CONCESSIONS • GIFT GALLERY • FABRIC SALE

Lutherdale Fest



QUILT AUCTION

Saturday, August 9

9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Live auction begins at 10:00 AM

OVER 250 QUILTS TO BID ON!

Join us for fun and community at our lakeside camp and conference center! Your participation is key to helping more people have life-changing adventures at camp.

PRE-FEST & FISH FRY

Friday August 8 | 4 PM - 7 PM

- Preview Quilts
- Silent Bid on Quilts
- Bid on Silent Auction Baskets
- Wisconsin Fish Fry
- Gift Gallery
- Crafts & Fabric Sale

Quilts posted online at www.lutherdale.org

(262)742-2352 | N7891 US HIGHWAY 12, ELKHORN, WI 53121

Funded by Thrivent Action Teams and our Local Thrivent Shoreline Group Associates
Gary Finley, Wisconsin Registered Auctioneer #167

