

Rev. Stephanie Woods, Pastor

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**PASTOR'S OFFICE HOURS:** Office hours have changed to:  
Tuesday & Thursday 9 AM – 12 PM (or by appointment)

**CHURCH OFFICE:** (330) 264-1986

E-Mail: [office@stpeterelca.org](mailto:office@stpeterelca.org)

Website: [stpeterelca.org](http://stpeterelca.org)

Facebook: [St-Peter-Lutheran-Church](https://www.facebook.com/St-Peter-Lutheran-Church)

**PANDA PRESCHOOL:** (330) 264-1986 (church phone)

# THE MESSENGER

St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church

of New Pittsburg, OH

June-July, 2023

*The Sound of Music*, in all of its classic simplicity, is one of my favorite musicals with its emphasis on starting at the very beginning and its celebration of the most ordinary favorite things. But it is the importance of starting at the beginning that gets me every time:

*Let's start at the very beginning*

*A very good place to start*

*When you read, you begin with A-B-C*

*When you sing, you begin with Do-Re-Mi*

None of us *really* want to start at the beginning. None of us *really* want to be beginners at all. And yet, Julie Andrews insists- reading starts with A-B-C, and singing starts Do-Re-Mi. The beginning is clearly important. It's where we learn the fundamentals that guide us. (I still use solfege, the system of do-re-mi-fa-sol-la-ti-do, when learning to sing something new.)

Legendary football coach Vince Lombardi would start every year of training camp the same way, "Gentlemen, this is a football." He emphasized the basics, such that even these professionals had to start at the very beginning.

But where does faith start? What is the beginning of the Christian life?

There are many answers to these questions- it could be faith practices, though why practice anything if you don't believe something first? It could be belief, but why believe something if you haven't felt and seen and heard its power in your life? It could be experience, but how do we know what religious experience feels like unless we first know something about it? It quickly becomes more difficult to untangle this beginning than it is to determine whether the chicken or the egg came first.

This summer, we are starting "in the beginning," and in the first chapters of the first book of the Bible: Genesis. This beginning is one of my favorites. As we read through Genesis, we get the important message of the gospel even though we're in the Old Testament:

God's people mess up, and God loves them anyway.

But the stories of Genesis offer us even more- they offer us tangible ways to see Lutheran theology at work. They show us the ways to pray, and the power of justification by faith alone, the tangible presence of God in our lives, how God acts in ways that we don't understand, and that sometimes we have to break a few rules to follow God's plan. We learn that bad things will happen to good people, God's timing is not our timing, and blessing sometimes comes in greatest woe.

These are not often easy lessons. We, like Jacob, will wrestle with God. Indeed, the book of Genesis requires a lot of wrestling. Luther himself wrestled with the book multiple times in his life. Returning to it at the very end, when he lectured on Genesis for over 10 years at the end of his life up until his dying days.

Still, through all of our wrestling with some of these difficult stories, the good news of God's love shines through. Our summer sermon series, *The Genesis of Good News*, will begin on June 4 and focus on the Old Testament lectionary texts from Genesis.

May you always remember that it's never too early or too late to start at the very beginning.

*~Pastor Stephanie*

**ST. PETER'S MISSION STATEMENT:** As God's family led by the Holy Spirit, we are a loving and welcoming community inviting others to share and grow in God's Word and grace.

**Vision Statement:** *As compassionate people we desire to reflect Christ's love.*



*Women's Breakfast will meet the 3rd Monday of every month at 9 AM.*

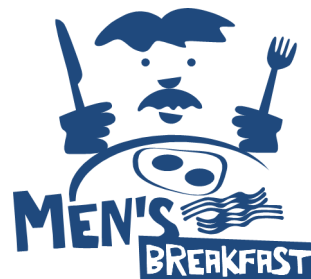
- June 19th
- July 17th
- August 21st

A sign-up sheet will be available so we can prepare a table large enough for us.

Please join us for good food and GREAT fellowship!

*Men's Breakfast will meet the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 9 AM.*

- June 13th
- July 11th
- August 8th



Join us for good food, GREAT fellowship!

## NEW PITTSBURGH LIONS CLUB



**FRIDAY, JUNE 9TH**

**Time: 5-7:30 PM**

**Place: New Pittsburg Lions Park**

**Cost: Donation:**

**\$12 (adults)**

**\$6 (ages 9 & under)**



### **Wednesday in the Word**

Looking for more Bible study in your life? Join us on the third Wednesday of the month at 7:00 PM (June 14, July 19) to read and reflect on the week's lectionary texts. Contact Pastor Stephanie with questions.

# YOUTH Announcements



### ♥ CREATIVE VIBES NEEDED

**Wednesday, June 7th at 1:30-3:30 PM**

Wednesday, June 7th we will meet at the church from 1:30-3:30 to serve our very own church in preparing materials and decorations for Vacation Bible School! Bring your best creative vibes and join us in preparing for one of the most fun weeks of the year!

### ♥ NO SPYA IN JULY-A!

Please sign ups for VBS, if you are able—either as a participant or helper!

**Stay tuned for other summer SPYA projects and gatherings!**



## PANDA PRESCHOOL

Hi Everyone,

Thanks for a great year at Panda Preschool. I hope you enjoy your summer! We look forward to returning faces in the fall and also meeting new ones.

We will miss our preschool graduates as they begin their new adventure at elementary school.

May your summer shine bright!

Miss Tara , Panda Administrator



## Vacation Bible School

VBS is right around the corner! Kids entering Pre-K thru entering 6th are welcome to register online at <http://www.stpeterelca.org/chidlrens-education/>, pick up a form in the church office or at the back of the church. We hope to see you there as we spend our summer evenings with God as Happy Campers!

VBS requires lots of helping hands. If you are interested in helping before, during or after VBS week, please sign up in the church office or in the back of the church. If you have a particular area you'd like to serve in, please indicate that on the sign up sheet (crafts, snacks, recreation, group leader, music, set-up/tear down etc). Also, don't forget we love to have teens and older siblings help too!



### St. Peter College Scholarship Fund

12<sup>th</sup> Annual

## CONTINUOUS SILENT AUCTION!

It's time, once again, for one of St. Peter's most popular fundraisers. To benefit our scholarship fund, we will begin accepting donations for the continuous silent auction on Sunday, June 4th!

What can you donate? Well, that is totally up to you! Bake your famous chocolate chip cookies, bring in unique antiques or fun items, offer a service - the possibilities are limitless. Anything and everything will be sincerely appreciated, so BE CREATIVE!

Donations from both individuals and businesses are welcome and appreciated. Bring in donations anytime starting June 4th.

If your donation is perishable, please simply bring a description of the item to be displayed in the auction.

Donations may be dropped off on the back table of the Narthex or in the church office.

Bidding begins July 2nd and closes July 16th (one half hour after worship). Once the winning bids are confirmed, payment can be remitted to the church office and items can be claimed at that time.

All proceeds benefit the St. Peter College Scholarship Fund. Thank you for your support. Our college student members greatly benefit from your generosity!

Questions? Contact the church office or Kristen Hudson.

## St. Peter Lutheran College Scholarships

Applications for the St. Peter Lutheran Church College Scholarship will be available in the church office starting on May 21st.

**APPLICATION DEADLINE:** July 16, 2023

Scholarships will be awarded during church on August 6, 2023. Winners will be notified during the week prior.



## Pierstorf Memorial Fund

Reminder: Interest Free  
College Loans for the  
2023-2024 School Year.

**Pierstorf Memorial Fund**  
Interest-Free College Loans for Lutherans

### Interest-Free Loans for Lutheran Students

Students, attain the life you're called to live. The Pierstorf Memorial Fund offers zero-interest educational loans to Lutherans living in the state of Ohio. Students must be enrolled full-time in a four-year undergraduate program at any accredited college or university. Explore academic pursuits, discover your unique gifts, and grow in the Spirit with yearly loans up to \$3,000. For more information and to apply, visit [Pierstorf.org](http://Pierstorf.org).



A Financial Blessing for  
Lutheran Students:  
Pierstorf College Fund



# Lauren Vaughan

Lauren Irene Vaughan will be graduating on May 28th from Northwestern High School. She resides at 1261 N. Smyser Rd with her parents, Tim and Tara Vaughan, and her siblings Ben and Claire.

Many of us at St. Peter remember Lauren's and her family's struggle with her diagnosis of AML (Acute Myeloid Leukemia) at 10 weeks old. From September 2004-April 2005 Lauren and her mom resided at the Cleveland Clinic Children's Hospital while she was being treated. She is now healed and we praise the Lord for his healing power!

At Northwestern Lauren has played softball and has been very active in the FFA, receiving her Greenhand, Chapter, and State degrees. Her ag classes have been her most favorite, as they have taught her great life skills such as public speaking, competing, greenhouse knowledge, and providing her with the opportunity not travel for state and national conventions and hands-on activities. Her favorite teacher is Mrs. Nupp, as she has helped Lauren through the years with her scholastic achievement.

Some of Lauren's hobbies include swimming, vacationing at Hilton Head, riding horses, and hanging out with family and friends. Lauren has competed in Western Pleasure with her horse at the Wayne County Fair. Lauren really enjoys helping others by serving at VBS, visiting those in nursing homes with her grandma Debbie Haughn, and helping with FFA and family and friends. She and her grandma regularly visited Eloise Snoddy, and she really enjoyed that. One of Lauren's fond memories is of VBS and then being a pre-k helper. Lauren so enjoys little kids and thinks maybe someday she would like to work in daycare. Right now she is working part time at her dad's business, Vaughan Insurance. She has been a huge help getting files scanned over to an electronic management system. After graduation she plans to work full time for her dad.

A favorite Bible verse is 2 Corinthians 5:7: "We walk by faith, not by sight." She said she and her grandma always talk about how important their faith is and that they will always be with the Lord.

Lauren has future hopes of having a family of her own, and I know she will be a terrific mom because I've seen her patience and loving kindness with her VBS charges. Congratulations, Lauren! We are so happy for you and pray God's many blessings on your journey.

\*Lauren's graduation party will be held June 4th at her home from 4-7p.m.

-Interviewed by Julie Nolletti

# Braiden Barthalow

Braiden Barthalow is a senior at Northwestern High School. He was born on May 12, 2005. He loves PC gaming and hanging out with his friends. He has two older brothers, Casey and Cody Tipple. He also has a younger sister, Alyssa Simmons. Braiden is also an uncle to two nephews and one niece. Braiden lives with his dad, Kevin, and Stacey Barthalow. Braiden used to play football and baseball when he was in elementary and middle school.

Braiden's future plans include attending college for Computer Science. He plans to attend The University of Akron, starting at the Wayne College campus next year and then transferring to the main campus after that. After college, Braiden hopes to find a computer science job.

Braiden will miss hanging out with his friends. He is most proud of taking a lot of college classes at NHS since he was a junior.

Interview Conducted by Stacey Barthalow



# THANK YOU!

Thank you for the lovely flower arrangement. The colors and aromas helped brighten our day and reminded us of your presence with us. We appreciate your thoughtfulness! This church was very important to Eloise, and she dearly loved her church family.

*The Snoddy Family*



Angie & SPYA Group,

Thank you for all the wonderful things you do for all of us. It is so nice to be remembered. I'm grateful for all our youth and for Angie and all her helpers.

God Bless,  
*Marilyn Stull*

St. Peter Family,

Thank you so much for the beautiful flowers given to me for Administrative Professionals Day. They make a wonderful addition to our back porch where we spend a significant amount of time! It's so nice to be recognized and appreciated. You all are so wonderful!

*Madalyn Schmucker*



My sincerest THANKS to all of you for being you, and for sending cards for my 70th birthday! But like Elly said in her card: She has 22 years on me!!

God's love,  
*Jim Appleman*



**Congratulations to Danni Ballinger for graduating from OSU Mansfield this spring and to Taylor Howman for graduating from Ashland University this spring!**

## BIBLE ABC's

This summer we'll also explore the world of Bible memorization together. As a congregation, we will memorize the same scripture as our VBS kids. Feel free to get a head start and look for bookmarks to help you in the back of the sanctuary!

**Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go. Joshua 1:9**

Hints for Bible memorization:

- Write it down and post it all over where you will see it!
- Practice over and over again.
- Once you think you have it, try using just the first letter of each word to help jog your memory.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>PARISH COUNCIL MEETING REPORTS</b></p>			<p><b>May 10, 2023      7:00pm      Secretary's Report</b></p>
<p><b>April 12, 2023      7:00 PM      Secretary's Report</b></p> <p>Church Council met April 12, 2023, with eleven members present. Kim Koch shared devotions.</p> <p>The Treasurer's and Secretary's reports were approved.</p> <p>No committees met this past month.</p> <p>Education rep Angie Yarwood reported seventeen youth helped at the Humane Society. VBS will be July 10-14.</p> <p>Social and Outreach rep Kim Koch reported there were sixteen children participating in the Easter breakfast craft.</p> <p>We were given Pastor Stephanie's report of activities including time spent on pastoral care; worship; community; education; and administration. She also shares attendance comparisons and books she is currently reading. Nine new members were welcomed. We had a reception for our new members and also celebrated Pastor Stephanie's PhD achievement. Easter Sunday attendance for our two services was 154. Pastor Stephanie will be attending Synod Assembly with Elaine Koch May 12-13; PhD graduation in Boston May 18-21; and taking a two week vacation June 19 through July 2.</p> <p>There were conversations about the safety committee's progress; possible video cameras for the parking lot, and a back up generator with Kristen Hudson suggesting looking for safety grants.</p> <p>Our next meeting will be May 10 at 7pm. We closed the meeting with prayer.</p> <p>Joni Hagans Parish Council Secretary</p>	<p>Church Council met May 10, 2023, with nine members present. Dave Tegtmeier and Ruth Ann Keener were absent. Rita Tegtmeier shared devotions.</p> <p>The Treasurer's and Secretary's reports were approved. A motion was made for Rita to use the leftover monies from WELCA's treasury to buy some needed kitchen supplies. The motion carried.</p> <p>Education rep Angie Yarwood reported planning is under way for VBS July 10-14. As our youth in sixth grade and up age out of Junior Church, plans are being made to keep them active in the church. In the fall, the committee hopes for our older youth to meet the third Sunday of each month with adult volunteers to keep them engaged.</p> <p>Evangelism committee is interviewing our graduates and new members. These interviews will be published in the next newsletter.</p> <p>Social and Outreach committee met April 30. Rep Kim Koch reported they made plans for recognizing all women on Mother's Day, Pentecost Sunday May 28, and all men on Father's Day. Adults are invited to Lincolnway Vineyards on May 19. An outdoor movie will be shown on July 14. Outdoor worship will be August 6, with a picnic to follow. The Giving Tree recipients will be July-NW Elementary (sweatpants and underwear); September-Panda Preschool; and October-West Salem food pantry (Thanksgiving Meals).</p> <p>Properties committee met April 19. Repair is needed on the handrail at the front steps; discussion is taking place on our outside entrance doors as we would like them to be locked while we are worshipping. A ring door bell is also being discussed. Rep Jon Kinney spread gravel to the low spots in the parking lot.</p> <p>We were given Pastor Stephanie's report of activities including time spent on pastoral care; worship; community; education; and administration. She also shares attendance comparisons and books she is currently reading. Pastor Stephanie will be attending Synod Assembly with Elaine Koch May 12-13; Crossen and Miley baptisms May 14; PhD graduation in Boston May 18-21; and taking a two week vacation June 19 through July 2.</p> <p>Council received Panda Preschool Board minutes from April 27. Registration for the 2023-24 school year has begun. They welcomed new teachers Amanda Doll and Joren Rickard this year. The children loved having the FFA in the classroom. Graduation is May 18 for 3/4s and May 19 for 4/5s</p> <p>We acknowledged minutes from LORAC and the Christian Education Program, which has been in operation for seventy years. Their annual meeting is May 15 and all are welcome.</p> <p>Our next meeting will be June 14 at 7pm. We closed the meeting with prayer.</p> <p>Joni Hagans, Parish Council Secretary</p>		



## NEO Synod Assembly Recap

I had the opportunity to represent St. Peter at the 2023 Northeast Ohio (NEO) Synod Assembly May 12-13 in Akron. On Friday evening, Pastor Stephanie and I joined 200 other voting members from the Synod's 164 churches for the annual event. (I was surprised to learn that some of the other Ohio Synod's only assemble every three years.)

On Friday night we enjoyed hearing from talented Bible storytellers and music by the praise band. Also on this evening Pastor Stephanie was elected to serve a three year term on the Synod Church Council as the Southwest-Rostered representative.

The Assembly reconvened on Saturday morning and additional elections were held. One contest ended in a tie and the subsequent run off was decided by only one vote!

There were two resolutions brought before the Assembly:

1. Care of Creation resolution which pertained to fossil fuels and climate change was referred back to the Synod Council.
2. Anti-Racism Resolution passed by a wide margin.

Other items of business included voting on changes to Governing Documents such as compensation standards and the approval of the 2024-2025 proposed budget. One point of concern in the proposed budget was a decrease in the support of Lutheran Outdoor Ministries (LOMO) from a funding level of \$40,000 in the original 2023-2024 budget to \$0.00 in the requested 2024-2025 budget. After amendments to amendments were made, the voting members passed the recommendation that LOMO funding be added back into the budget. Unfortunately, the proposed budget already showed a loss of -\$109,558.

Figures of note in the 2024-2025 budget:

Mission Support Income from the churches to the NEOS= \$1,225,000

(The % of giving from each church is listed in the proceedings. The range is 0-19% with St. Peter being in the 6-7% range.)

ELCA Churchwide Support from the NEOS= \$525,000

Total NEO Synod Staff Expenses= \$770,208

Anniversaries of interest included the recognition of the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of St. Paul, Smithville and the 55<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ordination of Pastor John Wanamaker.

Attending the Assembly reminded me how blessed we are at St. Peter to have Pastor Stephanie in our midst and enjoy strong financial support. If you have not attended an Assembly previously, I would recommend considering it for next year. I always learn something new about the inner workings of the ELCA. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have or you may find more information at [www.neosassembly.org](http://www.neosassembly.org).

Respectfully Submitted,  
Elaine Koch

# FINANCIAL CORNER

<b>FINANCIAL CORNER</b>	<b>4/30/2023</b>
<b>Checking Account - For Current Expenses</b>	
April Offerings	\$20,161
<b>Year-To-Date Offerings</b>	<b>\$60,391</b>
Projected Offerings	\$48,564
<b>Total Expenses Year-To-Date</b>	<b>\$48,020</b>
Checkbook Balance	\$41,164
<b>Other Offerings Given During This Month</b>	
Noisy Offering (Blessings/Backpack)	\$49
Building Fund	\$390
Lenten Offerings	\$115
<b>Memorial/Youth Min. Balance</b>	<b>\$23,021</b>
<b>Contingency Fund (MIF) Balance</b>	<b>\$29,126</b>
<b>Build./Maint. Fund (MIF) Balance</b>	<b>\$39,378</b>
<b>Scholarship Invest. (LPL Financial)</b>	<b>\$24,272</b>
<b>Endowment Fund (all accounts)</b>	<b>\$101,805</b>
(Balance as of 12/31/2022)	

<b>FINANCIAL CORNER</b>	<b>3/31/2023</b>
<b>Checking Account - For Current Expenses</b>	
March Offerings	\$13,433
<b>Year-To-Date Offerings</b>	<b>\$40,230</b>
Projected Offerings	\$35,074
<b>Total Expenses Year-To-Date</b>	<b>\$36,408</b>
Checkbook Balance	\$33,783
<b>Other Offerings Given During This Month</b>	
Noisy Offering (Blessings/Backpack)	\$79
Building Fund	\$98
Lenten Offerings	\$687
Rel. Ed. Teacher (Brunch)	\$25
(Total \$1165 given to Rel. Ed Teacher)	
<b>Memorial/Youth Min. Balance</b>	<b>\$22,651</b>
<b>Contingency Fund (MIF) Balance</b>	<b>\$29,112</b>
<b>Build./Maint. Fund (MIF) Balance</b>	<b>\$38,801</b>
<b>Scholarship Invest. (LPL Financial)</b>	<b>\$24,022</b>
<b>Endowment Fund (all accounts)</b>	<b>\$101,805</b>
(Balance as of 12/31/2022)	

STOP at St. Peter

**BOOKMOBILE**

**SCHEDULE**

WAYNE COUNTY

The Bookmobile Schedule  
 Dates: 6/15, 7/6, 7/27, 8/17  
 New Pittsburg 2:30-3:15 PM.

Watch for the updated schedule.  
<https://www.wcpl.info/hrsloc/bookmobile>

## 2023 Bi-monthly Newsletter Schedule

Submission and assembly dates

<b>Issue</b>	<b>Submissions Due</b>	<b>Assembly</b>
Aug/Sept, 2023	July 24	July 28
Oct/Nov, 2023	Sept 18	Sept 22
Dec/Jan 2023/24	Nov 13	Nov 17
Feb/Mar, 2024	Jan 22	Jan 26
April/May, 2024	March 18	March 22
June/July, 2024	May 20	May 24

**NEWSLETTER MAILING:** The newsletter is emailed to those who have shared an email address with the church. Hard copies are mailed to those with no email. Hard copies are also available at the church.

If you prefer to 'opt out' of the newsletter email, or prefer a copy mailed to you, contact the church office.

Access the newsletter from our website: [stpeterelca.org](http://stpeterelca.org).  
 Click MEDIA (top), then NEWSLETTER in the drop-down menu.

## WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

### MARCH, 2023

1	28	6:30 PM Lenten Service
5	106	10 AM / Live Stream: 34
8	29	6:30 PM Lenten Service
12	83	10 AM / Live Stream: 15
15	31	6:30 PM Lenten Service
19	83	10 AM / Live Stream: 28
22	26	6:30 PM Lenten Service
26	73	10 AM / Live Stream: 27
29	32	6:30 PM Lenten Service

### MARCH, 2022

2	23	7 PM / LS: 19 - Ash Wednesday
6	60	10 AM / Live Stream: 24
9	31	6:30 PM / Lenten Service
13	60	10 AM / Live Stream: 16
16	26	6:30 PM / Lenten Service
20	93	10 AM / Live Stream: 38
23	22	6:30 PM / Lenten Service
27	58	10 AM / Live Stream: 21
30	32	6:30 PM / Lenten Service

### APRIL, 2023

2	97	10 AM / LS: 38- Palm Sunday
6	36	7 PM / LS: 24 - Maundy Thursday
7	44	7 PM / LS: 19 Good Friday
9	24	8:30 AM / Sunrise Service
9	129	10 AM / LS: 27 - Easter Sunday
16	73	10 AM / Live Stream: 21
23	76	10 AM / Live Stream: 20
30	69	10 AM / Live Stream: 14

### APRIL, 2022

3	89	10 AM / Live Stream: 15
6	79	6:30 PM / Lenten Service
10	101	10 AM / Live Stream: 19
14	26	7 PM / LS: 16 - Maundy Thursday
15	36	7 PM / LS: 11 - Good Friday
17	136	10 AM / LS: 24 Easter Sunday
24	53	10 AM / Live Stream: 22

**St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church**

9451 Ashland Road  
Wooster, OH 44691

Address Service Requested.

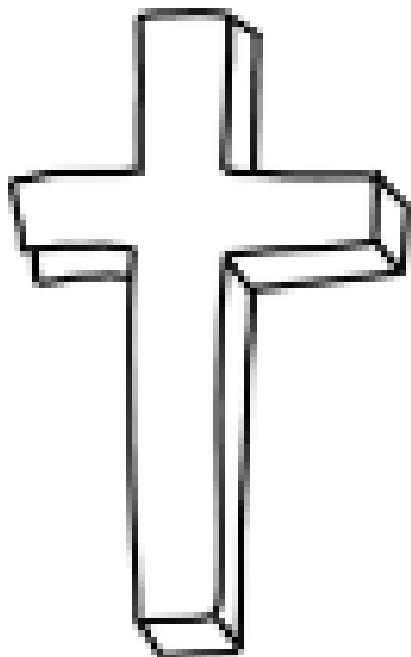
*Mailed on or before 5/26/22*

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OR TO BE REMOVED from mailing:  
Call 330-264-1986; Email: [office@stpeterelca.org](mailto:office@stpeterelca.org)



Youth Events — Page 3

Panda Preschool — Page 3



# Outdoor WORSHIP

PLANS ARE IN THE WORKS TO HOLD OUR  
ANNUAL OUTDOOR WORSHIP SERVICE AND  
PICNIC ON AUGUST 6, 10 AM.

KEEP AN EYE OUT IN THE WEEKLY MESSENGER  
FOR MORE DETAILS!