

# Friedens Evangelical Lutheran Church

Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS)



Rev. Henry T. Koch



## Worship

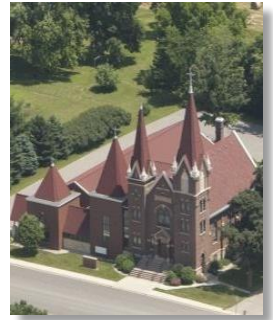
Sunday: 9 a.m.

Tuesday: (See Calendar)

Saturday: Noon

Online Services: [EFriedens.com](http://EFriedens.com)

Have a  
Happy  
4<sup>th</sup> of July!



# FRIEDENS' FAITH IN FOCUS

July 2026



Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. (2 Corinthians 3:17)

## Circuit News

Many are aware of changes in ministry among neighboring churches of our Mankato Conference in the Minnesota District of our Wisconsin Synod. What is the situation? At the end of May, two pastors accepted calls out of our North Mankato circuit, which prompted three additional vacancies in ministry: one of two pastor positions at Trinity in Belle Plaine, at the Lutheran Home's Hope Residence/Jesus Cares Ministry, and at Grace Lutheran Church in Le Sueur. A longer vacancy has been at St. John's in Glencoe, which is being served by Arlington's pastor. In the south Mankato circuit, Trinity in Nicollet is being served by a retired pastor during its vacancy.

District President Klatt noted that the average number of divine calls extended before a call is accepted is 9 or 10. Given that each call typically takes weeks for a pastor to deliberate, vacancies last typically months (not weeks) long. Recently-retired pastors are often asked to in effect "un-retire" to serve vacancies, or to provide help as preachers. Circuit pastors scramble to provide pastoral care to congregations during vacancies, and our circuit pastor, Rev. Glowicki of Jordan, says, "We are running out of people."



MESSAGE FROM PASTOR HENRY T. KOCH

**Friedens Evangelical Lutheran Church** | 28983 – 181<sup>st</sup> Avenue | New Prague, MN 56071

Pastor's Cell: (952) 393-5786 | Church: (952) 758-2828 | Church E-mail: [FLCSec@bevcomm.net](mailto:FLCSec@bevcomm.net) | Website: [EFriedens.com](http://EFriedens.com)

In St. Peter, Rev. Jack Kelly is retiring June 30, which creates a second vacancy at St. Peter Lutheran. This congregation, with a parochial school and an average weekly attendance of 200 souls (about double the size of Friedens), has been accustomed to 2 pastors on staff, but now will temporarily have no pastors. Pastor Kelly alerted his congregation to his retirement plans in advance, so they have already been calling for over a year and just called for the twelfth time. Nothing has been decided yet regarding who will serve the vacancy beginning at St. Peter, but this newsletter article serves to alert members that Pastor Koch is the closest pastor, and may receive the call to be their vacancy pastor. A retired pastor plans to move to Shakopee later this fall, and may be available if there is still a vacancy several months from now. For the next several months, it could develop that Friedens' elders take some turns visiting shut-ins, including bringing communion.

Jesus gives his means of grace to his Church, which calls a pastor to distribute these means on *their* behalf. So a congregation that has called a pastor to distribute these means, can also ask elders to assist in handling the means of grace. "Means of grace" are the gospel in Word and Sacraments. Friedens is already used to elders assisting the pastor during communion distribution in worship. The congregation with its pastor can ask elders to visit the sick, speak Jesus' words of institution in a home, and distribute communion to shut ins. If a pastor should someday be ill on a Saturday or Sunday, an elder could function in the pastor's absence for the entire congregation. This is a good time to review parts I, II, and especially III of The Sacrament of the Altar in your Small Catechism.

Members at Friedens are not accustomed to having elders come to their homes for visits—something that is common in other WELS congregations—so a temporary vacancy need may be a blessing that prompts our own lay ministry to grow. The same could be true of laymen gaining proficiency teaching a weekly Bible class, using available NPH teaching materials. Rev. Kelly has arranged for pastors to conduct nearly all the Sunday services through mid-August. If Friedens' pastor *does* serve that vacancy, on a few Sundays this summer he would conduct the Sunday morning service at St. Peter, and St. Peter would cover the cost to provide a substitute to conduct Friedens' service in his absence that morning. Most Sundays, Pastor Koch would anticipate being at Friedens but would assist at St. Peter guiding their council, elders, faculty, assisting with shut-in visits and similar pastoral duties at other hours during the week—a busy summer.

Empty pulpits also prompt us to recognize the need for workers in our Father's kingdom, and to pray for workers. Jesus urged is in a reading just this past month, "**The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Therefore pray that the Lord of the harvest will send out workers into his harvest.**" We can also encourage young men with aptitude to consider training for ministry as an important calling.



# Beautiful Cakes In Honor of Myron Tietz



One of Friedens' members--Myron Tietz, passed away on June 11. These beautiful cakes (from Costco) were served after his Christian Memorial Service on June 22 . May Myron rest in the peace of Jesus.

## Myron's Confirmation Bible Verse John 15:5

I am the vine, ye are the branches:  
He that abideth in me, and I in him,  
the same bringeth forth much fruit:  
for without me ye can do nothing.

# Baptism Day for Baby Eden!



Haley and Josh Bulfer hold their brand-new baby girl—Eden Nancy Bulfer on her special Baptism Day, June 7, 2026. The Ladies Aid provided a delicious Costco cake in honor of Baby Eden's Baptism, shared with the congregation.

Bible Lessons  
Crafts  
Games  
Singing

## Vacation Bible School

August 12 & 13

9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

(Includes Lunch)



All kids (ages 3 potty trained to 5<sup>th</sup> grade) are welcome to attend VBS. Registration sheets are on the literature table. Please fill them out and give to Pastor. We'll learn about Zacchaeus, as well as about Pentecost!

# Mission Festival Points & Pics from June 14 (Attendance: 30)



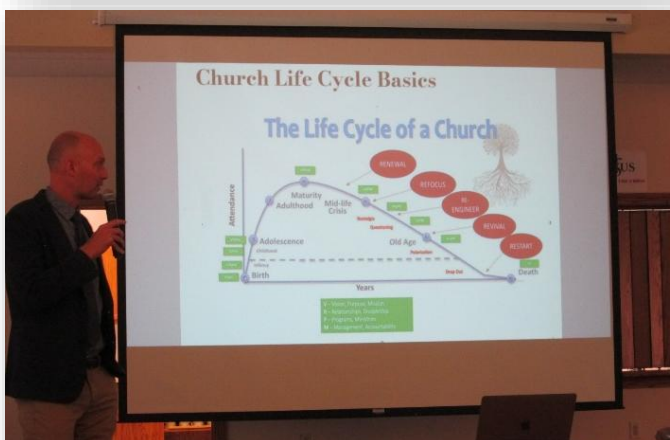
Our Mission Speaker: Rev. Jonathan Bourman,  
Home Missionary From Saint Mark, Mankato, MN,  
Presented on Home Missions.



## Mission Festival & Potluck: June 14



- Pastor Bourman spoke on how his church revived after Covid (they were down to 30 people).
- Saint Mark started prayer groups, where people invited friends. Their church started growing a lot. "Hope is contagious." Said Pastor Bourman.
- Pastor Bourman said that he started to preach longer sermons.
- They started singing more!
- Mission work starts wherever there are people.



From Left (Back Row): Kaden Holicky, Kaden's Friend, Maddi Holicky.  
From Left (Front Row): Kinsley Stang, Brooklyn Stang, Trevor Holicky.

# Hoof You Met our Visitors?

Their names are Willow, Wildfire and Patriot!



On June 23, we had some unexpected visitors at the Parsonage and church—Willow, Wildfire & Patriot! After the sneaky horseys escaped their barn, they visited the Pastor and Cindy on the Parsonage front lawn. They then hot-footed their way to the church, then they visited other neighbors, and made their way back to the church! They had quite a fun day!

Notice they each have **six legs**! Their shy owners came to retrieve them and were leading them home, as they kindly allowed me to take a picture.

--Church Mouse

Hey Willlllbur!  
I mean . . . Willlllow!  
Let's see what's goin'  
on at the church  
today! Hee, hee, hee!!!

## Church Attendance for May 2026

| Date         | Worshippers |
|--------------|-------------|
| 05/02/26     | 16          |
| 05/03/26     | 63          |
| 05/09/26     | 20          |
| 05/10/26     | 86          |
| 05/16/26     | 19          |
| 05/17/26     | 111         |
| 05/23/26     | 20          |
| 05/24/26     | 43          |
| 05/30/26     | 12          |
| 05/31/26     | 50          |
| <b>TOTAL</b> | <b>440</b>  |



# July Birthdays

|                      |                  |
|----------------------|------------------|
| Thomas Meyer .....   | 6 <sup>th</sup>  |
| Joan Tietz .....     | 7 <sup>th</sup>  |
| Justin Storlie ..... | 13 <sup>th</sup> |
| Marie Meyer .....    | 13 <sup>th</sup> |
| Donna Heine .....    | 17 <sup>th</sup> |
| Scott Gilsrud .....  | 18 <sup>th</sup> |
| Bill Schroeder ..... | 20 <sup>th</sup> |
| Henry Meyer .....    | 27 <sup>th</sup> |



NOTE: If you do not see your birthday shown on the list, please let the church mouse know, and she'll make sure you get on next time your birthday rolls around.

## How Would You Prefer to Get Your Newsletter?



Initially, when I was hired as Admin. Assistant (five years ago already--WOW), I requested people to let me know how they'd like to receive their newsletter. People had three choices—church mailbox distribution, e-mail or mail. **Please let me know if you'd like to change your choice and have your newsletter e-mailed, or if you'd like to just pick it up at the church. I can put you on the church mailbox distribution list.**

**Thanks so much! -Church Mouse**

### DEADLINE TO SUBMIT TO THE NEWSLETTER

The DEADLINE to submit any information for the next newsletter is the 15<sup>th</sup> of the previous month.

**Please keep the size of your submission small (quarter to half page).** Keep in mind that the newsletter is basically finished half way through the month, so last-minute entries might not happen; however, there is always hope.

The church mouse is expected to get the newsletter out (via e-mail) before the last Sunday of the month. It then gets mailed out to members the week after the last Sunday of the month. Thank you.

America, America, God shed His grace on thee,  
and crown thy good, with brotherhood, from  
sea to shining sea!



**--Church Mouse**

# FIFAF Women's Bible Study!



**Thursday, July 2, at 6:30 p.m.**

**Friedens Fellowship Hall**

**Questions: Call Amy Jirik**

**952-290-1067**



## USHER SCHEDULE FOR JULY 2026

| DATE          | TEENS           |                 | ADULTS         |                 |
|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| July 5, 2026  | Mikkala Quickle | Kameron Quickle | Duane Jirik    | Justin Storlie  |
| July 12, 2026 | Mason Storlie   | Ethan Paler     | Gary Grassmann | Bruce Nelson    |
| July 19, 2026 | Mikkala Quickle | Kameron Quickle | Jeff Heine     | Joe Stahl       |
| July 26, 2026 | Mason Storlie   | Ethan Paler     | Dean Cornelius | Willard Rancour |

*Thank you for serving as an Usher, as you guide and help worshipers in God's House!*

## Prayer Requests



### Ways to Request Prayers:

1. E-mail: [f1csec@bevcomm.net](mailto:f1csec@bevcomm.net)
2. Phone: (952) 758-2828
  - a. Leave a voicemail
3. Website: [efriedens.com](http://efriedens.com)
  - a. Click **PRAYER** on the Navigation Bar
  - b. Click the **PRAY** button
  - c. Fill out request form
  - d. Click **SEND**

Members of our Church Family will lovingly send up prayers for you.

## Restoration Project

Friedens Evangelical Lutheran Church



One half of the project has been seeded by an estate gift. Until now, all of the estate gift has been invested and generating income to permit more ministry than otherwise possible, including part-time administrative assistant, color copier, Peace Fund, and to cover budget shortfalls. It will be important to *replenish* this investment fund in order to continue having that ministry and income; so, our goal as members is to donate one half the estimated project cost: \$200,000.

Please see Pastor for details.

@WELSYOUTHALLY #WELSYOUTHALLY2026

2026 WELS YOUTH RALLY

**CHRIST THROUGH US**

2 CORINTHIANS 5:18-20

**JULY 14-17, 2026**

BOWLING GREEN UNIVERSITY, BOWLING GREEN, OHIO

WELS  
Christ's Love Our Calling

WELSYOUTHALLY.NET

## Correction!

I'm sorry. I have to listen better.



From Left: Paul, Nancy & Butch Dallmann

church Mouse  
hasn't Q-tipped  
her little old ears  
out in a while!



**Correction from June Newsletter (May 12<sup>th</sup> Visit from Dalmanns):** Paul is Butch's brother (not son) and Butch is Margaret Dallmann's grandson (not son).

# FRIEDENS LUTHERAN CHURCH MEETING MINUTES



## OUTREACH MEETING

June 7, 2026

10:45 a.m.

Those Present: Pastor Henry Koch, Keith Barta, Russ Meyer (Heidi Gilsrud via Zoom—Minutes).

### Outdoor Worship Service.

#### 1. Invitations.

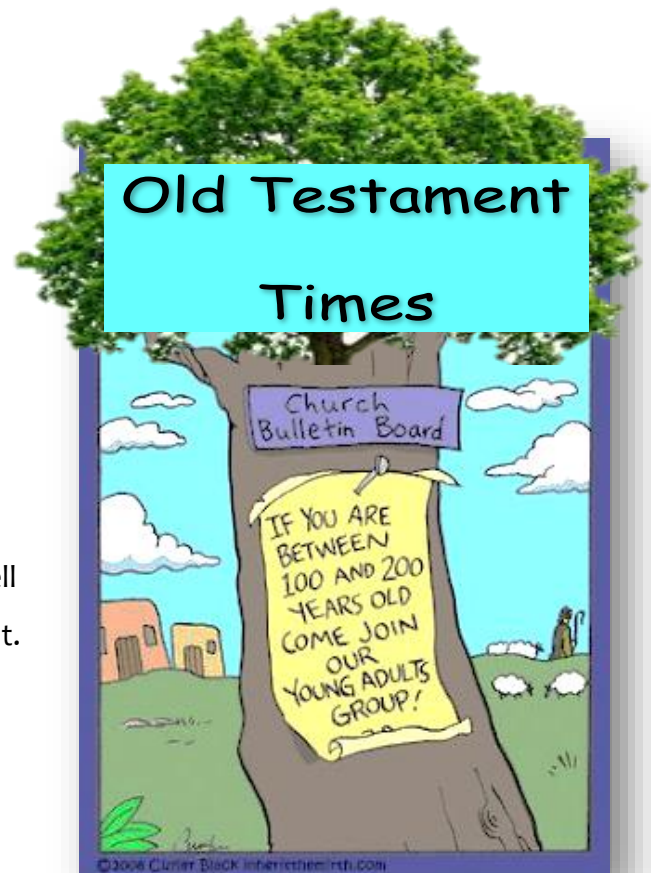
### Czech Out New Prague.

1. Czech Out New Prague (August 6, 2026, from 5:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m.): We are registered. We do not know where our spot is yet. Maybe 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. would work out, due to that when the music starts, visitors drop off.
  - a. Does WELS have any T-shirts to hand out? Do they have any give-away items?
  - b. We should all be wearing the same color of T-shirt.
  - c. Cookbook Raffle and batteries went well last year. There are some batteries left.
    - i. Need white board on easel to write down winner.
  - d. We'll use the banner we had last year.
  - e. We'll bring a case of water for our volunteers.
  - f. We only need one shift of people (5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.).  
Russ and Keith will look for volunteers.
  - g. Slips of paper to fill out for more information.
  - h. Trifold church handout.
  - i. Little "Cross in My Pocket" handouts.

### VBS.

1. VBS (August 12 & 13): Discussed options.
  - a. Advertising: Heidi puts on Facebook and website, as well as in the newsletter, bulletins and invitations to hand out.
  - b. Pastor is planning to cover Sunday school lessons that were not covered in the past year.

Next Outreach Meeting: July 5, 10:45 a.m.



## EXEC. COUNCIL MEETING

June 11, 2026

6:30 p.m.

Those Present: Pastor Henry Koch, Keith Barta, Jeff Heine, Steve Kotek, Patrick Schaefer, Pam Tietz (Heidi Gilsrud via Zoom for Minutes).

### Devotion.

1. Pastor gave devotion on Matthew 19—"Teacher--What good thing should I do that I may have eternal life?"
2. Pastor led in prayer.

### Reading of Last Month's Minutes.

1. Keith read the minutes from last month's Council Meeting.
2. There was a motion to accept the minutes as read. This was seconded and passed. Motion carries.

### Membership Actions.

1. Joining the Church via Transfer from WELS Church: Chris and Megan Warner (w/Kaelyn and Ryan).
  - a. Pastor received transfer letter for Warners.
  - b. There was a motion to receive Chris and Megan Warner as new members. Motion was passed.
2. Baptism: Eden Nancy Bulfer (June 7, 2026).

### Unfinished Business

#### Parking Lot.

1. Tabled till Voters' Meeting, July 26.

### Reports

#### Pastor's Report.

1. Pastor mentioned that the chancel LED lights were flickering. This could be distracting for communicants.
2. District Convention: Dennis Klatt was re-elected to serve as our District President. Jeremy Glowicki was elected as our Circuit Pastor. Other officers were re-elected, as well.
  - a. A meeting for all called workers was called to address certain issues (abuse and violence prevention; student safety). This meeting is planned for August 11. Pastor Koch plans to attend.
3. Wedding: Adam Brandt and Maddilyn Holicky are planned to marry on June 20.
4. Pastor finished his Asia class on Defending the Faith. He is considering doing this study for Sunday Bible class.

#### Treasurer's Report.

1. Donations in May: \$57,000 (some designated for the Restoration Fund).
2. Expenses: \$22,000. (Normal Expenses = \$17,000 to \$22,000 per month.)
3. Current Checking Balance: \$46,891. (The \$10,000 planned to be put back in the WELS investment fund hasn't come out yet.)
4. The Lutheran Brotherhood payment will come out on June 20 (\$5,500).
5. Connelly Plumbing Bill: \$606.
6. Grounds Care: New pots and artificial flowers were purchased for entrances and cemetery.

7. Pastor Glowicki received check for guest preaching.
8. Czech Out New Prague down as “Event Expense” (not advertisement).
9. January – March Mileage Expense (Pastor).
10. Worship Extras were for Confirmation.
11. Youth Rally Funds: \$450 (funds were donated specifically for youth rally).

Keith asked if the checking balance included the contributions for the last Sunday in May (May 31). Will reported a slightly higher balance. Pam replied that June 1-June 10 are the automatic withdrawals—payrolls, retirement fund for Pastor, etc.

- a. Payroll came out in June: \$8,000.
  - b. Pastor’s May Contributions to His Retirement Fund (came out on June 1): \$2,500.
12. Keith brought up that Will Rancour had suggested maybe we could put \$5,000 more into the investment fund. Pam was o.k. with that. Keith thought we could put \$5,000 into the investment fund, as well. Jeff agreed.
    - a. This is within the spending limit. We aren’t spending it. We are transferring it.
  13. \$1,600 donation to Christian Family Solutions.
  14. District \$220 check is still outstanding, due to they usually hang on to it till after the convention.
  15. Loffler lease will be going up from \$390 to \$409.
  16. Pam is going to transfer payroll duties to Rita Olson-Hillman on the east end of town, as Skye (current payroll person) has a lot going on. Pam asked the Council if that is o.k. with them to proceed with changing our payroll person. This service is approximately \$120 per month. Pam wants to continue with having an accountant, due to that she is not an accountant and wants to make sure the W2s and everything are done correctly (scanning bills, reconciling accounts, etc.)
  17. Jeff moved for the acceptance of both reports, seconded and passed.

#### Elders’ Report.

1. Kris Hunt has been appointed as a replacement elder and has already taken on some responsibilities. This will be ratified at the Voters’ Meeting.
2. Jeff has visited a couple of people.

#### Trustees’ Report.

1. Water Heater for Parsonage: Discussion. Keith was happy to find that they still sell Marathon Water Heaters (lifetime warranty, fiberglass exterior, stainless steel tank). An 85-gal. is \$1,800, and 110-gal. is \$2,000. There is a rebate on a different “separate meter” one, too. We are on an off-peak program. Keith will make arrangements to get a new water heater for the parsonage.
2. Parking Lot: Keith talked with Tony Kubes (township supervisor) about our parking spaces along the road. The township does not have this in their budget. If we do pavement, we’d have to pave 5 inches, due to that is a 10-ton road.
  - a. Quote w/Map: They looked at map (blue areas). To seal cracks that are in a concentrated bad area--5 spots--that could be cut out, asphalt peeled back and patched/replaced, it would be \$4,080. This would be an amount the council could approve. This price does not include striping. We’ve done that ourselves before, though.

This is not seal coating, it is just for crack filling. Jeff will get a quote for seal coating, too. At a minimum, we should at least do the crack sealing and fix the 5 bad spots.

3. Parsonage Lawn: There are a lot of holes. Opinion shared that it would be a good fall project. This should be regraded with a skid loader or commercial tiller and reseeded. At the same time, we could do something with the sidewalks. We should talk with Bruce Nelson. It was noted that the cistern was still down there but was filled in with gravel.
4. Shaggy Shrubs: The shrubs by the main entrance of the church are getting kind of shaggy. Trimming is needed. Maybe Kaden Holicky, Corey Schanus, Kameron Quickle and Mason Storlie could help with this. There is also the men's Bible study group on Saturdays. A couple of hours would be needed for this job.
4. Dave Tietz mentioned to Steve Kotek that the bathrooms in the park need attention.

#### New Business

##### Agenda for Voters' Meeting.

1. Agenda Items for Voters' Meeting (July 26, 10:15 a.m.): Elder replacement (Kris Hunt), parking lot recommendation, Pastor's salary recommendation (will discuss at July council meeting).

##### Sunday School Past Memorial Day.

2. Keith is not sure if Sunday School is a good idea past Memorial Day, going forward. It was published, but there was hardly anybody there. Pastor explained that there was one more Sunday in May than usual. This won't be an issue for next year, due to Memorial Day is right after the last Sunday of the month.
  - a. Sunday School discussed (attendance, teachers for next year, mentoring).

##### Pastor's Salary Recommendation.

1. Pastor's Current 2026 Salary: \$89,719,81. The council will think on this number and decide the recommendation at their July meeting.

Next Combo Elders/Executive Council Meeting: July 9, 6:30 p.m.



# Friedens Evangelical Lutheran Church

Address: 28983 – 181<sup>st</sup> Avenue, New Prague, MN 56071 | Office: (952) 758-2828 | Website: Efriedens.com

## 2 Corinthians 3:17

Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.

# July

# 2026

“Drop-In” Consultation Times w/Pastor Henry Koch: Wednesdays 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. ; 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. ; 7:15 p.m.-8:00 p.m. (After Easter)

| Sunday                                                                                                                                                       | Monday             | Tuesday                                                                               | Wednesday                                                         | Thursday                                                                                                                             | Friday                                      | Saturday                                                                                |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                                              |                    |                                                                                       | 1<br>Bible Study: 9:00 a.m.<br>Games: 10:00 a.m.                  | 2<br>FIFAF Book Club:<br>6:30 p.m.                                                                                                   | 3                                           | 4<br><b>Independence Day</b><br><b>Men's Bible Study:</b><br>8:00 a.m.<br>Worship: Noon |
| 5<br>Worship (Communion): 9:00 a.m.<br>Coffee Time: 10:00 a.m.<br><b>Bible Study: 10:30 a.m.</b><br><b>OUTREACH MEETING: 10:45 a.m.</b><br>(In Welcome Area) | 6<br>Office Closed | 7<br>Office Closed                                                                    | 8<br>Office Closed<br>Bible Study: 9:00 a.m.<br>Games: 10:00 a.m. | 9<br>Office Closed<br>COMBO ELDERS/<br>EXEC. COUNCIL MTG.:<br>6:30 p.m.<br>(Prairie Quilters' Tie in July—<br>9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.) | 10                                          | 11<br><b>Men's Bible Study:</b><br>8:00 a.m.<br>Worship: Noon                           |
| 12<br>Worship: 9:00 a.m.<br><b>Bible Study: 10:15 a.m.</b>                                                                                                   | 13                 | 14<br>Worship at Mala Strana: 11:00 a.m.<br>Worship: 6:30 p.m.                        | 15<br>Bible Study: 9:00 a.m.<br>Games: 10:00 a.m.                 | 16                                                                                                                                   | 17<br>(Prairie Quilters:<br>9:00 a.m.-Noon) | 18<br><b>Men's Bible Study:</b><br>8:00 a.m.<br>Worship: Noon                           |
| 19<br>Worship (Communion): 9:00 a.m.<br><b>Bible Study: 10:15 a.m.</b>                                                                                       | 20                 | 21<br>Youth Rally: July 14 – 17, at Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, OH | 22<br>Bible Study: 9:00 a.m.<br>Games: 10:00 a.m.                 | 23                                                                                                                                   | 24                                          | 25<br><b>Men's Bible Study:</b><br>8:00 a.m.<br>Worship: Noon                           |
| 26<br>Worship: 9:00 a.m.<br><b>VOTERS' MEETING: 10:15 A.M.</b>                                                                                               | 27                 | 28<br>Worship at Mala Strana: 11:00 a.m.<br>Worship: 6:30 p.m.                        | 29<br>Bible Study: 9:00 a.m.<br>Games: 10:00 a.m.                 | 30                                                                                                                                   | 31                                          |                                                                                         |