



newsletter

Northwest Hills Church
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Rev. Alex Wolf, Pastor
Suzy Parsons, CE Director
Cheryl Morehouse, Office Administrator

Vol. 52 No. 7
June 25, 2024

Barb Renicker, Music Director
Nate & Rita Merriam, Custodians

July 2024

July 7		9:30 AM Worship/Communion/No Sunday School "God Won't Give You More Than You Can Handle" Focus Scripture: 1 Corinthians 10:1-13
July 14 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE		9:30 AM Worship/Sunday School "God Helps Those Who Help Themselves" Focus Scripture: Psalm 121
July 21		9:30 AM Worship/Sunday School Guest preacher, Pastor Jim Skrobo (Pastor Alex at Blair Congregational UCC) 10:30 AM Boy Scout Troop 383 "Thank You" Pancake Feed for Congregation—FH
July 28		9:30 AM Worship/Sunday School "Everything Happens for a Reason" Focus Scripture: Deuteronomy 30:11-20



Deadline for articles/information for the monthly newsletter is usually the second Sunday for the next month's newsletter. Thank you in advance for your contributions!

THANK YOU!

"Thank you for all the cards and prayers we received concerning the passing of Allen's brother, Charles. These were all greatly appreciated. It helped us while making the arrangements."

Thank you again."

— Allen and Linda Chandler

Stump the Pastor

What are some of your questions about the Christian faith? What Scriptures do you not quite understand? You are invited to submit a question or Scripture passage you would like Pastor Alex to try to answer or talk about during the Sunday morning sermon in the month of August! Please submit your suggestions to Pastor Alex by Sunday, July 21st.

Hannah Circle invites our Northwest Hills Church family to continue to donate to the Holy Cross Lutheran Church Food Pantry (our community partner that we support year round). Rohn Collins, our contact at Holy Cross (and the gentleman who so kindly comes to pick up our regular donations) shared that their greatest need for the summer months is for canned soups — especially for families with school-age kids home for the summer. Thank you in advance for your continued generosity in donating non-perishables to those in need and experiencing food insecurity in our immediate community. A bin is located in the Commons for this year round support.

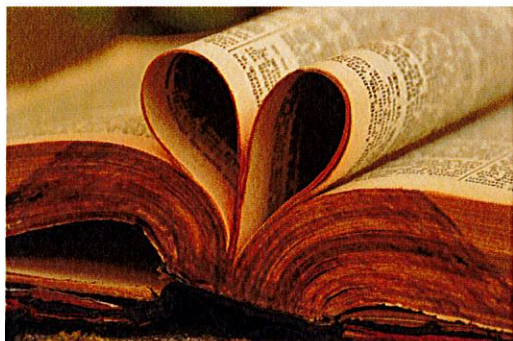
OTHER COLLECTIONS: we continue to collect Family Fare receipts for Project Hope, old eyeglasses to recycle for the Lions Club International, and floral arrangement bases for HyVee to recycle!



Did you know.....

*The shortest verse in the Bible is Psalm 117
The longest verse in the Bible is Psalm 119
The middle of the Bible is Psalm 118; there are 594 verses before it and 594 verses after it = **1188**
The center Bible verse is **118:8**:*

*"It is better to take refuge in the Lord
than to trust in man."*



CRAFTERS! We meet Wednesday afternoons at 1:00 PM year round. All are welcome! You can bring your own crafts, or we have several to choose from. No "super talent" needed: we will help you! Thank you for joining us as we build up our "inventory" for the big Craft Fair in October. Many hands make the work light. Come for an enjoyable time of creativity and fellowship! Questions? Please contact Leigh Powell.
RUTH CIRCLE will meet Tuesday, July 2nd in the Commons at 11:00 AM. Dessert provided by Leigh Powell.

WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION will meet Thurs, 11th at 12 noon in the Fellowship Hall. Devotions by Kathy Coppler. Dessert provided by Kathy Coppler and Nicki O'Neil. For questions, please call Kathleen Hammond at 402-981-3630. All of the ladies of the church are invited.

HANNAH CIRCLE will meet Tuesday, July 16th at 1:00 PM in the Commons. Devotions by Isobel Taylor and dessert provided by Linda Chandler.

SARAH CIRCLE will meet as needed. For any questions, call Terri Burrig, 402-659-6913.

MEN'S MINISTRY BREAKFAST: We look forward to getting together on Saturday, July 6th at 9:00 AM in the Commons. It is a BYOB: "Bring Your Own Breakfast." All men of the church are invited for this great time of fellowship!

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY: We will NOT meet on July 3rd, but will resume our Wednesday Bible Studies at 10:00 AM in Room 128 on July 10th! All are invited to come and fellowship around the precious Word of God!

CHURCH COUNCIL will not meet during July.

Northwest Hills Church is honored to support TWO different Food Pantries. The one we support all year (the bin in the Commons) and then with special requests for needed items — and special holidays like the Thanksgiving meals — is the Holy Cross Lutheran Church Food Pantry (4117 Terrace Dr.), and our wonderful friend there, Rohn Collins, is the one who picks up our donations.

The other one is the Project Hope Food Pantry, located at Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church (off N. 60th St.). We support them through the "Direct Your Dollars" Program at all Family Fare grocery stores. When you bring your Family Fare receipts to the drop-off box in the Commons, these are aggregated with other receipts, and when hitting a certain amount, Family Fare cuts a sizeable check to Project Hope — the last one was \$1,000! — so that Project Hope can purchase much needed pantry items! So both are a win-win situation when the body of Christ partners together to meet the needs of the community! Whichever way you choose to help — either by bringing non-perishables or receipts — you are blessing others!
Thank you thank you!



MISSION & SERVICE
SUMMER COLLECTION
JUNE-JULY-AUGUST

Over the summer months, we are partnering with the Open Door Mission to collect the following non-perishable food items:



Canned fruit
Canned vegetables
Boxed cereal

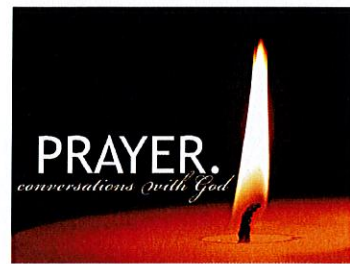


These items can be placed in the Open Door Mission bin in the Commons. We will continue to collect clothing and personal care items as well. Thank you in advance for your help as we support and partner with the Open Door Mission in their endeavors to care for individuals in need in our community.



"Our family is trying one of those old-fashioned churches, with preaching, the Bible, and all that stuff."

Have you seen the box above the coatrack in the Commons labeled "Eyeglasses" and wonder what it's for? Our Northwest Hills Church family for years has partnered with the local Lions Club "Recycle for Sight" Program! Refractive errors can be easily corrected with eyeglasses, yet millions living in low and middle income countries lack access to basic eye care services. Lions have recognized the urgent need for corrective lenses and collect usable glasses in their communities. When you bring and drop off your old glasses – whether they are reading glasses or prescription glasses – to the box in our Commons, those glasses are then taken to an official Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center for processing. There, the glasses are sorted to determine those that are usable or unusable, processed, and placed in inventory for distribution to optical missions around the world. Even the "unusable" glasses don't go to waste! The Lions Club "Recycle for Sight" Program also helps to minimize landfill waste by supporting precious metal reclamation and scrap processing for damaged glasses that are unusable. So it's a win-win situation! Thank you in advance for bringing your old and/or unused glasses to our collection box! You are making a difference around the world!



Prayer chain requests can be called to Ardell Reuter at 1-918-703-1068 or the church office at (402) 572-8392.

Thank you for your kind responses regarding updating our prayer list. We are always encouraged to hear when our loved ones are much improved. Please continue to let us know of any changes so that we can update our list and assure that the prayers going out weekly are the most current and urgent needs expressed. Thank you in advance. The ongoing list is below:

Continued Prayer Requests: Sandy Christopherson, Dianne Hasch (Dianna Cupps' friend), Jeff Walton, Susie Ryan, Cierra Ervin, Kyle Hurt & Jacoby, Marchelle Conrad, Peg Hawkins (friend of Annie Kuti), Steve Swift, Jerrie Wilcox, Tom Vincent, Nikki Heim, Elaine Jenkins, Cindy Key

On-Going Cancer Treatment: Mike Lambert, Mary Larson, Patricia Gename (Mary Hinman's daughter), Gail Schroeder, Dave Merriam, Sue Day, Robert Baker, Sharon McNutt (Ruth Negus' friend's sister), Betty Benskin, Judy Intlekofer, Gail Formanack (friend of Bev Ambrosius), Gary Dutton, David Arthur (friend of the Vincents), Vicki Nolan, (Leigh Powell's sister), Ena Nolan, (Leigh Powell's niece), Bill Owens

"He sent His Word, and healed them"

— Psalm 107:20

"But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed."

— Isaiah 53:5

**HE HEALED THE ONE
WHO ARRESTED HIM,
SERVED THE ONE WHO
BETRAYED HIM, AND
LOVED THE WORLD
WHO CRUCIFIED HIM
THAT'S MY JESUS**



FROM PASTOR ALEX WOLF

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

When the month of July comes around, our eyes see lots of red, white, and blue, our ears hear lots of patriotic songs, and our minds are full of thoughts of freedom. What does freedom mean to you? We enjoy many freedoms: the freedom of speech, the freedom to peaceably assemble, the freedom of religion, and the freedom to bear arms. All of these (and more) are guaranteed in the U.S. Bill of Rights.

What about in the church—what does freedom mean to us as Christians? Just as the United States of America is about freedom, our faith is also about freedom. The apostle Paul emphatically states in his letter to the Galatian church that “it is for freedom that Christ has set us free” (Galatians 5:1). But does this mean that we can do anything we want? Well, Paul has more to say on this...

“It is absolutely clear that God has called you to a free life. Just make sure that you don’t use this freedom as an excuse to do whatever you want to do and destroy your freedom. Rather, use your freedom to serve one another in love; that’s how freedom grows. For everything we know about God’s Word is summed up in a single sentence: Love others as you love yourself. That’s an act of true freedom.”
Galatians 5:13-14 (The Message)

As followers of Jesus, each of us are free to live as we think is best (with guidance from the Holy Spirit, of course!). But our freedom does have limits. Our guiding principle in our everyday living should be this commandment, “Love others as you love yourself.” We are called to love and care for ourselves but also to love and care for others. We are not to do anything that harms another, either physically, mentally, or spiritually. In our freedom, we, like Paul, should follow the example set by Jesus who humbled himself and became a servant to all.

As we celebrate our freedom, as Christians and as citizens of the United States, may we not use our freedom only for ourselves, but to help and love our neighbors as well.

In Christ’s Love,

Pastor Alex



Sermon Topics and Scriptures for July

“Does The Bible Actually Say That?”

July 2024 Sermon Series

They’re simple sayings that Christians often say and sound like they come from Scripture. But do they?! Join us as we unpack these common statements people think are biblical and find out what the Bible really says.

July 7 – “God Won’t Give You More Than You Can Handle”

Focus Scripture: 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

July 14 – “God Helps Those Who Help Themselves”

Focus Scripture: Psalm 121

July 21 – Guest preacher, Pastor Jim Skrobo

Pastor Alex at Blair Congregational UCC

July 28 – “Everything Happens for a Reason”

Focus Scripture: Deuteronomy 30:11-20



Some interesting facts about Independence Day...

“...July 4th, to many people, means flags, freedom, and fireworks. It’s one of the biggest holidays in the United States, celebrated with fireworks, parades, and barbecues. It is a day that is steeped in history and tradition. Every year, Americans celebrate the anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration of Independence in 1776. While you may be familiar with basic facts about the holiday, some fascinating facts are lesser-known. For example, did you know that the Liberty Bell is tapped 13 times every July 4th? Or that John Adams believed that the Fourth of July was the wrong day to celebrate? Check out these interesting facts about Independence Day that will make you see the holiday in a whole new light.

John Hancock inspired a saying we still use today.

“Put your John Hancock here.” Have you ever heard that phrase? We all know the person is asking for your signature, but why is that a common saying? As it turns out, John Hancock, who served as president of the Continental Congress, was the first signer of the Declaration of Independence. But it’s not just that. His signature was large, flourishing, and very noticeable. It was risky business to sign it – treason, to be exact. According to legend, he wanted King George to be able to read it without his glasses, which is why it’s so big.

John Adams thought Americans should celebrate on July 2nd and turned down invitations to celebrate on July 4th in protest. The Continental Congress voted on July 2, 1776, to declare independence from England. The Congress formally adopted the Declaration two days later, with the Liberty Bell ringing to celebrate the historic event. Because the vote took place on July 2nd, Adams believed this should be the day Americans celebrate each year. He said as much in a letter to his wife. “The Second Day of July 1776, will be the most memorable Epocha in the History of America...” While he wasn’t right about the date, he was correct in how Americans would celebrate the occasion each year with “pomp and parade.” So stubborn in his belief that July 2nd was the correct date, he declined invitations to appear at events on the 4th of July.

Fireworks have been a tradition since the first Independence Day anniversary celebration in 1777. However, Adams’ recommendation had little to do with it since fireworks had been part of celebrations in many countries, particularly royal celebrations, for hundreds of years. There’s no denying that fireworks and freedom go hand in hand. George Washington was the first to celebrate the holiday with alcohol. The Revolutionary War was still going on in 1778 when Washington ordered a double ration of rum for his troops. They also did an artillery salute to commemorate the anniversary. Nowadays, most Americans celebrate with beer and wine.

July 4th became an official holiday in 1870.

Although Americans began celebrating the anniversary of the Declaration of Independence the very next year of its adoption, the date didn’t become established as a national holiday until 1870. Further, federal employees weren’t paid for the holiday until 1938. Each year, descendants of the Founding Fathers gather around the Liberty Bell to tap it 13 times to honor the original 13 colonies. It hasn’t been rung since February 26, 1846, on George Washington’s birthday, due to the hairline fracture that turned into a large crack that could not be repaired.

More than 150 million hot dogs are consumed on July 4th.

The National Hot Dog & Sausage Council reports that Americans consume 150 million hot dogs on Independence Day. The summer months are peak hot dog season, with 38% of hot dogs sold between Memorial Day in May and Labor Day in September. This coincides with cookout season and baseball season, so it’s no wonder so many wieners are eaten during this time. Nathan’s Famous Hot Dogs hosts a hot dog eating contest for competitive eaters every year on this holiday. The competition lasts 10 minutes with one goal: to eat more hot dogs than anyone else. Two winners (one from the men’s and women’s categories) receive a trophy and the famous Mustard Belt of champions. In 2021, the male winner Joey Chestnut ate 76 hot dogs, while the female winner, Michelle Lesco, ate 30.75 hot dogs.

Americans spend about \$1.5 billion on fireworks in July.

Fireworks celebrations occur annually across the country on July 4th, but how much do those illuminating celebrations cost? According to WalletHub, Americans spent \$1.5+ billion on fireworks in 2020, enjoying more than 14,000 fireworks displays. Consumer fireworks purchases account for the largest portion of fireworks sales. Interestingly, beer and wine spending for a holiday is comparable at \$1.45 billion, which may account for the many yearly fireworks injuries...”



(Retrieved from www.thefactsite.com/independence-day-facts on June 6, 2024)



The CANASTA CLUB will meet on Thursday, July 18th in the Fellowship Hall. Please bring your own lunch. Dessert will be provided by Team #7 (Ardell and Carol A.). Plan to arrive in time to start playing by 10:00 AM. If you have any questions, or would like to join, please contact Deb Shafer at 402-392-0418 or 402-999-1052. We can always use more subs (men or women). Please contact Ardell Reuter at 1-918-703-1068 if you would be willing to sub occasionally. Thank you for your consideration!

PLEASE NOTE: OES AND NWH CANASTA CARD PARTIES HAVE SWITCHED DATES THE NEXT TWO MONTHS:

Thurs. Aug. 22nd NWH—FH
Thurs. Sept. 19th OES—FH

DID YOU KNOW....

You can watch the Sunday Sermon on YouTube? If you ever have to miss a Sunday due to illness or being out of town, you can still watch/listen the message!

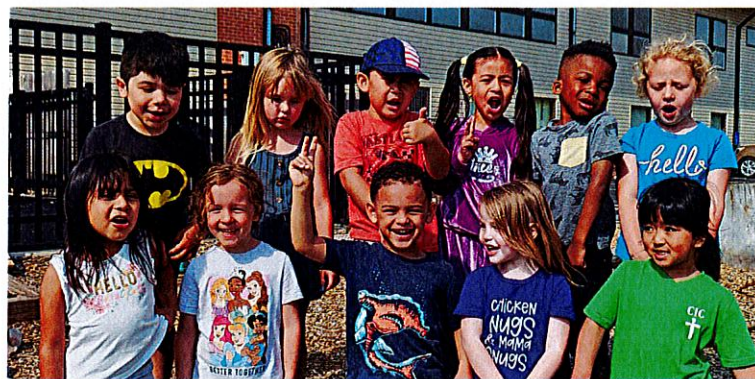
Also, Northwest Hills Church has its own Facebook Page as an electronic outreach to the community! Spread the word and "like" our Page!



**Take Me Out to the Ballgame
Friday, July 12**

STORM CHASERS BALL GAME!

Take Me Out to the Ballgame, Friday, July 12: Join us for a night out at Werner Park in Papillion as the Omaha Storm Chasers take on the Toledo Mud Hens on Friday, July 12th (changed from July 19th). The special promotion is Christmas in July. There will also be fireworks after the game. Tickets are \$13. If interested, please let Pastor Alex know by Sunday, July 7th.



SPOTLIGHT: Northwest Hills Preschool Update

Happy summer, everyone! We are gearing up for another awesome year being a blessing to diverse families in our community. What a great opportunity to share God's love — not only with the 3-5 year-olds entrusted to our care — but to their moms, dads, siblings, and extended families and friends. The love and care demonstrated to these families by Preschool staff (and church staff too! We love our little ones!) result in great impact as demonstrated by the gratitude we receive during our holiday programs and graduation/end-of-year celebrations!

With the new school year not that far away, the Preschool staff are asking the members of Northwest Hills if they can donate specific items used in the Preschool. On the next page is a list of specific items. There is a basket downstairs by the Preschool Room where these specific donations can be dropped off. Any help is greatly appreciated! Here is a picture of the bin downstairs:



Thank you for your help!



Preschool Donation Request List

- * Various single colored construction paper packs in both regular and large sizes
- * Pink liquid watercolor paint
- * White finger paint
- * Paint daubers
- * Solid tempera paint sticks
- * Googley eyes – various sizes
- * Various colored packs of tissue paper
- * Laminating sheets
- * Clear tape
- * Craft size paper bags
- * Various colors of pipe cleaners
- * Disinfectant wipes
- * Snacks

We appreciate all donations! Donations help keep tuition costs down so we can reach as many children as possible. Thank you for your support of our little school! □ A donation basket is set up downstairs by our large bulletin board. Have a great summer! ~

Jacque and Lori

JULY 2024



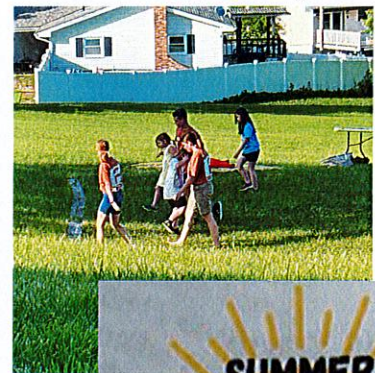
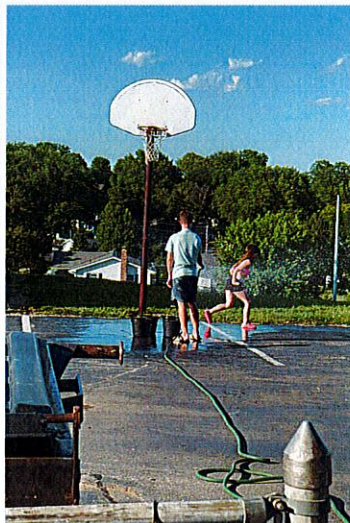
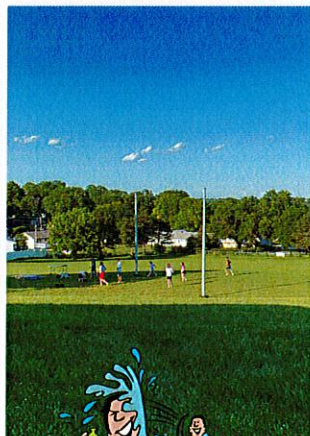
KIDS QUEST!! EPIC Youth PK-High School



July 7	No Kids Quest Sunday School
July 14	"Esther"
July 21	Helping Hands: Mission Project
July 28	"Gideon"

On June 10th through the 13th, Northwest Hills Church hosted our first ever "Good News Club!" A great time was had by all that attended, and we thank our members that came and helped out. The Good News Club is a nation-wide evangelism event: a 4-evening adventure (Monday through Thursday) for kids 4-12 years old LEAD by students AGES 12-19 that have undergone intensive training by Christian Youth in Action. How exciting to partner with an organization involving our next generation in sharing the love of Christ — with those even younger — in a fun and interactive environment.

A special shout out and thank you to Kathy Caito and Maliha Standley for personally going door-to-door in our surrounding neighborhood passing out fliers the week before the event, inviting the youngest members of our community to come. Parents were also welcome to attend. The water activities — especially getting squirted with the water hose — was especially welcome and fun on those hot evenings!



JULY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 6:45 PM AA Mtg-FH	2 11 Ruth Circle -C 7 PM Scouts-FH	3 1-3 Crafters—128	4 INDEPENDENCE DAY HOLIDAY Church Office Closed	5 INDEPENDENCE DAY HOLIDAY Church Office Closed	6 9:00 AM Men's BYOB-C 10A-3P Lambert Prayer Group-9D
7 9:30 Worship/Communion (No Sunday School)	8 6:45 PM AA Mtg-FH	9 7 PM Scouts-FH	10 10 Bible Study-128 1-3 Crafters—128	11 12 noon Women's Assoc. Meeting	12 7 PM Storm Chasers Game	13 10A-3P Lambert Prayer Group-19D
14 9:30 Worship/Sunday School	15 6:45 PM AA Mtg-FH	16 1:00 PM Hannah Circle Mtg.—C 7 PM Scouts-FH	17 10 Bible Study-128 1-3 Crafters—128	18 10-2 Canasta—FH	19 6-10 PM Old Dominion Dancers- FH	20 10A-3P Lambert Prayer Group-19D
21 9:30 Worship/Sunday School 10:30 AM Boy Scouts "Thank you" pancake feed for the congregation—FH	22 6:45 PM AA Mtg-FH	23 7 PM Scouts-FH	24 10 Bible Study-128 1-3 Crafters—128	25	26	27 10A-3P Lambert Prayer Group-19D
28 9:30 Worship/Sunday School	29 6:45 PM AA Mtg-FH	30 9 AM Newsletter Crew—C 7 PM Scouts-FH	31 10 Bible Study-128 1-3 Crafters-128			S: Sanctuary C: Commons L: Library FH: Fellowship Hall

**NORTHWEST HILLS CHURCH
9334 FORT STREET
OMAHA NE 68134**

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JULY BIRTHDAYS

4	Kenneth Peterson	9	Michael Callahan	22	Deb Hahn
5	Faith Hurt	10	Mikey Mehlenbacher	22	Ruby Peterson
5	Janis Johnson	13	Andy Novak	24	Ronald Heim
5	Bob Taylor	14	Mary Ellen Dixon	27	Jessica Brusnahan
6	Kevin Antoniak	15	Avery Beberniss	29	Charli Brusnahan
6	Darwin Barker	15	Mary Hinman	29	Jim Skrobo
6	Madison Hultman	16	Shirley Dutton	31	Rick Johnson
6	Andrew Nitsick	20	Joseph Urban		
7	Shelley Hultman				

JULY ANNIVERSARIES

1	Wesley & Stephanie Bertch	15	William & Kathy Owens
3	Mike & Inga Mehlenbacher	23	Brandon & Michelle Hultman
11	Christopher & Jennifer Hunter	30	Steve & Jan Jacobsen