



GOD IS  
WITH US

↑all things faithful

August 2025  
Newsletter

## GOD IS WITH US

The month of August is the season for new beginnings. School will be starting in the fall, and expectations for learning will begin. In every aspect of new beginnings is the promise that God is with us. Personally, it is a season of Grief for me and my family. However, I trust in God.

God is with us even in our lowest moments. I believe in our weakest moments, when we can barely muster the strength to continue, God is there. When despair threatens to consume us, God is with us.

Jesus said, "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted" (Matthew 5:4) . Grief is the way God intended for us to deal with loss. It is nature's way of healing a broken heart. Jesus himself wept when he received news one day that his close friend Lazarus had died.

In this season of my family grief and how I missed my lovely sister Sarah, it is in the Lord that I rest for comfort and strength.

Through the time of Grief, God's comfort is available to strengthen us. Whatever circumstance you're going through, remember God is with you. I chose to trust that God is still with us and has a plan and purpose for our lives. As David said in Psalm 31:14, "But I trust in you, O Lord; I say, 'You are my God'".

God bless you

Grace and Peace,  
Pastor Eric Sayonkon

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# August 2025 Dates and Calendar

## Birthday

## Anniversary

11 Shawna Dennison  
 15 Lincoln Hirsch  
 17 Darlene Davis  
 Mary Bruce  
 18 Brad Koele  
 25 Logan Jensen  
 30 Waneta Van Drunen little  
 31 Kathy Petersen  
 Gloria Koele

6 Scott & Lori Watts  
 9 John & Marcia Neely  
 11 John & Janice Schlotman



### Guest Speakers for the Month:

Sunday August 3rd— **Lon  
 Fredrichsen**

Sunday August 10th— **Janice  
 Schlotman**

### Offering & Gifts

If you are unable to worship with us in-person we encourage you to continue to mail in your offering and gifts so that we may continue to pay staff, bills, apportionments and take care of the up-keep of the church building. If you would like to contribute through online giving, please contact Cassie in the church office by phone or email. There is a form to be filled out and a voided check will need to be obtained.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			30	31	1	2
			Woodbury County Fair	*	*	*
3 * End of Fair Guest Speaker	4 Secretary Office Hours 9-3	5	6	7	8	9
10 Guest Speaker	11	12 Secretary Office 9-3	13	14 Ad Council Meeting	15	16 Food Distribution Anthon Fire and Rescue 10AM
17 Benefit for Julianne	18	19 Secretary Office 9-3	20	21 Girls Night Out The Bronson Bar	22	23
24	25 Back to School	26 Secretary Office 9-3	27	28	29	30
31						

# Flashback: Making Pies in 2018 for the Fair Stand



Please join us in supporting Pastor Eric as he prepares for an unexpected trip to Liberia following the passing of his sister. We ask for your prayers during this difficult time, and if you feel led to give, please indicate your donation is for this special need. Your kindness and compassion are deeply appreciated.



## Special Offering and Liberia Mission for Pastor Eric



Pastor is inviting our congregation to contribute school supplies for children in Liberia. A bright blue barrel has been placed in the church entryway, ready to be filled with your generous donations. Every pencil, notebook, and crayon will help equip young minds with tools for learning and hope.

# BENEFIT SUPPER FOR

# Julianne Scheelhaase



MOVILLE COMMUNITY CENTER

AUGUST 17, 2025 @ 5-7:30

RIBEYE STEAK SANDWICH DINNER & SILENT AUCTION  
FREE WILL DONATION

Julianne recently underwent complex brain surgery and now faces significant health and financial challenges.

She suffered a seizure at home and was rushed by ambulance for emergency surgery to treat a brain bleed, stroke and the removal of a sizeable clot. Since her release, Julianne has begun intensive rehabilitation at Madonna in Omaha as she works toward coming home to her kiddos and family!

**GOFUNDME.SCHEELHAASE**  
**VENMO:@JESSE-SCHEELHAASE**

Thank you for your generosity as we rally around this beautiful family in their time of need.

♡ Scheelhaase Family

**Benefit Supper for Julianne Scheelhaase  
Moville Community Center  
August 17, 2025 @ 5-7:30**



MUMC will be hosting a bake sale in partnership with the Scheelhaase Benefit Supper on **August 17, 2025**. Come treat yourself while helping support a meaningful mission.

For more details or to get involved, please reach out to **Sandy**.

**THE  
BULLETIN  
BOARD**



Sunday School will be starting September 21. Registration Sheets will be set out toward the end of August. More information to come in the next Newsletter.



**MUMC Girls  
Night Out**

**August 21 at The  
Bronson Bar**

Meet at the Church at 5:30  
for a ride

From the Council Table

## Administrative Minutes & Matters of Ministry

– Thursday, July 10, 2025

PRESENT: Susan Hunting, Mary and Jeff Krejci, Jody and Diane Weaver, Deb Sitzmann, Harold Werley, Randy Petersen, Daryl and Barb Carr, Kirk Scheelhaase, Pastor Eric Sayonkon, Janice Schlotman.

Eric opened the meeting with Psalm 119; vs.33 and 34.

MINUTES — Minutes from the June 12th meeting were reviewed. Motion by Diane to accept the minutes,

2nd by Janice; motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT- Actual weekly giving for June was \$4821, which was \$2800 less than budgeted weekly giving of \$7621. The actual weekly giving was, however, similar to May, 2025 and June, 2024.

PASTOR'S REPORT- Annual Conference went well. In a move to reduce confusion, the conference voted to rename its five districts using their geographical identifiers. Therefore, our district (Formerly Camp Clear Lake) has been returned to its original name of Northwest District. The conference authorized purchasing property in Sioux City to establish a ministry center for the French Ministry. Pastor Eric has a large plastic barrel that he would like the congregation to fill with things for Liberia. He will bless the contents before it is sent to help the school children there this fall.

OLD BUSINESS—PARSONAGE - Jody has been working with SERVPRO and ServiceMaster to obtain estimates on repair/rebuild of the parsonage. Jody, Larry Etler, and Mary and Jeff Krejci met with Jeremy Rogers of EGR Insurance in regard to the insurance payment for our parsonage. He estimated the cost of a rebuild of our parsonage at \$325,000-\$350,000. We have two contractors who are interested in bidding on our parsonage. We have received an insurance check in the amount of \$289,177.90 which includes \$2,500.00 for lost rent income for the months of May and June, 2025. We will continue to receive \$1,250.00 per month from our insurance to cover lost income until the claim is settled. Jeff has worked with Robin Beck to receive a CD rate of 4% interest for a term of our choosing between 3 and 12 months. He has received information from Michel Lundula, our Conference Superintendent, detailing the procedure/steps to sell our parsonage. The principle amount cannot be used for general operating expenses at our church. However, it may be used if needed for capital projects, such as a new boiler. The interest on the money can be used for general church operating expenses, much like the parsonage rent was being used. Motion was made by Janice and 2nd by Deb to invest the amount of the check, less the \$2500 rent repayment, into Security National Bank for 3 months at 4% interest. The 3-month term will provide time to consider options for the parsonage as we move forward. Motion passed. Jeff will make that deposit tomorrow.

DAYCARE UPDATE - MCDAI has submitted the MRHD grant application. Important dates in the process are as follows:

- July 15th - MRHD will notify those who have been selected for interviews
- July 24th - interviews will take place
- August 1st - funding recipients will be announced

## NEW BUSINESS

Randy, Jody, Jo Etler, and Mary and Jeff Krejci met with a representative from Avery Bros. Sign Company and Watchfire Technologies to talk about getting a new LED sign for our church. We are waiting for an estimate from them before moving forward.

Council Minutes Continued:

### Committee Reports

FINANCE/MISSIONS - Scholarship applications for the 2025/26 academic year are due in the office by July 31, 2025.

UMCOR has an appeal for help with the Texas flooding. We will have a collection plate for that in church.

MEMBER SUPPORT/EDUCATION - VBS will be held at the Catholic Church July 20-24th. Diane is planning on about 100 students to take part this year.

Girls Night Out has been a great success.

Thank you to Pastor Eric for all his visits.

Please remember Rochelle, Julianne, and Liz in your prayers.

Our next Administrative Council Meeting will be Thursday, August 14th, 2025, 6:00 p.m. All are invited to attend.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Krejci

## Support the Ingathering

During August and September items for Student (school) Kits are being collected for the November Ingathering. These will be taken to the Midwest Mission sight in Jefferson, Iowa for distribution where needed.



**MIDWEST MISSION**  
disaster relief • education health • micro business  
midwestmission.org

### STUDENT KIT SHOPPING LIST

- 3 Notebooks - 1 Subject spiral 8" x 10 1/2"
- 1 Ruler - 12" long with metric
- 6 Pencils - unsharpened
- 1 Pencil Sharpener
- 1 Pencil Eraser - 2" or larger
- 1 Box of 12 Colored Pencils
- 1 Box of 24 Crayons
- 1 Pair of Student Scissors
- 1 Handmade One-Handled Bag  
(pattern at [midwestmission.org/patterns](http://midwestmission.org/patterns))



## Living Heritage Foundation Scholarship Program

If we had 30 families to commit \$10.00 a month for six months to the fund we would have enough to cover the request for Leslie Jimenez's education.

## **Treasury Talk**— *Where Faith Meets the Ledger*

The topic of this quarter's Treasury Talk is "Monthly Financial Reports" followed by a brief update regarding our parsonage rent income.

### **Monthly Financial Reports**

At the conclusion of each month, I generate four reports describing the current state of our church finances.

#### 1. Month and Year-to-Date (YTD) Actuals vs. Budget

This report shows all the actual income and expenses for the month and YTD and compares it to the budgeted amount for income and expenses for the month and YTD. This report gives us an indication of how close our income and expenses are to that for which we planned going into the year. It helps us determine if we are on track or veering off course and in need of correction.

#### 2. Month and Year-to-Date (YTD) Actuals vs. Previous Year

Similar to the previous report, this report shows all the actual income and expenses for the month and YTD, but compares it to the same period from last year. It answers questions like, "How does our income for this June and YTD compare to last June and last YTD?" Or, "How do our utility expenses for this June and YTD compare to last June and last YTD?"

#### 3. Previous Month Actuals Detail

While the previous two reports listed group income and expenses by categories, such as "Weekly Giving" for an income category, or "Utilities" as an expense category, this report shows the detail of every individual deposit made and every individual expense paid during the previous month. So, every individual deposit, check, date, amount, and notes, if any, regarding the transaction, can be seen on this report.

#### 4. Bank Account Balances

We have ten different checking and savings accounts at Security National Bank. While all our regular church business is conducted out of the General Account, we have other accounts generally associated with specific purposes, such as Memorial, Heifer, Youth, Building, and United Women in Faith, to name a few. Each month this report shows the balance in each account as of the last business day of the month.

These reports are sent out to the Ad Council members prior to each monthly meeting. However, I would be more than happy to add anyone to the mailing list who is interested in receiving the above monthly reports. I welcome and encourage any thoughts, comments, and questions regarding church finances. As members and friends of Merville United Methodist Church, we all have a stake in the financial well-being of the church.

### **Parsonage Rent Update**

With the parsonage rent making up 15% of our budgeted income, you may have wondered what happens now with no rent coming in following the April 21, 2025 parsonage fire. I am happy to report that our insurance includes loss of income coverage, meaning insurance is paying us \$1250/month for our lost rent until the claim is settled.

As always, if you have any questions or comments regarding your church finances, please don't hesitate to ask. I am typically available after church during fellowship or you can email me at [icjerk@wiatel.net](mailto:icjerk@wiatel.net).

Blessings,  
Jeff

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## United Women in Faith 2025 Bible Verses

Psalm 119: 105 (NIV) “Your word is a lamp  
to my feet and a light for my path.”



### August 2025 Lectionary

#### August 3

Hosea 11:1-11  
Psalm 107: 1-9, 43  
Colossians 3: 1-11  
Luke 12: 13-21

#### August 10

Isaiah 1: 1, 10-20  
Psalm 50: 1-8, 22-23  
Hebrews 11:3, 8-16  
Luke 12: 32-40

#### August 17

Isaiah 5: 1-7  
Psalm 80: 1-2, 8-19  
Hebrews 11: 29-12:2  
Luke 1: 49-56

#### August 24

Jeremiah 1: 4-10  
Psalm 74: 1-6  
Hebrews 12: 18-29  
Luke 13: 10-17

#### August 31

Jeremiah 2: 4-13  
Psalm 81: 1, 10-16  
Hebrews 13: 1-8, 15-16  
Luke 14:1, 7-14

#### **Pastor**

Reverend Dr. Eric Z.  
Sayonkon

#### **Office Administrator**

Cassie Colyer

#### **Music Director**

Elizabeth Ross

#### **Accompanists**

Rochelle Wilson  
Peggy Hammer

#### **Lay Leader**

#### **Treasurers**

Jeff & Mary Krejci

#### **Ad Council Chair**

Susan Hunting

#### **Finance**

##### **Chair:**

Gene Groetken  
Vice-Chair:  
Scott Gernhart

#### **Member Support & Ed**

##### **Co-Chair:**

Diane Weaver  
Co-Chair:  
Becky Dahna  
Co-Chair:  
Kristy Baier

#### **SPRC**

##### **Chair:**

Kirk Scheelhaase  
Vice-Chair:  
Deb Sitzmann

#### **Trustees**

##### **Chair:**

Jody Weaver  
Vice-Chair:  
Randy Petersen

#### **UWIF**

Janice Schlotman

A Fresh Start with Faith  
As backpacks are filled and pencils sharpened, the school year begins with excitement, nerves, and endless possibilities. One of our youngest members, Lucy, whispered during Sunday service, “I hope Jesus walks with me to second grade.” That simple, heartfelt hope reminds us that whether we're starting kindergarten or college, faith walks beside us into every classroom. Let this new chapter be one of growth, kindness, and courage—with God as our guide.

If you have any pictures of the church or services you would like to share in the Newsletter, please send them. We would love for you to share. I would also love for you to share your pictures and memories with the congregation.

# Ministry Corner

Giving back to your community



## Community Basket August

We are collecting **Socks** that will be given to the Community Basket. You may bring your donations to church on Sunday's, or you may drop them off at the Community Basket. Thank you for helping those in need! August food distribution will be on August 16th at the Anthon Fire and Rescue, 10 AM.

## UMCOR

On July 4, 2025, historic rain levels led to catastrophic flash flooding along the Guadalupe River in Central Texas. UMCOR has awarded a solidarity grant to the Rio Texas Annual Conference to support their relief efforts. This grant will provide immediate relief to those impacted through Early Response Team deployment, debris removal, distribution of relief supplies

"MUMC has a Permanent Endowment Fund. Your charitable gift will continue to work forever. Gifts can be made outright, can be memorials to family or friends, or bequests within your estate planning. You may designate the gift to a specific fund within the endowment: General, Building, Missions, Special Ministries, or Education. The fund's interest earned may then be used. After the second quarter of 2025 the approximate interest values for each were: General \$29,800; Building \$5800; Missions \$420; Special Ministries \$250; Education \$2900. Contact the church office if you would like to learn more about the MUMC Endowment Fund."

## Living Heritage Foundation Scholarship Program

We provide a scholarship for Leslie Jimenez a student in Western Guatemala. She is in grade 11. Her school year is from February to November and we provide tuition assistance plus funds for her to participate in the Lifting Up My Student program which provides online courses with private tutors to help with subjects at school. Your gifts make a difference in Leslie's life.

Leslie's scholarship is totally funded by your donations (no money comes from the church budget). Leslie's scholarship for 2025 is \$1490.00. A container remains on the table at the back of the sanctuary for your donation. Your help is really appreciated for the 2025 school year.

If we had 30 families to commit \$10.00 a month for six months to the fund we would have enough to cover the request for her education.



## Heifer Highlights

Robina Akello is a 24 year old with a young son. She used to worry about the kind of future she could provide for him. In Northern Uganda, where they live, poverty is common and Robina wondered if she would be able to give her son the future he deserved. But thanks to Heifer International she no longer worries. Robina joined a Heifer self-help group where she was introduced to a farming cooperative.

Through the co-op, she received training in best farming practices, money management and, most importantly, Heifer helped her buy soybean seeds - a crop she could plant on her small farm and sell for a reliable income. Small seeds made a big difference. Robina's farm and family are now thriving. The co-op collects her crop directly and sells it for her.

Robina can now provide for herself and her son plus grow her farm. She has been able to purchase three goats, added a variety of vegetables and plans to buy oxen to plow her land. Thanks to those who support Heifer, Robina and others can create the bright future for themselves and their children that they all deserve.

"Feed" Rosie the cow with your quarters as a way to support the work of Heifer International.