

JOYFUL NEWS

LUTHERAN August 2026

JOY LUTHERAN CHURCH

PO Box 217
501 State Road 35
Centuria, WI 54824
715.646.2357
joylutheranwi.org

OFFICE HOURS

Monday | 8:00am – 11:00am
Tuesday | 9:00am – 12:00pm
Thursday | 9:00am – 3:00pm

PASTOR

Angela Kutney

715.222.7916

angkutney@gmail.com

OFFICE ADMIN

Meg Anderson

715.501.6648

office@joylutheranwi.org

MEDIA & MARKETING

Deanna Wheeler

deanna@joylutheranwi.org

YOUTH MINISTER

Heather Zimmer

heather@joylutheranwi.org



Preparing Our Hearts for a New Season

By: Megan Anderson

There is something special about August. The gardens are full, the days are still warm, and yet we can sense a change on the horizon. Before long, backpacks will be packed, calendars will begin to fill, and familiar rhythm of fall will return.

The life of the church follows a rhythm, too.

Summer often gives us opportunities to rest, travel, and spend time with family. As we enter August, we also begin looking ahead to a new season of ministry at Joy Lutheran Church. Soon Joy will once again be filled with laughter and learning, youth will gather together, fellowship groups will reconnect, and new opportunities to worship and serve will begin.

As the Apostle Paul reminds us, the church is one body with many members, and every person has something valuable to contribute. Some teach. Some part. Some prepare meals. Some welcome visitors with a smile. Some quietly work behind the scenes. Others give generously of their time or talents. Every act of service reflects Christ's love.

As fall approaches, we invite you prayerfully consider where God may be calling you next. Perhaps it's joining Pastor Angie for a bible study, helping with children or youth ministry, serving on a committee, signing in the choir, playing handbells, assisting with fellowship events, lending a hand as we prepare for our new playground, or simply making worship a regular part of your week again. Every ministry at Joy is strengthened when people say, "Here I am, Lord."

August is also recognized as National Wellness Month, offering a reminder that caring for ourselves is part of caring for one another. Jesus regularly stepped away from the crowds to pray, rest, and be renewed. As we prepare for a busy fall, may we also make space for Sabbath – time to worship, pray, spend time with loved ones, enjoy God's creation, and simply be still in God's presence.

As we step into this new season together, may we do so with hopeful hearts, open hands, and a willingness to follow where Christ leads. Whether you've been a part of Joy Lutheran Church for years or you're just beginning to find your place here, know that you are an important part of this community.

We look forward to all that God has in store as we worship, serve, learn, and grow together!

The Happenings | August 2026

WEEKLY HAPPENINGS

Mon, Tues, Thurs, and Fri – 6:00am to 1:00pm Meals on Wheels | **Tuesday** – 10:30am Staff Meeting

Wednesday – 10:00am to 12:00pm JOYful Quilting Ministry

SATURDAY August 1st

9:00am to 3:00pm Fellowship Hall in Use | Private Event

9:00am to 11:00am Threads of Joy Fiber Arts Fellowship Group

SUNDAY August 2nd

10:00am Worship w/ Holy Communion Communion Blessing

Fellowship: Joy Council

MONDAY August 3rd

4:30pm Good Neighbors Ukulele Group

TUESDAY August 4th

2:00pm Youth Group

WEDNESDAY August 5th

5:30pm Handbell Choir Practice

SATURDAY August 8th

2:00pm Fellowship Hall in Use | Private Event

SUNDAY August 9th

10:00am Worship w/ Holy Communion

TUESDAY August 11th

2:00pm Youth Group

6:30pm Council Meeting

WEDNESDAY August 12th

1:30pm Gather Bible Study

6:00pm Gather Bible Study

SATURDAY August 15th

9:00am Threads of Joy Fiber Arts Fellowship Group

SUNDAY August 16th

10:00am Worship w/ Holy Communion

MONDAY August 17th

4:30pm Good Neighbors Ukulele Group

TUESDAY August 18th

2:00pm Youth Group

5:00pm Recovering Together Cafe

WEDNESDAY August 19th

5:30pm Handbell Choir Practice

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

SUNDAY August 23rd

10:00am Worship w/ Holy Communion Christensen Baptism's

MONDAY August 24th

1:00pm Good Neighbors Ukulele Group

TUESDAY August 25th

2:00pm Youth Group

WEDNESDAY August 26th

5:30pm Vocal Choir Practice

THURSDAY August 27th

5:30pm Handbell Choir Practice

SUNDAY August 30th

10:00am Worship w/ Holy Communion Handbell Choir Special Music

Fellowship: JOYful Quilters – Bars and Bingo Event

MONDAY August 31st

1:00pm Good Neighbors Ukulele Group



Milltown Fisherman's Party - BINGO

Thank you to the volunteers who worked at the Bingo games at Fisherman's Party in Milltown on Saturday, June 27th. It was very successful with many players participating.

The helpers were: Lydia Pfeifer, Linda Jones, Jeff and Sue Turner, and Clayton and Carol Johnson.



CHICKEN DINNER

APOLOGY

Please accept our sincere apology for any disappointment you experienced at our recent Memory Days Chicken Dinner. We are truly sorry that the chicken supplied by our vendor did not meet the quality expectations that our guests deserved, and we had hoped to provide.

We have spoken to our vendor about what went wrong and are working internally to ensure that future dinners we serve will meet our quality expectations and provide our guests with a good experience.

Again, we sincerely apologize for the disappointment and thank you for your understanding, patience, and continued support of our programs at Joy Lutheran.



Luther Point Bible Camp - Summer Celebration August 9th, 2026

Join us at 11:00am for worship followed by free will offering lunch.

Stay For:

Outdoor Games - Swimming
Silent Auction - Live Music



BARS & BINGO FELLOWSHIP

AUGUST 30TH

HOSTED BY JOYFUL QUILTERS

THE WINNER WILL RECEIVE A LAP QUILT



SCHOOL KIT COLLECTION

Needs:

- notebooks
- pencils
- pens
- pencil top erasers
- supply pouches
- folders
- crayons

**DEADLINE:
August 30th**

**DROP OFF
BIN IN NARTHEX**

Sales on these items can be found at WalMart, Target, Dollar Store, etc Cash donations or Thrivent dollars can also be given to Sarah Campbell or Sandy Christensen

**LEFSE is a tasty Scandinavian treat made to sell at our
JOY Bazaar on October 10th.**

**Dates to prep and cook are:
Tuesday, Sept 8 & Mondays Sept 14, 21, & 28**

**PLEASE SIGN-UP FOR ANY SHIFT YOU ARE ABLE!!!
*You can sign-up on the JOYful Hands table in the
Narthex.***

We really need your help to create this popular item.

Sign-up with family and friends.



Luther Point

BIBLE CAMP

11525 Luther Point Rd
Grantsburg, WI 54840

715.689.2347 | www.lutherpoint.org | info@lutherpoint.org

Dear Luther Point Bible Camp Staff, Volunteers, Supporters, and Friends,

Over the past several days, many of you have expressed heartfelt grief, disappointment, frustration, and uncertainty following staff turnover in our Property Manager, Office Manager, and Executive Director roles. These events have unfolded quickly and have affected our entire camp community. We want to address them directly.

First, we want to acknowledge our Property Manager and our Office Manager for their many years of devoted service to this ministry. Many campers, staff members, and volunteers have worked alongside them, grown together with them in faith, and developed meaningful relationships with them. We have heard directly from many of you over the past few days with moving testimonials. We understand why the past week in particular has been difficult and emotional for many people.

Second, we want to acknowledge that saying farewell to a long-time Executive Director last fall and hiring a new person into this role this past spring represents a significant season of change for the camp. The board prayerfully entered this transition believing and hoping it could be accomplished with minimal disruption to our 2026 summer programming. Unfortunately, the transition did not unfold as we had hoped. We grieve together with the Luther Point community over the pain, uncertainty, and disruption that followed. We remain committed to doing the difficult work ahead. We are deeply grateful for the support, honesty, and continued involvement of the many people who love Luther Point and are invested in its future.

We have received multiple requests to recruit departing staff back into their former roles. After careful board consideration, we have chosen not to do so at this time. We are moving faithfully forward, trusting that God's plan is unfolding for us in ways that will become clearer over time.

We understand that some may disagree with the Board's decisions. Reasonable people can hold different opinions. We also understand that the cumulative effect of these staffing changes has impacted our ability to deliver camp programming this week and, potentially, for the rest of this summer. However, our responsibility is not to make the easiest decision or the most popular decision. It is to make the decision we sincerely believe is faithful to our obligations to the campers and families we serve, to our current and future staff, to our donors, and to the mission God has entrusted to this ministry.

We have heard from camper families that our staff have delivered an exceptional, Christ-centered camp experience to their kids so far this summer despite all these challenges. Our staff work hard and care deeply about every person entrusted to our care. To preserve the camp experience in the near-term and with the input of remaining staff, over the last 48 hours we have:

- Cancelled all camp programming for the week of July 12th – 17th
- Held meetings of the Executive Committee and full Board of Directors
- Appointed Jennifer and Brad Werner as acting co-executive directors
- Established partnerships with Camp Wapo, Wood Lake Bible Camp, and Luther Park Bible Camp to provide alternative camp experiences for kids and families whose summer plans have been and may yet be impacted
- Immediately identified an alternative Certified Food Protection Manager (CFPM) who is on-site this week while we work out a coverage plan for the rest of the summer

We remain fully committed to providing a safe, Christ-centered environment where lives can be transformed through the ministry of this camp. We will fulfill our 2026 camper commitments through a combination of on-site programming and regional partnerships. We have the financial resources and board capacity to hire new staff, move forward with a new full-time Executive Director search this fall, complete ongoing facility improvements into next spring, and initiate long-range strategic planning.

As we move forward with faith and hope, we ask for your prayers—for our former employees and their families, for our staff and campers, for the Board, and for God's wisdom as we lead the camp through this transition. We also ask that conversations within our community reflect the grace, truth, and respect that we seek to model in Christian ministry.

Thank you for your continued commitment to the mission of Luther Point Bible Camp. We believe God remains faithful, and we are confident that He will continue to guide this ministry in the days ahead.

Sincerely,
The LPBC Board of Directors



Feed My Neighbor | Community Food Pantry

Together We Can Make a Difference

Current Needs: baking mixes, bisquick, jiffy, canned meats, tuna, spam

Drop off at Church – Shopping Cart in Narthex

Monetary donations designated to Feed My Neighbor Food Pantry can be dropped off at church during office hours or placed in your regular giving envelope during Worship.

Ways to Serve at Joy | Volunteer Opportunities

Follow the links provided to sign-up online! You can also sign-up by contacting the office.



RECURRING OPPORTUNITIES

WORSHIP ASSISTANT

Acolyte: Light candles at the beginning of service, help with communion, extinguish candles at end of service.

Reader: Read lessons for the day. Readings will be sent to you via email to practice and a printed copy will be available on the lectern.

Usher/Greeter: Greet people, hand out bulletins, dismiss rows for communion, advise Pastor of those needing communion in their seat, take attendance.

Sign-up Online at: bit.ly/JoyWorshipAssistant

FELLOWSHIP HOST

Provide treats and beverages on Sunday mornings during the fellowship hour.

Sign-Up Online at: bit.ly/JoyFellowshipHost

Your time, talents, and financial gifts help meet both the daily physical needs and the spiritual well-being of our community.

SCAN HERE >

to share your time and talents

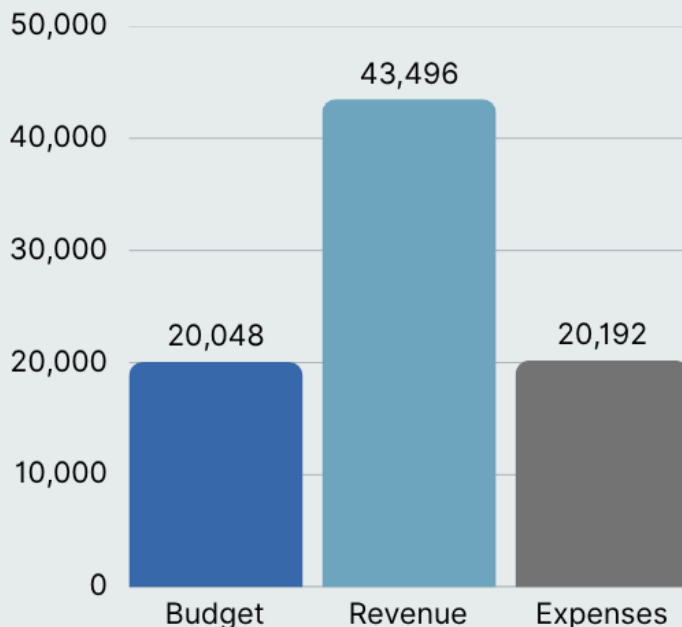


SCAN HERE >

follow prompts on your screen to give



Giving Report

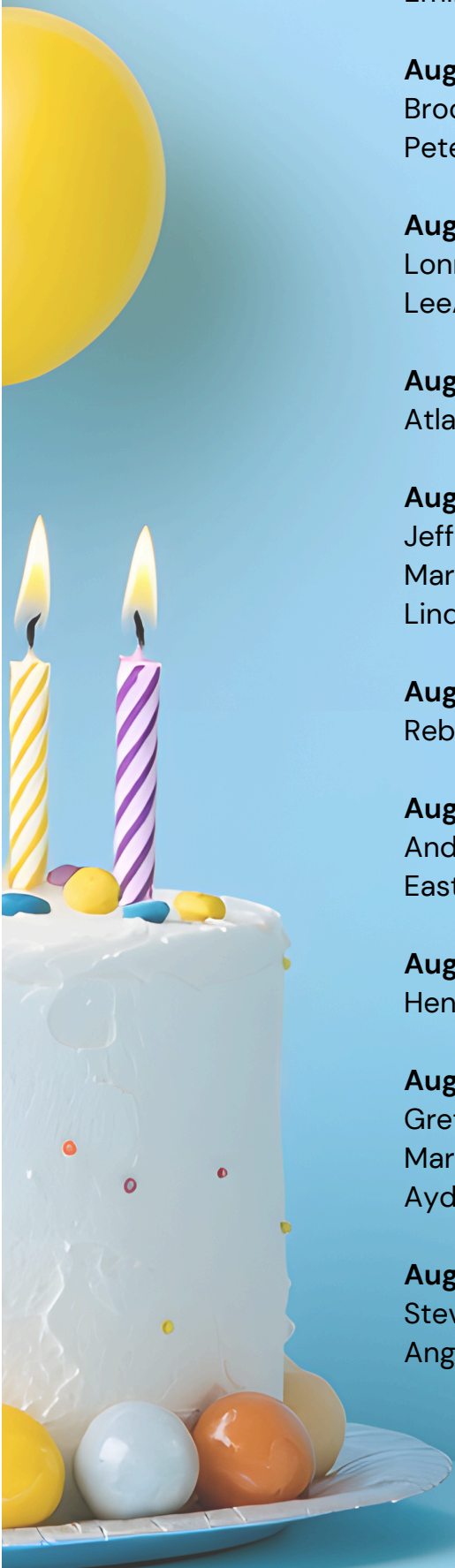


June 2026

We operated with a budget of \$20,048. Due to matching funds and your generosity our actual revenue totaled \$43,496. The expenses reached \$20,192 exceeding the monthly budget minimally. This results in a shortfall of approximately \$1,949 year-to-date.

This gap highlights the importance of continued generosity and mindful stewardship as we move forward together.

Thank you for your ongoing support of Joy Lutheran Church's mission and ministry.



August 2nd
Emily Bethke

August 3rd
Brooklyn Vlasnik-
Peterson

August 4th
Lonnie Ellefson
LeeAnn Wellbrock

August 5th
Atlas Berg

August 6th
Jeff Larson
Mary Tourville
Linda Ek

August 12th
Rebecca Hanson

August 13th
Andrew Flor
Easton Baxter

August 14th
Henry Christensen

August 15th
Gretchen Snyder
Marie Sogge
Ayda Carufel

August 17th
Steve Glaim
Angela Behning

August 18th
Allison Jensen

August 21st
Carly Ince
Owen McCabe

August 22nd
Kathleen Vitalis
Chloe Lofgren

August 23rd
Jeff Vollrath
Benjamin Lundgren

August 24th
Lucy Christensen

August 25th
Ethan Behning

August 26th
Linda Jones

August 28th
Debbie Korsan

August 29th
Barry Schaffer
Britta Nelson
Ella Carlson
Emmy McCabe

August 30th
Pamela Kruger

August 31st
Marvin Oelkers



501 State Road 35 – PO Box 217 – Centuria, WI 54824

Phone: (715) 646-2357 Email: office@joylutheranwi.org

August

Join us on Sunday Mornings

10:00am Worship with Holy Communion