

# Happenings

August 2024



“A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse;  
from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.  
The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him—  
the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding,  
the Spirit of counsel and of might,  
the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the Lord—  
and he will delight in the fear of the Lord.” -Isaiah 11:1-3

Grace and peace,

There were a few days when we could not find one of our cats, the white calico one will occasionally see climbing the roof at Sauk Valley where she tries to catch some swallows. It was very unlike her to be gone so long so while we shouted for her morning and night, we were starting to lose hope. Then at the last Outdoor Movie we had at Sauk Valley, during the climax of the movie, who should round the corner of the church than this beloved cat.

A moment where all hope seemed lost had been restored. In our lives and throughout scripture, there is many moments where hope felt lost for us and for the people. All seemed doomed and no light to be seen at the end of the tunnel. The stump of Jesse was one of these places. Jesse, the man we know as the father to our great and mighty King David. Isaiah the prophet in our passage above speaks of this family name of Jesse to David because our Lord and Savior the Messiah, is to come from this lineage. Except, the family line to Jesse had been chopped, left nothing but a stump for 600 years. No further heir to come, nowhere in sight. A story passed down from generation to generation, yet the stump of Jesse remained vacant. No Messiah in sight.

Then were told by Isaiah, this abandoned chopped down stump will grow and thrive. The Messiah our Lord Jesus Christ will come and shoot out a tree where nothing, but a stump once stood.

And not only will it grow, it will be filled with the Holy Spirit. We are told that “the spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.” These are the same words we say in the baptismal liturgy, as we pray over one who is baptized. We pray that the Holy Spirit may come and fill them with God’s own Word of promise.

If you have felt without hope these days or can recall such a time, know you are in good company – God does some amazing working where all hope seems lost.

In Christ,

Pastor Lexy Carson

## Please continue to pray for...

- ~Pastor Lexy & those in leadership in the church
- ~Our Missionaries & Ministries:
  - \*Simon Muhota in Kenya & Crying Children of Africa Orphanage
  - \*Don & Marge Cook of Hands on House, India
  - \*Dave Greaver & Midwest Chaplaincy
    - \*Love Inc
  - \*Hospitality Center for Chinese
    - \*Chris & Amanda Mikkelson
    - \*Todd Co Foster Closet
  - \*Augustana District's Church Plant in Montevideo, Uruguay
- ~United States, for our economy, leaders, protection from disasters & terrorists
- ~Our Police, Military & Medical Professionals

### Our Parish Members

- ~Our elderly
- ~Hilda Johnson
- ~JoAnn Clay
- ~Dorte Hagen
- ~Neil Johnson
- ~Linda Hayes
- ~Konnie Christopherson
- ~Creed Douvier
- ~The family of DeLores Gillan

### Our Friends & Family

- ~Loriane Buzik
- ~Rochelle Peyton
- ~Denny & Anna Pastian
- ~Linda Friedrichs
- ~Natalie Fullerton
- ~Rose Krueger
- ~Jerry Hoffman
- ~Giao Johnson
- ~Roger Messer
- ~Mariah Pelletier
- ~Emily Dunn
- ~Ken Johnson
- ~Deb Barry
- ~Eileen Dittmer
- ~John Pallow
- ~Ken O'Hara
- ~Mariah Pelletier
- ~Greg Haider
- ~Brenda Sturgis
- ~Virg Matthys
- ~Family of Linda Paulson
- ~Family of Don Peterson
- ~Peace in the Holy Land

## When Pastor Lexy will be in Parish...

Pastor Lexy will be in Parish on Tuesday morning/afternoon, Wednesday afternoon & Thursday morning/afternoon. She can also be reached anytime by phone or email.

email: [lexyacarson@gmail.com](mailto:lexyacarson@gmail.com)

Phone: 605.590.0140

Please call or email any questions or concerns.

## Sunday Services

If you can't make it to our Sunday Service you can watch the Live Stream at 10:30 on our Facebook page, Salem/Sauk Valley Lutheran Churches or on our website, [salem-saukvalleychurches.com](http://salem-saukvalleychurches.com) when it is posted after the service.



## Readers

Readers for August:

- August 4: Paul Matthys
- August 11: Dan Hagen
- August 18: Libby Matthys
- August 25: Linda Hayes

## Cleaning Groups

Cleaning Groups for  
August are:

- Salem: Group 2
- Sauk Valley: Bonnie Larson



# Look What's Happening



Nya, Mick & Milo passing out candy from VBS



Nya, Mick & Milo Collecting Noisy offering

## Welcome

New Members

Salem would like to welcome Doug & Bentley Johnson.

Welcome to our church family.



On July 19<sup>th</sup> we had an outdoor movie night watching *Ordinary Angels*

Salem and Sauk Valley  
**OUTDOOR MOVIE SHOWING OF "DAKOTA"**

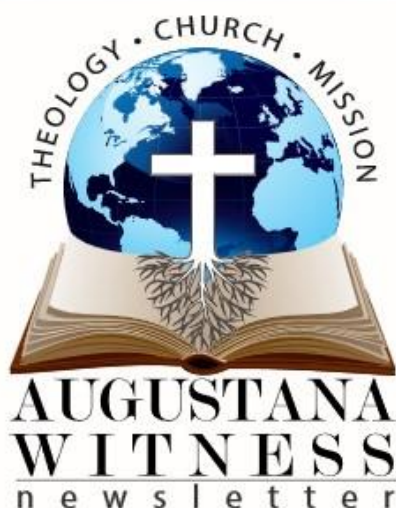


Friday, August 23rd  
Sauk Valley Lutheran Church  
8:15pm



Bring your lawn chairs!





## In This Issue...

Devotional .....	1
Mission Minute.....	2
Financial Update.....	2
Service Coordinator.....	2
WoW Annual Gathering .....	3
LCMC Annual Gathering .....	4
Welcome .....	4
Save the Dates .....	4
Support Staff.....	4
Church Salary Report .....	Cover



## Staff Stuff

Open Position..... Service Coordinator

Pr. Becky Hand..... Program Coordinator  
[b.hand@augustanadistrict.org](mailto:b.hand@augustanadistrict.org)

Wendy Magruder..... Office Assistant  
[office@augustanadistrict.org](mailto:office@augustanadistrict.org)

Mailing Address  
 Augustana District  
 335 Main St. S.  
 Hutchinson MN 55350

Phone..... 320.234.8403  
 Web..... [www.augustanadistrict.org](http://www.augustanadistrict.org)

# Devotional

*Then he said, "Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak again but this once. Suppose ten are found there." He answered, "For the sake of ten I will not destroy it." And the LORD went his way, when he had finished speaking to Abraham, and Abraham returned to his place. Genesis 18:32-33*

This is the ending of the story of Abraham's interaction with the Lord by the oaks of Mamre. Most famously, this is the incident where the Lord promises to Abraham and Sarah that they will, despite their advanced years, have a son within a year, causing Sarah to laugh. This promise of God is fulfilled, of course, in the birth of Isaac.

Interestingly though, this narrative continues with Abraham extracting another promise from God. Turns out the Lord is on his way to Sodom because the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is great and their sin is very grave (Genesis 18:20). Now Abraham steps up to the plate to intercede for the two cities. Martin Luther, in his Genesis commentary, points out that the people of those cities were known to Abraham. He had done business with them. The kings of the cities had also been opponents of Chedorlaomer, who Abraham had defeated to rescue his nephew, Lot (see Genesis 14). Abraham intercedes for his neighbors and asks God if he intends to destroy the righteous with the wicked. The Lord said he would not destroy Sodom if fifty righteous were found there. Now Abraham, stout and trusting man that he is, continued his intercession with the Lord, eventually negotiating the number down to 10. The Lord's promise "for the sake of ten I will not destroy it."

Ten righteous people were not found in Sodom and the city was destroyed. Luther has an interesting comment here that I think is worth pondering. We bring a blessing to the communities in which we live by providing a little righteous contingent who actually believe and witness to the Lord in our communities, where we live and work. Our presence may be what finally keeps them from degenerating into a Sodom worthy of the destruction of the Lord. A church closing, a congregation disbanding, Christians exiting a community – such things could open the door and lead to the wrath of God in full force. We actually are a blessing to our neighbors simply by being among them with the Word of the Lord. There is always a chance the Holy Spirit will open ears and hearts.

It is promised "a smoldering wick will not be extinguished, a bruised reed will not be broken," and "where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them." The mission we have is to be the Lord's body in the place he has appointed for us, until, like Lot, the Lord tells us to flee.

We pray --

*Lord, grant us the perseverance and faith of Abraham. As good as dead, you gave him and Sarah a son. And he was brave and stout enough to intercede for Sodom and Gomorrah. Empower us to live as sons and daughters of Abraham – fully immersed in the task given us by your only Son, our Lord Jesus. In his name, Amen.*

Pastor Lou Hesse



# Mission Update

## A Fantasy or a Call to Bear Witness to Jesus Christ?

Imagine one congregation giving birth to 20 plus independent congregations throughout their often-poverty-stricken country. Such is the story of our major international partner, the Tabor Congregation of the Ethiopia Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus in Hawassa, Ethiopia. Each congregation begins as a preaching point, becoming an Outreach

Center, and in time is spun off as a congregation that in turn will seek to have an Outreach Center that they provide.

Pictured here is Tabor's most recent Outreach Center in the Oromiya region. This Center is in a region dominated by Muslim and traditional religions. Presently it is led by an evangelist serving a community of around 60 members. The Tabor Congregation has helped with the construction of this moderate hall for this community of faith in Christ.



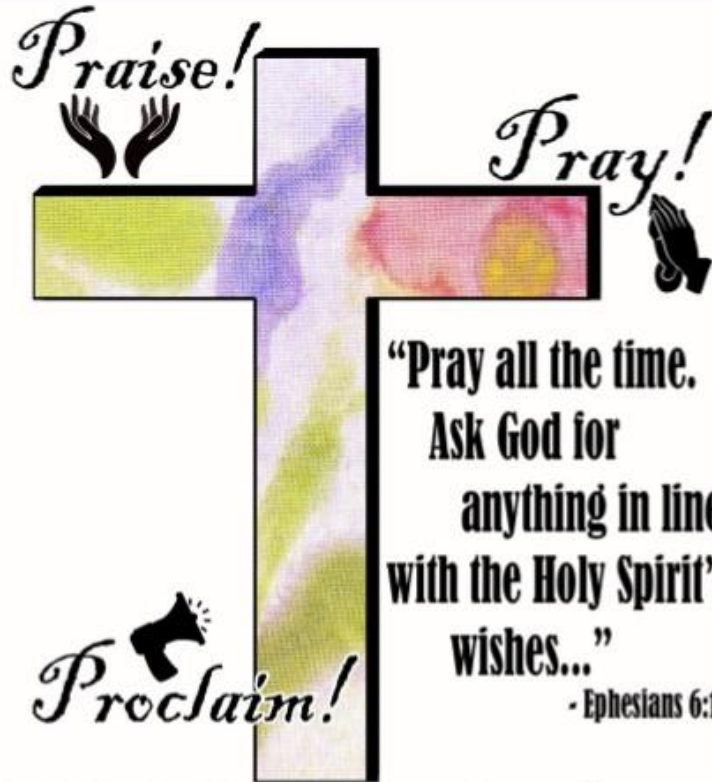
This is a partnership that the Augustana District has supported with tens of thousands of dollars over the past 10 years. We have heard many stories of how this support has multiplied their outreach witness. The Augustana District Board of World Missions wishes to thank you for your generosity through these many years and encourages you to sustain

support for this marvelous partnership. Imagine if the 100 congregations of the district were to venture out in multiple ways, extending our evangelical witness to the Good News in Christ. Our country may be abundant in material resources but impoverished in our spiritual life in Christ. Pray with us that we might share the zeal of our partners at Tabor in our witness.

Pastor Paul Knudson, Board of World Missions

<b>FINANCIAL REPORT</b>	<p>Thank you to the Augustana District Congregations and individuals that have given to AD so far this fiscal year. It is congregational and individual support like yours that allows the district to continue to support congregations in need and to focus on and lead congregations in Theology, Church, and Mission.</p>
	<p>Two months into the fiscal year giving is up a little over \$7,000 from this time last year, however, we are still currently at a net loss of \$5,500 for the year. If your congregation has not yet budgeted to give to the district please prayerfully consider it in your next leadership meeting.</p>

<h2>SERVICE COORDINATOR</h2> <p>The District Council Interview Team will continue to accept applications for the position of Augustana District Coordinator through the end of August, 2024, with interviews taking place in September. Once that position is filled the team will begin to accept applications for the District Theology Coordinator and the District Mission and Stewardship Coordinator.</p> <p>You can find these job descriptions and further information on the district website at <a href="http://augustanadistrict.org">augustanadistrict.org</a></p>	
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# **2024 Fall Gathering**

## **Augustana District**

# **Women of the Word**

## **September 21, 2024**

REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS SEPTEMBER 9, 2024

Hosted by Faith Lutheran Church WOW  
335 Main St. S. – Hutchinson, MN 55350

Featuring Guest Speaker Gretchen Ronnevik  
Author & Jr Fellow with 1517.org



Gretchen is a writer, speaker, and homeschooling mom of six kids. She's passionate about exploring rich theology rooted in real life. Gretchen authored "Ragged" and co-hosts the "Freely Given" podcast. In her free time, she loves knitting, reading multiple books, and embarrassing her teenagers. Gretchen and her husband, Knut, live on their family farm in Minnesota.

See full details at [augustanadistrict.org/events/2024-fall-gathering/](https://augustanadistrict.org/events/2024-fall-gathering/)

Questions? Please Contact Jan Kreie  
Email: [jkreie@mediacombb.net](mailto:jkreie@mediacombb.net) or Text: 320-510-1942





## LCMC Annual Gathering

September 29 - October 2, 2024, at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Marion, IA

The theme of the 24th Annual Gathering & Convention is "Engaging Your Cultural Moment". Together, we will explore how the cultural moments happening all around us can be seen not as something negative, but as potential opportunities for carrying out the Great Commission.

You will be in good company as several of the speakers and preachers this year are Augustana District pastors. Register before August 15 to qualify for the early bird registration rate. September 16 is the final deadline, and they may not be able to accept walk-ins this year due to the size of the venue, so it is recommended that you register sooner than later. Register at [lcmc.net](http://lcmc.net)



**Confirmation Retreat ~ Save the Date**  
**February 28 - March 2**  
**at Inspiration Point ~ Vining, MN**



Do you receive a quarterly copy of the LCMC "By the Word"

magazine by e-mail or the USPS? If you missed it you can read a copy here:

[https://www.lcmc.net/files/newsletters/LCMC\\_2Q2024\\_Newsletter\\_](https://www.lcmc.net/files/newsletters/LCMC_2Q2024_Newsletter_PrinterFriendly.pdf)

PrinterFriendly.pdf

Or scan the QRCode



## Church Administrative Staff Support Group

**For Church Administrators | Secretaries | HR Professionals | Finance Coordinators**



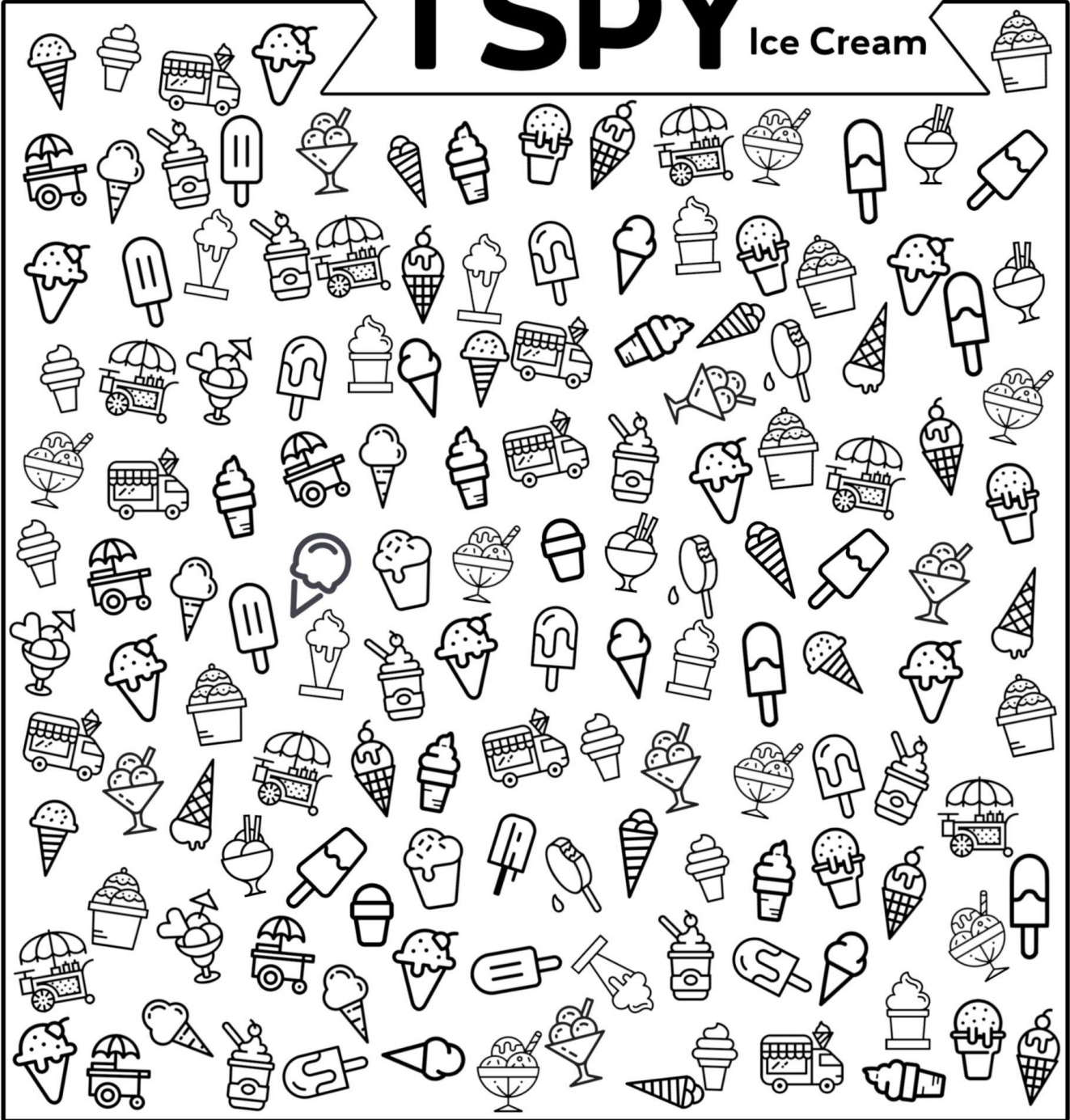
This administrative support group meets monthly. It includes experienced staff as well as new ones.

The support group meets via Zoom the second Tuesday of each month from noon - 1 p.m. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, June 11. Participants are welcome to enjoy their lunch while we talk. If you are interested in taking part in these conversations please contact the district office for the Zoom link at 320-234-8403, **email Wendy**, or scan the QR Code.





# ISPY Ice Cream



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| 1 |  | 6 |  | 7 |  | 1 |  | 3 |  | 6 |  | 7 |  | 4 |  | 7 |  | 5 |  |
| 3 |  | 3 |  | 4 |  | 6 |  | 2 |  | 7 |  | 5 |  | 9 |  | 6 |  | 3 |  |



# Camping



R Y M C T E G N I K I H N S F O J B X U P  
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air mattress  
animals  
batteries  
cabin  
campfire  
campsite  
canoeing  
chipmunk

compass  
flashlight  
hammock  
hiking  
insect repellent  
island  
kayak  
lantern

marshmallow  
memories  
mosquitoes  
mountains  
nature  
outdoor cooking  
raccoon  
reservation

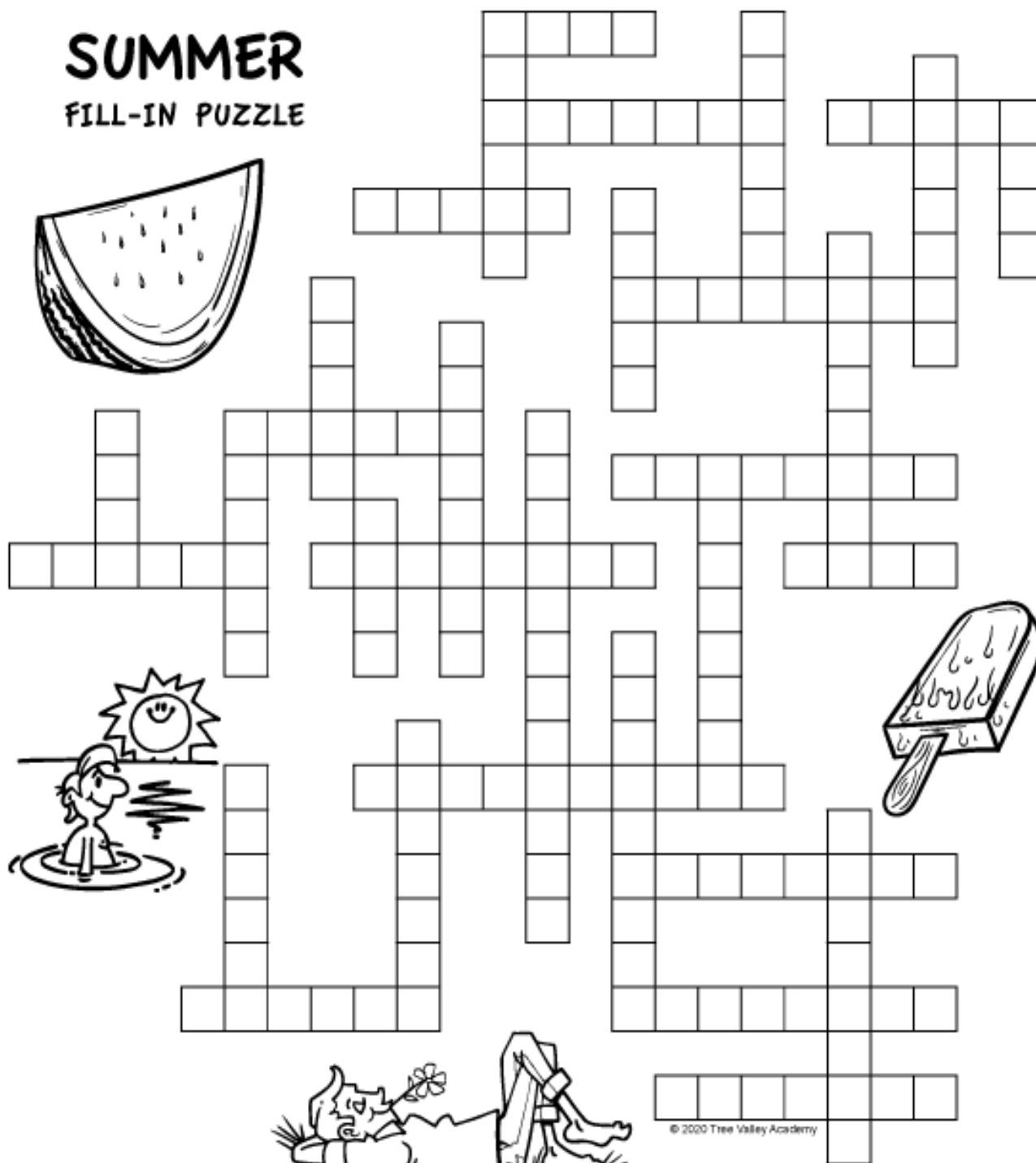
roasting sticks  
s'mores  
sleeping bag  
summer  
swimming  
tent  
trailer  
vacation





# SUMMER

## FILL-IN PUZZLE



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- |                       |                       |                       |                       |                       |                       |                       |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>4 letter words</b> | <b>5 letter words</b> | <b>6 letter words</b> | <b>7 letter words</b> | <b>8 letter words</b> | <b>8 letter words</b> | <b>9 letter word</b>  |
| heat                  | cabin                 | bikini                | camping               | baseball              | mosquito              | fireworks             |
| lake                  | humid                 | hiking                | cookout               | campfire              | popsicle              |                       |
| path                  | kayak                 | picnic                | cottage               | campsite              | swimming              | <b>10 letter word</b> |
| pool                  | trail                 | season                | puzzles               | canoeing              | outdoors              | watermelon            |
| warm                  |                       | shorts                | sandals               | holidays              |                       |                       |
|                       |                       | summer                |                       |                       |                       | <b>12 letter word</b> |
|                       |                       |                       |                       |                       |                       | strawberries          |

# August 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1  Happy Birthday Grant Stelling	2	3
4 Worship w/Holy Communion 10:30 Salem Pastor Keith Falk preaching  Happy Anniversary Al & Theresa Hanson	5	6  Happy Birthday Kathy LaFrenz	7	8	9	10
11 Worship w/Holy Communion 10:30 Sauk Valley  Parish Ed meeting after service  Men's Group 7 pm at Hagen's	12 Joint Council Meeting 7 pm at Salem	13	14 Ladies Bible Study 7 pm at Sauk Valley  Happy Birthday Samantha Kleve	15	16	17
18 Worship w/Holy Communion 10:30 Salem  Fellowship & Treats following service	19	20	21  Happy Anniversary Bob & Val Thielen	22  Happy Anniversary Chub & Jan Hensley Happy Birthday Johnathan Larson	23 Outdoor movie <i>Dakota</i> 8:30 at Sauk Valley	24
25 Worship w/Holy Communion 10:30 Sauk Valley  Happy Birthday Wendell Larson	26  Happy Anniversary Dave & Julie Hiltner	27	28 Backpack Attack Meal at School Open House 3-5:30pm	29	30	31





Salem Lutheran Church  
16134 170<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Osakis, MN 56360  
**Congregational Board**  
President: Paul Matthys  
Vice President: Joyce Buntje  
Treasurer: Ben Redning  
Secretary: Ione Johnson

Pastor Lexy Carson  
13977 150<sup>th</sup> Street  
Osakis, MN 56360  
605.590.0140

Sauk Valley Lutheran Church  
13959 150<sup>th</sup> Street  
Osakis, MN 56360  
**Congregational Board**  
President: Dan Hagen  
Vice President: Tom Mikkelson  
Treasurer: Bob Thielen  
Secretary: Ginny Earl

