

Faith news

WOOD RIVER & ALDA FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
JUNE 2023



Vacation Bible School

ALL kids PreK-5th grade are welcome to join us
for VBS!

July 10-13 ~ 5:30-8:30

A light supper will be served each night.

Any questions or to volunteer, call Mel Frear 308-
379-3182 or the church office 583-2716



Scan code to easily register
online.

Church Events

- Bible Study every Wednesday, 9:30
- June 1 Rachel Circle, 1:30
- June 4 Youth Group, 6:30
- June 5 Ruth Circle, 7:00
- June 7-10 Great Plains Annual Conference
- June 13 Blood Mobile, 12-6
- June 15 Sewing, 9:30
- June 18 Father's Day
- June 18 Youth Group, 6:30
- June 20 Alda Meet & Eat, 12:00
- June 22 UWF, 7:00
- June 25 Alda Dinner Church, 5:00
- June 26 Pastor Geoffrey back in office

LAWN CARE AND LANDSCAPING THIS SUMMER

When my family moved to Nebraska some years back, I noticed that people in St Paul, where I reside, are particularly interested in their yards. Some are enclosed in beautiful fences. Others are open without distinction from one lot to the other, except where the type of grass and diligence of care show the difference. So, being somewhere towards the end of June, it was already deep in the summer; hence the place was beautiful, with thickly green trees swinging from side to side as the wind blew and evidently neatly trimmed grass covering the beautiful lawns on every street.

Our eyes appreciate a beautiful yard or lawn, well-trimmed and free of dandelions and other weeds. The only difference is that some have to put in some effort for the yard to look great. We all know that no one wants their yard to look bad, but it can quickly happen if we don't put in some money, time, and effort. You see, one of the greatest enemies of our lawns is dandelion and crabgrass. You will have to kill them with some weed killer or sweat as you manually do it often. Failure to do that will cause your choicest grade of grass to be overrun by weeds and pests, making your yard an eyesore to your neighbor and passersby.

To the best of my knowledge, the other crucial requirement for a thriving lawn is watering. Of course, we all would love for rain every week, but that is not always possible. So, all those with beautiful lawns have to have a way of watering their grass, especially on those hot days of summer. If you forget about the grass, the scorching heat will dry the ground, and in no time, your grass will be gone. Then, a good fertilizer is vital too. You see, if you don't give the grass the right fertilizer, it will not thrive as expected. However, even if we provide all the grass needs without proper mowing, it becomes an ugly bush. So, after watering, applying fertilizer, and removing ugly weeds, one must regularly trim or mow the yard to bring out the beauty that people see.



God uses a similar analogy in **Isaiah 5:1-7**, where we find a story of a vineyard. God used it to speak to the children of Israel, who were very conversant with vines and vineyards. This vineyard had fertile soil, was cleared of stones, was protected with a watchtower, and was well pruned. This comparison shows how God takes care of his people as a gardener would do to his garden. He encourages us to do the same with our hearts. But how do we take care of our hearts? Remember, just like you go out daily to water your yard, get time for your soul. We must remain watered, or we will wither and die spiritually. Also, keep dandelions (*read sin*) from taking over all the excellent job you have been doing. They make even the most watered or well-fenced yard look bad. So, spray or pull them frequently. On the other hand, if you want to see a beautiful lawn, keep trimming it weekly, if not daily, using the word of God. If the enemy breaks the hedge to your yard, med it by prayer.

Yes! Let us enjoy the warm days ahead and still keep our spiritual yards healthy, clean, secured, and trimmed. If traveling or at home, let us not forget to join each other for the weekly worship services where we get watered and trimmed. If one of us misses mowing, call, check on them, and encourage them. When someone struggles with watering, let us water them with our prayers and encouraging words.

So, will your lawn remain green, well-trimmed, and free of dandelions this summer? May we all become beautiful lawns and vineyards of the Lord. **Pastor Geoffrey.**

June 2023



Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

				1 Rachel Circle 1:30 Bailey Codner Colby Hayes Jayden Oster	2 Lonnie Hoard	3 Phil Watts
4 WR Worship 9:30 Alda 11:00 Youth Group 6:30 Howard & Sue Jackson	5 Ruth Circle 7:00 Larry Krause Rylee Codner	6 Brian Hayes Judy Mead Julie Ogden Rozella Sidders	7 Bible Study 9:30	8	9	10 Corbin Franssen
11 WR Worship 9:30 Alda 11:00 Brian & Julie Hayes Jeremy & Dawn Brandt	12 Bob & Marcia Almquist Jason Barker	13 Blood Mobile 12-6	14 Bible Study 9:30 Mike & Barb Meguire	15 Sewing 9:30 Brianna Sidders	16 Bill & Peg Heise Adam & Stacy Hayes Ruby Arndt	17 Kayden Smith
18 <i>Father's Day</i> WR Worship 9:30 Alda 11:00 Youth Group 6:30 Camden Thomp- son	19 Ben Sidders	20 Alda Meet & Eat 12:00 Carson Thomp- son	21 Bible Study 9:30 Sarah Frear Sidney Frear Alec Ogden Isaac Ogden Rob McIntosh	22 UWF 7:00 Melanie Frear	23	24 Julie Thompson
25 WR Worship 9:30 Alda Dinner Church 5:00 Lacie Frear	26 Cara & Torrey Odenbach Jack McCoun Lainey Paulk	27 Jodi Rauert Steve & Sara Arnett	28 Bible Study 9:30 Wesley & Aman- da Duval Payton Thompson	29 Beverly Voss	30 Ron & Jodi Rauert	

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Blood Mobile is June 13, 12-6pm. You may pre-register at redcrossblood.org
- Birthday Sunday is the second Sunday of every month. If you have a birthday or anniversary during that month, come receive a special blessing.
- The worship committee is always looking for volunteers to help lead worship and read scripture. Look for a sign up sheet in the fellowship hall.

Giving Report

May : \$11,555.34 (includes online giving)

**Monthly average expenses: \$11,634.09
(from the 2023 budget report)**

Average Weekly Attendance: 36



For online giving, scan code with smartphone. You will need to create an account if it's your first time.

SUMMER FUN

Word Search Puzzle



W A T E R P A R K V A C A T I O N
F R I E N D S W S T Z G H N A I G
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BAREFOOT	FISHING	PICNIC
BASEBALL	FLIP FLOPS	POPSICLE
BEACH	FRIENDS	ROAD TRIP
BICYCLE	FRISBEE	SPRINKLERS
CAMPING	GAMES	SUNSHINE
COOKOUT	ICE CREAM	SWIMMING
FAIRGROUND	LEMONADE	VACATION
FIREWORKS	OUTDOORS	WATER PARK