



West Denmark Lutheran Church Luck, Wisconsin

LOTS GOING ON AT WEST DENMARK!

June 30th Root-Beer-Float Social

Family Camp kick-off the evening before the full schedule. Join us at **6 p.m outdoors behind the Hall.** Following this, we will move upstairs for singing, announcement of afternoon crafts and other activities, and optional sign-up

July 1-3 Family Camp

July 1 Folkgruppe Folk Dancing Performance

at Family Camp; 6:15pm at the hall.

July 2 Chuck Parsons Organ Recital, 12:45-1:30pm

July 3-10 Denmark Youth Mission Trip to South Dakota

July 4 Annual 4th of July Potluck Picnic and Softball Game

Noon at the hall.

July 10 Tom Kessler Memorial Mass

St Joseph's Catholic Church Amery; 4 pm with visitation 1 hour before and supper after. Tom died June 22nd.

July 11 Pasture walk at Anathoth Community Farm

home of Barb Kass and Mike Miles. 740 Round Lake Road, Luck. Join the 10 am walk and talk about rotational grazing and silvo pasture, followed by lunch. For more info, talk to Mike or Barb 608 886 0030.

July 18 Lucky Days Parade- 2pm in Luck.

WD has signed up for the parade including 2 tractors and a float! We need your ideas, and for you to join us in the parade, on the float or walking with signs or throwing candy.

July Birthdays & Anniversaries

*** Birthdays ***

Best wishes for the year!

3 Terry Speiker

5 Mike Miles

6 Dave Clifton

9 Mark Hulsether

13 Maggie Kuusisto

15 Christy Wetzig

16 Bill Krueger

Beth Petersen

22 Diane Clifton

24 Nikki Strandkov

Magnus 'Gus' Hanson

28 Patty Pearson

*** Anniversaries ***

Congratulations!

15 Dan & Pam Girtz

30 Bill Brumfield &

Terry Speiker

SHARE THE BOUNTIFUL HARVEST

Produce-sharing table is up and running in the entry. Bring your excess produce, take what you can use, and put a donation in the canister for the local food shelf. There will also be a cookbook or two from time to time.

A SEASON OF HARVEST AND REFLECTION

As July unfolds, I find myself reminiscing about the summers I spent on my grandfather's farm in Western Kansas, participating in the wheat harvest. Those days were filled with hard work—long hours under the blazing sun, navigating seemingly endless fields of golden wheat. Yet, amid the toil, there was an undeniable joy that accompanied the cutting of that last strip of wheat. It was a harvest that brought a sense of accomplishment and gratitude, a reflection of the labor put in by many hands.

This experience reminds me of the work we do together at West Denmark. At West Denmark it always seems that there is a “all hands on deck” spirit. Each member contributes to our vibrant community of faith, and the fruits of our labor are evident in the meaningful relationships we cultivate and the programs we develop. Just like the harvest, our collective efforts enrich our church life, creating a deeply meaningful space for worship and fellowship.

In my sermon on June 21, I shared some thoughts about our journey together during this transitional time at West Denmark. Our call committee is actively interviewing candidates here at West Denmark, and while I will not be among them, I plan to remain with you until a new pastor is called. Following that, I will return to being a congregational member. I look forward to joining all of you in continuing to contribute to a vibrant ministry that is West Denmark. We have cultivated a new ministry model, which will continue with our parish associate, parish administrator and the new pastor. This interim season, between hello and goodbye, is sacred ground—an opportunity for growth and preparation for what lies ahead. We continue to discern, trust, and make space for new life among us.

It has been a distinct honor to help build a team that fosters a rich, diverse, and participatory ministry. The involvement of so many from our congregation has been inspiring. Together, we have developed programs and built relationships that enhance our community. I eagerly anticipate what more will emerge in this space, as being part of West Denmark Lutheran Church is a source of immense joy and meaning in my life.

As we come into this middle of the summer month, it is my hope that you have a moment to breathe in all the life around us, have some time for rest, and collectively celebrate 250 years of living in a country that is founded on the belief that all people are created equal to enjoy life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. May this July be a time of rejuvenation, reflection, and gratitude as we harvest the fruits of our labor together.

In Christ's love
Pastor Shawn Mai

JULY WORSHIP NOTES

SUNDAYS AT WEST DENMARK:

8:30 MEDITATION GROUP

You are invited to join our 8:30 Meditation Group, which meets in the balcony of the church. In a world that can often feel chaotic, this gathering has become a grounding and connected time for all participants. We start with a short reflective reading, follow it with 15 to 20 minutes of silence, and wrap up with a discussion about our experiences. It's a beautiful way to center ourselves and find peace together.

10 AM WORSHIP

Join us for our thriving 10 AM worship service, filled with inspiring music, engaging lay participation, and thoughtful reflections on lectionary texts. Invite neighbors who may be looking for community to experience our eagerness to welcome. Stay afterward for coffee, delicious treats, and meaningful conversations at 11 AM!

COMMUNION IN JULY

will be on the second and fourth Sundays instead of first and third - July 12th and 26th.

PREACHERS IN JULY

July 5th Terra Lumley

July 12th Christy W

July 19th Christy W

July 26th Karl Wicklund

JUST A CLOSER WALK

The next "Just a Closer Walk" will be on Wednesday, July 15th, beginning at 6:00 pm. Meet behind Café Wren to walk the Gandy Dancer Trail. Come talk with us about faith formation. What brings you closer to God? We have had great conversations and shared with each other. Why Jesus/ Why we find God in nature? What we believed as a child that we wrestle with now? We just enjoy each other's company. Youth are welcome. This month's reflection: Share a time when you felt closest to God. What do you do to feel closest to God? (Facilitated by Terra Lumley).

COUNCIL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Church Council is looking for two-three volunteers to serve as a nominating committee to find new Church Council members. At the Church's Annual meeting in December 2026, we will be electing two new Church Council members to replace 2 current members. The nominating committee will be asked find congregation members to fill these positions. Please let any of the current Council members know of your willingness to serve on the nominating committee.

Ongoing Activities at West Denmark...

Chair Yoga with Connie

Tuesdays 10-11 am at the church. Join the growing group of participants for an excellent hour of stretching, balance, mobility and flexibility exercises led by Connie Wicklund. Bring a mat and yoga block and elastic band if you have one. Donations welcome.



West Denmark Bible Study

Restarting on Wednesdays at 1 pm, after family camp. We just finished discussing the book of James. The next book is still being determined, so this is an excellent time to join an engaging, relevant, low stress study led by Christy Wetzig. No prep necessary! Our motto is: *Not all who wander are lost!* All are welcome!

Encore: Conversations About Aging Thursday July 23rd

10:30- noon in the fellowship area in the church.
Topic: **Mattering: The Secret to a Life of Deep Connection and Purpose** based on the book by Jennifer Breheny Wallace. No need to read the book! Come and talk about how important, (or not), it is to feel like you matter to others. It's a trendy topic!!! Join us!!!

Choir is on Summer Break! Thanks for the Beautiful Music!

West Denmark Book Club

On summer break until September.

Look for the reading selection
in the August newsletter.

The WDLC book discussion group meets via zoom at 11 AM on the FOURTH Wednesday of every other month. Join us for a lively, insightful discussion. For the Zoom link contact: Mark Hulsether <mhulseth@gmail.com>.

Men's Breakfast

Mondays 7:30am

Meets at the Tin Shed in Frederic



Women's Breakfast

Mondays 10 am

Mondays 10 am at the Tin Shed in Frederic except the last week of the month when they meet on Monday at Cafe Wren at 11:40am.

Quilters!

We will be starting to piece quilts with the pieces already cut and accepting fabric for more. We need cutters and people to sew. Then crews to assemble, tie and bind the quilts. Call the church for meeting times. (We often meet on Mondays at 11:30 after the women's breakfast.) All skill levels are welcome!!



FACILITY RENTAL COMMITTEE

from Liz Dodge

Over the past month a task specific committee has met to review and update our various facility rental policies. Currently, West Denmark rents out the Church, the Hall, the Dane School and the grounds on an occasional basis. One of the requirements of receiving the Partners for Sacred Spaces grant was to engage the community in a discussion about using our updated space. During that meeting we realized that there were many parts of our current policies that needed a good review. Our current policies have been in place for 15-17 years, with the only change in rates reflecting an increase in cleaning costs.

So far the group has established the square footage of our buildings, looked at a general review of current utility expenses, and considered exploring how our current rates compare to other similar facilities. We've identified the need to recognize the contributions of congregational members in the financial and physical upkeep of our buildings as we establish rates. We've also looked at our current mission statement and considered how we can use this as a guiding document for decision making and tiered/waivered fees. While we've been meeting we've also updated our county licensing for our kitchen and short term rental and reviewed required regulations. We know that our septic has been strained by the active use of the buildings and grounds and that has raised our pumping costs significantly. While our growth and activity is exciting it comes with some facility management challenges.

Our final proposals should go before the Council by September 30th. If you are interested in joining the discussion and work, please talk to Liz for meeting details. If you'd like to be added to the list of people who get minutes of the meeting, please let her know as well. This would be another way to offer input without necessarily being at the meeting. Otherwise, watch the newsletter for updates.

Members of the committee are Terry Speiker, Connie Wicklund, Nancy Moe and Liz Dodge. The next meeting is July 21 at 11:15 a.m.



How Might We Enhance the Beauty of Our Church Outdoor Areas?

As you walk into or away from the Church, would you be willing to pull a few weeds or deadhead some flowers? Might you water flower beds in the warm months? What about helping with a project of removing rocks along the sides of the Church and replacing them with wood chips or mulch for easier long-term maintenance? Would you like some stones for your landscaping? Other ideas? If you could participate in these or other small projects, please let Mary Jensen or Christy Wetzig know.

G.A.W.D.Y Mission Trip 2026

Our latest Generous Antics of West Denmark Youth (G.A.W.D.Y) include a last minute scramble to reroute a long planned mission trip. Our original plan of flying to Bayou Le Batre, Alabama was sidelined when Sun Country airlines canceled our flight 3 weeks before our trip. Unfortunately , the rescheduling they offered was two days later and not within our trip plan and the flight alternatives we considered put us out of our budget. So, our fearless leader Jenni Tretsven worked overtime with the Youth Works staff to come up with alternative options. The kids voted to drive to Lake Traverse Reservation in Sisseton, South Dakota instead.

So, we will be departing on July 3rd following a commissioning celebration during Family Camp. Our first day will include a campus tour of Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, MN with a possible stop at the Treaty Site History Center to learn more about the background of the treaty with the Dakota people and the underlying causes of the U.S. - Dakota War of 1862. Then we'll go on to Tyler, MN where we will get a tour of Danebod Lutheran Church and Campus by Pastor Meghan Eide and then spend the night at the Danebod Lodge. We'll be eating our own food, prepared in advance by Barb Kass. Thank you Barb!

Then we are on to a Pow Wow at Lake Traverse Reservation and overnight camping and fireworks at the Midwest Bible Camp in Watertown, South Dakota.

We'll travel to our mission site at Grace Lutheran Church in Sisseton the next day, hopefully stopping and enjoying some swimming and cool off time at Pickeral Lake State Park along the way. From that point on we'll be part of the Youth Works mission workers at Lake Traverse Reservation. I'll leave those details to our next month's newsletter article so the young people can help write their own story.

We are grateful for the prayers and material support that has helped us along thus far. We look forward to telling you about this next month.

Adult leaders: Pastor Shawn Mai, Jenni Tretsven, Erika Lumley and Liz Dodge. Youth attendees: Mercy and Abe Wetzig, Johanna, Oskar, Lucy and Gussie Tretsven, Abby and Alex Ritchie, Elodie Lumley, Addie and Tessa Snook.

HOW MANY PEOPLE ARE BURIED AT WEST DENMARK CEMETERY?

from Laura Jensen

When I embarked on a project to gather obituaries for every person buried at West Denmark Cemetery, I thought how hard could it be? Findagrave.com said there were 622 people buried there so I got started. Six months later, after perusing 150 years of newspapers (online and hard copy), funeral bulletins, and church records, it seems there are at least 656 people buried there. I have 468 obituaries ranging as far back as 1876 to as late as 2026. Soon, I will need your help more than ever. I'm not looking to get more suggestions for resources to research but rather the obituaries themselves.

If you are interested in joining me as an obituary detective, you can reach me at laurajensen825@gmail.com.

LOAVES & FISHES MONTHLY REPORT APRIL & MAY 2026

(June Report not available at time of printing - watch for it in the August Newsletter!)

Open Tues. & Thurs. 11 – 1:00 Lions Hall, 300 S. 1st Street Luck, WI P.O. Box 554 Luck, WI 54853

APRIL:

Households served: 45
Luck: 24; Unity: 19
Adults: 79; Children: 24
New families: 4
Total people: 103

Donations: Money: \$1,504
(Below includes TEFAP, purchased food, donations)
Weight of food coming in: # 3,056
Weight of food going out: # 2,012
Volunteer hours: 56 hours.

MAY:

Households served: 42
Luck 27; Unity 12
Adults: 68; Children: 14
New families: 3
Total people: 82

Donations: Money: \$500.00
(Below includes TEFAP, purchased food, donations)
Weight of food coming in: # 2,827
Weight of food going out: # 2,191
Volunteer hours: 53 hours

The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) is a federally funded USDA food program, which is administered through the State of Wisconsin Department of Health Services and Loaves & Fishes is a recipient agency.

Needs for next month: green beans, Chinese foods, saltine crackers, tuna without soy, spices

We can always use more volunteer workers!

If interested, please contact:

Pam Girtz 320-232-7541

email: girtzp@gmail.com;

or Gena Bugno: nobug115@yahoo.com

PICTURES FROM FIDDLE SCHOOL

Another year of Fiddle School has come and gone! Below, community concert attendees enjoy a performance under the pines. Turn to page 4 to see a picture of the students and instructors in front of the Gym Hall.



♪ **WE'RE ON THE UPWARD TRAIL, SINGING, SINGING, EVERYBODY SINGING** ♪

Would you like to take a short hike on our Woodland School Trails this Summer? A map for your reference is included below. The Trails begin at the northwest side of the Church at a Trail sign on a post. A couple of Trail spurs are included: one to the Parsonage/Hall and another to the Turkey Hill gathering area. The map shows the end of the Trails and is marked with a Trail sign attached to a tree trunk (before you see the dock).

Recently, Paul Petersen helped to install Michael Sommers' signs for Turkey Hill, Frog Harbor, and the Rainbow Tree. Can you find them? If you are a super sleuth, you might also look for the Fairy hidden inside a hollow tree trunk.



Another coming attraction this Fall to our Woodland School Trails will be a Wood Duck house. It was built and donated by Mike and Susie Lannoo. It will be hung on a tree near the end of the Trail, out of the way of most hiking traffic. This year, Wood Ducks nested on the property north of the Woodland School Trails, but Wood Ducks can take a year or two to discover a new house.

Map of WD Woodland School Trails on page 9!



MAP OF THE WD WOODLAND SCHOOL TRAILS:



West Denmark Lutheran Church



2478 170th Street
Luck, WI 54853
www.westdenmark.org

Return Service Requested

June Weekly Calendar

SUNDAYS

Contemplative Meditation	8:30am
Worship	10am
Fellowship time	11am

MONDAYS

Men's Breakfast -	
Tin Shed, Frederic	7:30am
Women's Coffee	
Tin Shed, Frederic	10am
last week of month:	
MONDAY, 11:40am, usually Cafe Wren	

TUESDAY

Chair Yoga with Connie	10am
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WEDNESDAY

Choir Rehearsal (thru 6/17)	7pm
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THURSDAY

Every Other week:

ENCORE	10:30am
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SATURDAYS

AA -	9-10:30 am
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Mark Your Calendars! Upcoming Events

7/1-3	WD Family Camp
7/4	4th of July Picnic
7/11	Pasture Walk @ Anathoth
7/18	Lucky Days Parade

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West Denmark is a safe place
to worship, study,
and build relationships with God
and others,
regardless of race, creed, sexual
orientation, gender identity, or cultural
background.