

Greenfield+Good News!

July 2025

Pastor Kurt Bockoven—563-202-0725—pastorbockoven@gmail.com
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During one of my morning devotions I read James 1:2-4, “My brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of any kind, consider it nothing but joy, because you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance; and let endurance have its full effect, so that you may be mature and complete, lacking in nothing.”

After reflecting on scripture, my initial thought was simply, “What!” It’s quite profound to think that trials can bring us joy. How is it possible to view life’s challenges as sources of happiness? Can we really see anything good in disasters? This past month has been filled with heartbreaking events—floods, tornadoes, and severe storms have devastated countless communities. Homes, businesses, and vehicles have been lost, leaving people’s lives turned upside down. Where exactly can we find joy amidst such destruction?

Then I revisited James 1:2-4 and pondered its message. It dawned on me that people can indeed discover joy in tough circumstances, all because God is right there with us. Consider this: Jesus endured immense pain, suffering, and even death, but that didn’t keep Him down—and neither should it keep us down. You may wonder why. The answer is simple: Jesus conquered death and granted us the promise of eternal life in His Heavenly Kingdom. His victory over death allows us to face our trials and still find joy in His presence.

With the knowledge that Jesus stands with us, we are encouraged to help those in need. When you witness someone lending a hand to another, it stirs something deep within. That’s the essence of joy, emerging from our hearts. It’s as if we feel ourselves softened and are inspired to assist those around us. Jesus understands this feeling—after all, one of His greatest commandments is to love one another. Sharing the love of Christ and extending help to those in need is truly rewarding. So, as we face our own challenges, let us open ourselves to receive help from others, and let’s reach out to those who are hurting, sharing the love of Christ with them.

Blessings,
Pastor Kurt

Greetings! FROM THE GREENFIELD YOUTH PROGRAM

The Greenfield Lutheran Church Swimming party was a success. It was a perfect day... the sun was out, the water was cool and the kiddos got a chance to hang out together.

Peace to everyone

Josh Krage

Youth Director



G.L.C.
6:34
worship night



OUTDOOR SERVICE
GREENFIELD LUTHERAN CHURCH

Services held every other Wednesday through the summer. Coming Up: July 9 & 23, August 6 & 20

FOOD - 6:00
MUSIC & MESSAGE - 6:34
GAMES & FELLOWSHIP - 7:00



ALL ARE WELCOME!
BRING YOUR LAWN CHAIR, GOLF CART OR BLANKET.
WE ALSO HAVE CHAIRS

GF 2025 EVENTS



Calendar Events may be added after the Newsletter is out, information is subject to change. **PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING ARE ON SUMMER BREAK:** Wednesday Morning Bible Study with Pastor on break for summer; No Martha Leah in June, July and August; Miriam Circle please check with circle members for dates; Sunday School and Church Choir will resume in the fall.

July 2025

- **Friday, July 4 – 4th of July Parade** in Harmony! Contact Josh for details.
- **Sunday, July 6 – Worship** at 9 am **OUTDOOR SERVICE** weather permitting
- **Wednesday, July 9 – GLC "6:34" Wednesday Service NOW EVERY OTHER WEDNESDAY THROUGH SUMMER**—6 pm Meal, 6:34 to 7 pm Worship and Service, 7-8 pm Games and Bible Study
- **Thursday, July 10—Bazaar Committee** meets at 6 pm
- **Sunday, July 13 – Worship**—at 9 am. Baptism of Bo Rodney Johnson.
- **Sunday, July 20 – Worship** at 9 am.
- **Wednesday, July 23 – GLC "6:34" Wednesday Service NOW EVERY OTHER WEDNESDAY THROUGH SUMMER**—6 pm Meal, 6:34 to 7 pm Worship and Service, 7-8 pm Games and Bible Study
- **Sunday, July 27 – Worship** at 9 am.

COMING UP IN AUGUST

- **Friday AUGUST 1-3– VBS –TRUE NORTH *Trusting Jesus in a Wild World*** Friday 5-8 pm, Saturday 9 am to 12 pm, Sunday 9 am Program at Church
- **Wednesday, AUGUST 6—GLC "6:34" Wednesday Service NOW EVERY OTHER WEDNESDAY THROUGH SUMMER**—6 pm Meal, 6:34 to 7 pm Worship and Service, 7-8 pm Games and Bible Study
- **Saturday AUGUST 9– Men's Breakfast 9 am—RSVP BY JULY 26. See page in this issue for more details!**

Upcoming EVENTS

SUMMERTIME'S FUN TIME!!

Hey Greenfield Family
there's lots going on!

4th of July Parade

Have fun and share
candy!! See Josh for details.



GLC "6:34"

Summer of Faith

GLC 6:34 Wednesday
Services. July 9 & 23
6 pm Meal, 6:34 Service

This popular event is a great way to spend a summer evening. Contact Ashley Haugerud details.

Outdoor Services July 6, 9 am, Ecumenical,
August 10, 9 am. Bring your lawn chair!



VBS—Aug 1-3. Theme: **True North**
Trusting Jesus in a Wild World

Visit www.greenfieldlutheran.com or see
Josh, Mary Beth, Mindy, and Teresa for more
information.

Men's Breakfast Aug 9
at 9 am. RSVP by July 26.
See page in this issue
For more details.

Men's Breakfast

Saturday, August 9, 2025
9:00 am

Greenfield Lutheran Church
Dining Room



Cost is free
RSVP is required by July 26



VBS

At Greenfield Lutheran Church

August 1st , 2nd , 3rd

Friday: 5-8pm

Saturday: 9-12pm

Sunday: 9:00 am Program at Church

Preschool - 5th Grade

Join us for a weekend of fun and faith!

Members & Non Members welcome!

Cost: \$10 per child

Register at www.GreenfieldLutheran.com

MORE ABOUT VBS ON THE NEXT PAGE!



Join us for a weekend of fun and faith as we learn that Jesus is our True North and guides us in the right direction. We will have songs, games, crafts and more! There will be a light supper Friday night at 5:00 and a light breakfast Saturday morning at 9:00 before the fun begins! There will be an ending program on Sunday during the 9:00 worship service. If you are interested in volunteering to lead a group, help with food, decorating, teaching or anything else, please contact Josh Krage, Teresa Michel, Mindy Kingsley or MaryBeth Ostrom.

Dates: August 1-3

Friday: 5-8pm

Saturday: 9am-12pm

Sunday: 9:00am Program

Cost: \$10 per child

MORE ABOUT VBS ON THE NEXT PAGE!



reasons to **VOLUNTEER** at

Teach children about Jesus
Reflect Christ's love
Enjoy time with the church community
Encourage spiritual growth

Nurture young faith
Offer your gifts to God
Reach the unchurched
Transform lives (even your own!)
Have fun while serving



We are looking for a bunch
of FAKE Christmas trees to
use for VBS decorating.

You will get them back after VBS.
If you have any to lend, please contact
MaryBeth Ostrom or Teresa Michel.

Thanks!

GF VBS—HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!!

Adult & Family Committee invites all Men to Breakfast



Saturday, August 9, 2025

9:00 am

**Greenfield Lutheran Church
Dining Room**

Cost is free

RSVP is required by July 26



enjoy a presentation by
Larry Reise, Naturalist with
Winneshiek County
Conservation Board.

**Watch your mailbox
for a special
invitation with
more information
and details!**

Ushers & Helpers Needed

Please sign up in the Church hallway on the form on the table
or email or call the office if you can help!

Summer is a busy time for everyone :)

We need two people or a couple as Ushers/Helpers on the following
dates: **August 3, August 17 & August 24**



gf on the go
NOTES FROM
**SOCIAL
MEDIA**



**Greenfield Lutheran Church -
ELCA**

Posted by Ashley Haugerud
4d · 🌐

A HUGE Thank You to Mady Wingert for creating and donating these beautiful cornhole boards to our church! What an amazing community we have!! ✝️

Have you got Good News about Greenfield to share?

Check with Pastor or the office to get your news into the next newsletter or up on our Facebook page.



FOLLOW US ON
FACEBOOK

www.facebook.com/greenfieldharmony



FOLLOW US ON
YOUTUBE

www.youtube.com/@greenfieldlutheranchurchel7655



November 15, 2025

9:00 am—1:00 pm

Monthly Spotlight:

- ♦ Raffle
- ♦ thrivent Action Teams
- ♦ Checkout the bulletin board in the hallway by the office for more ideas!



Bucket Raffle

What's a Bucket Raffle? We will have at least three more expensive items to offer at the Bazaar—People will buy a ticket or maybe 5 and put the tickets in the bucket for the item they want to win! At the end of the Bazaar, we'll draw the winner of the item!

So we need those big items! Will you donate:

- ⇒ Larger, handmade items such as quilts, wooden items, home raised meat that would normally sell for more than \$100 at a craft sale
- ⇒ Experience: Something special that you could offer that would entice people to purchase tickets to add to a bucket in order to win!
- ⇒ Contact any of the committee members if you have questions or if you have something you'll donate. Thank you for your consideration!

thrivent®

One of the benefits of having an account with Thrivent is that the organization gives you the opportunity to donate seed money to the project of your choice. If you are a member of thrivent, you can direct \$250 for a specific purchase to assist the Bazaar's fund raising effort as well. This Membership Benefit truly makes a difference and is a benefit to our church. For more information and /or assistance, please contact Pastor Kurt!

Watch your mailbox for a Post Card to help up plan as well as update the mailing list.

Be thinking about what you can contribute to this year's Bazaar

Please take time to complete and return back to the church by the due date.

We hope to have a good idea of the items we can be expecting to arrive at the Bazaar!

Thank you so much for your support of this fundraising effort for our church!!!

Thank You from:

Bazaar Committee:

Marian Morem, Linda Synder, Laurie Magnus, Patty Todd, MaryBeth Ostrom, Kris Torgerson, Gerri Ehler, Janet Ewalt

New this year! We are planning on selling Christmas Wreaths in addition to our porch pots! One of our September Craft nights, we will be making some simple Christmas centerpieces and other decorations! **More information to come in the August Newsletter!**





Greenfield 2025 CHURCH COUNCIL

Council Members

**indicates new term*

Matthew Anderson (2026) 507-822-3154 matthew.anderson@isd2198.k12.mn.us

Mindy Kingsley (2026) 507-259-9274 mjosmonson@gmail.com

Mary Beth Ostrom (2026) 507-259-5042 marybeth.ostrom@isd2198.k12.mn.us

Janet Ewalt (2025) 507-272-8138 janetewalt1005@gmail.com

Scott Snyder (2025) 507-886-9644 scottsn54@gmail.com

Gretchen Olson (2025) 507-993-5421 rgolson101@gmail.com

David Kiehne (2025) 507-886-2350 kiehned26@gmail.com

Clayton Schoepski (2025) 507-517-4053 clayton.schoepski@isd2198.k12.mn.us

Ashley Haugerud (2025-2027)* 507-216-2569 ashleyhaugerud10@gmail.com

Zach Haugerud (2025-2027)* 507-273-5343

Pastor Kurt Bockoven 563-202-0725 pastorbockoven@gmail.com



Church Council Officers: **President** - Mary Beth Ostrom ~ **Vice President** - Gretchen Olson
Secretary - Matt Anderson ~ **Treasurer** - David Kiehne

Church Council Members: Matthew Anderson, Janet Ewalt, Ashley Haugerud, Zach Haugerud, David Kiehne, Mindy Kingsley, Gretchen Olson, Mary Beth Ostrom, Clayton Schoepski, Scott Snyder

Church Council Minutes*

May 18, 2025 11 AM

Members Present

x MaryBeth Ostrom	x Scott Snyder	x Mindy Kingsley
x Matt Anderson	x Dave Kiehne	x Gretchen Olson
x Ashley Haugerud	x Pastor Bockoven	x Janet Ewalt
Zach Haugerud	Clayton Schoepski	

Call to Order – Mary Beth, President 6:37 pm

Devotions: Janet led devotions

Code of Conduct

Any additions to the agenda:

Archasearch Zoom call at 7:00 pm

Social Media help for the church

Committee Reports:

Stewardship

Worship and Music

Property

Children, Youth, Family

Adult and Family

Endowment

Reports reviewed by the council.

1. Consent Agenda:

a. Approval of May 2025 Minutes

Change the next meeting from July to June.

Motion to approve by Ashley, 2nd by Dave. Motion carried.

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2. Financial Report

Adjusted Bank Balance is \$65,238.43

Revenue vs expenses year-to-date is \$762.50

Giving was up in May compared to the last 3 Mays.

3. Old Business

a. Council Retreat Update

The pastor was thinking of a Sunday for the retreat and all of the council should be there. September 21st is a day that we will ask the Synod to help with a council retreat.

b. Sim Sound equipment

We are still waiting for the parts from Sim Sound and once they come in, we will schedule a training time for streaming.

c. ArchaSearch Zoom Meeting

David Frank met with us from ArchaSearch. They build searchable archives. Discussed that we want to digitize baptisms, church membership, marriages, confirmation, records, etc, and make it searchable. The system will not be able to read cursive, which most of our records are in. We could make an index for each page so we could make it searchable.

They would come in, digitize with photos, build an archive and we would get a year to have access. After that, \$1,500-\$2,000 annually for them to host.

They could digitize and then we would just have the images without the searchable tools. That cost would be \$500-\$1,000 per book was Mr. Frank's estimate.

Council has said that we want to digitize our records, and while his presentation was amazing, it's not exactly what we are looking for.

We discussed hiring somebody to do data entry of all of our books. We will table this issue for the next council meeting.

d. Social Media

Ashley said that she would help the Secretary with social media and different social media platforms.

Continued on next page....



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4. New Business

5. Children/Youth Directors Report

VBS is August 1-3rd. MaryBeth said that if anybody would like to help with decorating or snacks to let her know.

On June 20th, we will have a pool party at the Preston Pool from 6-8 pm weather permitting. Greenfield will cover the cost of the families and kids who want to swim if they don't have a pool pass.

6. Pastor's report

The Bishop was reelected.

In May, we averaged about 100 people at Worship. Lots of things were going on in May.

Pastor had his surgery and is doing well.

The Holy Experiment will be reviewed in June. Prairie Union is very grateful for having Pastor for two Sundays a month. Pastor is willing to renew for the Holy Experiment for another 6 months.

IT is coming tomorrow to look at why the copier isn't scanning.

July 20, after service, to July 26th, Pastor is requesting vacation time to work at a Youth Camp.

Pastor is requesting Aug. 1st off for his brother in-laws wedding.

July 6th is our next outdoor service. Another church might advertise to come to our outdoor service because their pastor is gone on vacation.

Motion to approve July 21-26 and August 1st for vacation

Motion by Janet, 2nd by Janet. Motion carried.

Council will not meet in July.

7. Adjourn/Lord's Prayer

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm

Submitted by Secretary Matt Anderson

Income & Expenses



Greenfield Lutheran Church Income and Expense

MAY 2025

- **MAY 2025 Revenue:.....\$13,385.15**
- **MAY 2025 Expenditures:.....\$23,720.69**
- **MAY 2025 Difference: shortfall of... \$10,335.54**

Reminder: When you do automatic giving from your checking or savings accounts you can use this slip shown for the offering plates. **They will be in the pews with the regular offering envelopes. Thank You!**



Reminder!

Pastor Kurt, Josh, Sam, and all of the church staff will NEVER EVER ask for gift cards or anything else by email.

Please remember to double check email addresses carefully and when in doubt always call. The email might say our name but have a different email address.

Email scams are getting more difficult to detect,. ALWAYS call before responding to any suspect emails.



SCAM ALERT!!



A New Way To Join In The Worship Of Giving

You can give using your smartphone. Just download the Vanco Mobile App from Apple or Google Play.



- Enter our church's name and click Search. Then, select our church.
- Log in, don't have an account? Sign up.
- Select your fund and donation frequency.
- Select a payment method and enter your credit card, debit card or bank account information. You can save this payment method for future donations.
- You can choose to cover the donation processing fees by adding a small amount on top of your gift. Click the button to opt in.
- Review and complete your gift by clicking Submit.



Donating to the church is now easy with the new Vanco mobileapp.

**Consider using this secure method to support
Greenfield Lutheran Church
Harmony, Minnesota**



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