



ST. MARY'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
2001 80TH ST. ~ KENOSHA, WISCONSIN 53143
262*658*3555
FOUNDED 1874 ~ CURRENT LOCATION 1961

JULY/AUGUST 2026

SUMMER @ ST. MARY'S



150 YEARS St. Mary's Lutheran Church

2025-26 CONGREGATION ANNUAL MEETING

10:00 AM
Sunday, 26 July 2026

Sanctuary
2001 80th Street, Kenosha

More information
262-658-3555

Visit our website
www.stmaryslutheran.org

CHRISTMAS IN JULY

On-going. Donations of personal care items that will go to the ELCA Outreach Center! Drop off during Worship or Office until July 31!

Vacation Bible School

ST. MARY'S LUTHERAN CHURCH



FREE



RAINFOREST FALLS

Exploring the Nature of God

August 3rd-6th
9:00 AM- 12:00 PM
Preschool - 5th Grade

Crafts
Bible Stories
Music
Games
Snacks!

2001 80th STREET 262-658-3555



A Message from Our Pastor

The Rev. Dr. Jordan Miller-Stubbendick Summer, 2026

God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations. I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant..."
Genesis 9:12-15a

Some days feel heavy.

Our country continues to be polarized, and we (as collective Americans) are publicly unkind to each other in many ways.

I recently learned that a seminary classmate is getting divorced from her spouse of 20 years.

Violence and unrest continue across the Middle East.

And yet.

When I woke up this morning, I saw the most glorious light out the window. My husband, Adam, looked out the opposite window and said, "There's a rainbow!" It was one of the most glorious rainbows I have seen, a perfect arc, bright and glowing, like a child's drawing of a rainbow. It only appeared for a few minutes. Then the sky clouded over, as if the rainbow had never been there.

But it was there. I saw it.

As Christians, one of our ancient faith stories is that of Noah and the flood, where God sends a rainbow in the clouds as a sign that a flood will never again destroy the earth. Rainbows are an enduring sign of hope and the promise of God's eternal love.

There are so many signs of hope in each day, even when so much around us seems the opposite of hopeful.

Rainbows. Crocuses that resolutely pop up just when you are sure that it will be winter forever. The high, clear song of a cardinal wafting through your open window. Eating a perfectly ripe peach in the summer. A shared joke with a loved one.

By their nature, these tiny signs of hope are fleeting, but they are not inconsequential. They are real, and they matter. When we pay attention, we see small signs of hope throughout the day. They don't negate the difficult things happening in our lives and the world, but they offer another side of the story. At the same time, there are always good *and* hard things happening. Where will we choose to focus our attention?

In a recent essay in *The Atlantic*, physicist and professor Alan Lightman observes:

"Being alive at all is the most extraordinary stroke of good luck we will ever experience... The simple fact that we are here, conscious and aware, is so unlikely that it borders on the miraculous. Because we experience that miracle every day, we treat it as ordinary, even guaranteed, mostly unnoticed at all. We postpone joy, assuming there will always be more time. We don't see the beauty in small moments. We simply go about the business of life, without taking a second to notice life itself."

Excerpt from "The Ordinary Miracle of Existing" by Alan Lightman in *The Atlantic* <https://apple.news/AHrppXpfzRdqNZGmsSYxpuQ>

We can make it a point to notice and appreciate life itself, and the many signs of hope gifted to us by the loving God who brought this life about.

Sometimes I like to think of these signs of hope as a small collection I put on my desk, like the drawings and origami and special treasures my children give me.

- *What signs of hope do you collect?*
- *Where do you put them?*
- *When do you get them out, turn them over in your hands, and thank God for all that is good in this day and this world?*

Keep looking for signs of hope. They may be small, but they are real, and they matter. Like a rainbow in the clouds, these signs of hope are a gift from God to you, to me, and to all of creation.

It is something akin to a miracle that any of us are here at all, and certainly that the God of the universe sees us, knows us, calls us by name, and wants us to delight in this life that is God's gift to us.

Wherever you collect your signs of hope, get them out on a regular basis and marvel at them. They are here today, and there will be more signs tomorrow. For God loves you and all of creation, and God will always remember this.

Collecting signs of hope right along with you,

Pastor Jordan



NURSE SUE–Aurora Faith and Health Team– Summer, 2026

Please join us at Lord of Life on Thursday August 13th and donate blood between 1pm-6pm.

Play your part in helping save lives. Every donation helps ensure patients have access to the blood they need for surgeries, cancer treatments, trauma care, and more.

Schedule Your Appointment Today

If you are reading this electronically, [CLICK HERE](#) to schedule an appointment. Or visit www.redcrossblood.org, click Find a Drive and enter the zip code 53144. You may need to expand the list at the bottom to see our August drive. You can also call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767). Walk-ins are also welcome!

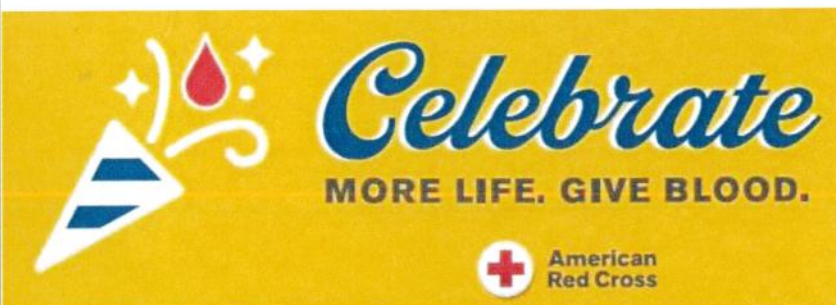
Why Donate Blood?

- ♥ About 1 in 3 people will need a blood transfusion in their lifetime.
- ♥ Every two seconds, someone in the U.S. needs blood.
- ♥ One donation can help save more than one life.
- ♥ The actual blood donation takes only about 5–10 minutes, and most donors spend less than an hour at the blood drive from start to finish.
- ♥ Learn your blood type.
- ♥ Receive a mini health screening, including your blood pressure, pulse, and hemoglobin level.
- ♥ Track your donation journey through the American Red Cross Blood Donor App and see when your blood is on its way to help patients.

Never donated before?

Give it a try and see how easy it is! Watch this short video featuring first-time donors:

<https://youtu.be/klyhotwy1gk?si=4Ybd7tl9dwH6Wchz>



Lord of Life Lutheran Church Blood Drive

5601 Washington Rd
Kenosha

Thursday, August 13, 2026
1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

For an appointment call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org



Come to give blood in August for a \$20 Amazon Gift Card by email. Terms: rcblood.org/August.



1-800-RED CROSS | RedCrossBlood.org | Download the Blood Donor App

© 2025 The American Red Cross. All rights reserved.

Summer Donor Rewards

This August, donors can make happiness happen for patients in need by giving blood! All who come to give Aug. 1-31, 2026 will receive a \$20 Amazon Gift Card by email. Terms and additional details can be found at RedCrossBlood.org/August

Wisconsin Donors Age 16

Donors who are 16 years old must bring a signed parent/guardian permission form. Contact the church office for the form.



SUNDAY SCHOOL

JULY / AUGUST 2026

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL IS ALMOST HERE!



Vacation Bible School August 3-6 9A-12P
Register Now to Secure Your Spot!
Pre-K (3) through 5th grade



VBS
Camper
Registration



VBS
Volunteer
Interest
6th grade -
Adult

Seymour



Tango



VBS DONATION BOARD COMING SOON IN FELLOWSHIP HALL! FIND AN ITEM YOU CAN DONATE or LEND?
TAKE THE SHEET, FILL IT OUT, AND DROP OFF THE ITEM/S ONTO OR NEAR THE DESK IN THE SS OFFICE.
DUE JULY 19 DO YOU WANT TO VOLUNTEER!? SCAN THE QR CODE OR EMAIL ME!

RALLY DAY! SAVE THE DATE! SEPTEMBER 13, 2026 10:00AM - 12:00PM

Contact Info

JOAN OEHLBERG: Coordinator of Children's Ministry
Email: kidmin@stmaryslutheran.org



FLIP FLOPS & FAITH
Christmas in July
NIGHT OF WORSHIP
 TO BENEFIT THE ELCA OUTREACH CENTER

LUAU DINNER WITH PULLED PORK AT 5:00 PM

NIGHT OF WORSHIP AT 6:00 PM

SUNDAY JULY 26

Join us for an evening of food, fellowship, and worship as we celebrate *the joy of Christmas in July* and support our community!

Lord of Life Lutheran Church; 5601 Washington Rd. Kenosha



Christmas in July

ELCA Outreach Center Night of Worship

on Sunday, July 26, 2026
 at Lord of Life Lutheran Church
 5601 Washington Rd, Kenosha, WI 53144

Come and join us for a
 pulled pork supper at 5 p.m.
 and singing Christmas carols
 and worship at 6 p.m.

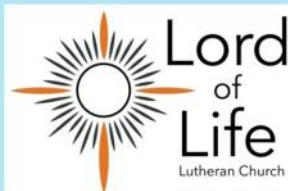
All proceeds will go to the ELCA
 Outreach Center



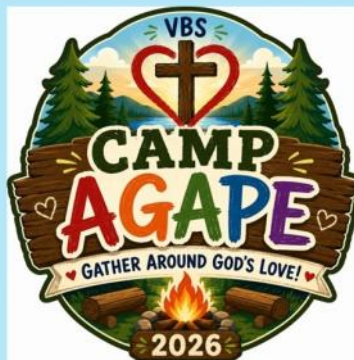
SAVE THE DATE
SEPTEMBER 26, 2026

REGISTRATION OPENS JULY 1, 2026
 RIDE RUN WALK 2026 | *HOPE ON THE MOVE*

See this week's email for details, updates, and ways to get involved. | Event locations | Ambassador updates | Registration details



August 3-6, 2026



**Petrifying Springs
 Park, Shelter #4**

Mt. Pleasant & Lord of Life Lutheran Churches are joining forces for Vacation Bible School. We invite all kids aged 3 through 5th grade to join us Monday, August 3rd through Thursday, August 6th from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. at Petrifying Springs Park.

Attendees do NOT have to be Lord of Life or Mt. Pleasant Lutheran Church members to attend. Invite family and friends to join us for four days of fun, crafts, music, and learning about God's love.



Scan the QR code with your smart device to
 register your child(ren) or sign up to volunteer.

**NEXT COMBINED WORSHIP SERVICE—LABOR DAY WEEKEND
SUNDAY AT ST. MARY'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, 9:00AM**



Dear people of Kenosha ELCA congregations... For each of these holidays, the combined worship service will be the only one offered by St. Mary's, Spirit Alive! and Trinity and Lakeside. We plan to annually continue offering these combined worship services around these four holidays weekends.

These next combined worship services also allow us to take an offering that benefits the wider community, as follows: **Labor Day:** Walk in My Shoes

Labor Day weekend: Sunday, September 6, 2026

St. Mary's Lutheran Church

Worship is at 9 am

2001 80th St. Kenosha, WI 53143

Pastor Jordan Miller-Stubbendick (pronouns: she/her)

Please make note: On the weekends when we will worship as a group of ELCA churches, there will not be a Saturday afternoon service here at St. Mary's, September 5, 2026.



St. Mary's Lutheran Endowment Foundation Approved 2nd Quarter Disbursements:

1. Royal Family Kids - for Camp Scholarships
2. Kenosha Welcome Center - for carts, wagons and totes for clients of the food pantry
3. Salvation Army of Kenosha - for homelessness prevention
4. St. Mary's Lutheran Church - Good Samaritan Fund
5. St. Mary's Lutheran Church - VBS
6. St. Mary's Lutheran Church - Youth Mission Trip



LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF KIT LIST

Kits are gathered every September and sent to Lutheran World Relief. Any individual or group is welcome to participate. Towels & ties will be available in August for anyone to pick up and then complete the kit. The completed kits should be returned by the end of September for boxing and shipping.

Personal Care Kits:

- One 52" X 27" dark towel
- Two bath-size bars of soap in original wrapping
- One toothbrush in original wrapping: adult size
- One sturdy comb
- One metal nail clippers with optional file attached

How to Pack Your Personal Care Kit:

1. *Fold the towel in half.*
 2. *Place the rest of the items in the towel*
 3. *Fold and roll so nothing falls out,*
 4. *Secure with yarn, ribbon or string.*
- * *Please give new items only.*
 - * *Please do not donate items with any religious symbols or messages or decorated with a U.S. flag, or other patriotic symbols.*
 - * *Please do not enclose in plastic bags*



LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

We're on the Web

www.stmaryslutheran.org



SCAN ME

Regular and special giving can also be made using the Tithe.ly application. If you have any questions about your envelopes or Tithe.ly, please contact the church office 658-3555 or Cari Richter.

SCAN THIS QR CODE FOR TITHE.LY ONLINE GIVING.

STAY CONNECTED when unable to join us for worship. You can watch these services online three ways:

1. Like our church Facebook Page
2. Watch Live on YouTube or On Demand (Live videos)
3. Watch videos from the church Website (by Tuesdays) - "Sermons"



Our produce table will be starting up July 25/26 and continue into October!

Please bring any produce fruits, veggies, spices, etc. you're willing to share. If you see something you need in the cart, please help yourself! There will be a collection box for donations. All money collected will go to the ELCA Outreach Center. Thank you for your support .

Gretchen and Andy

When You Are Sick in Mind, Body, Spirit:

St. Mary's is one of the only church congregations that employs a Parish Nurse/ Faith Community Nurse (FCN). She has amazing resources, both as a Registered Nurse, and as a Christ-Centered servant. Please call the office and leave a message with how we can call you back.

As a reminder, please let Pastor Jordan know if you are hospitalized or have acute pastoral care needs. Pastor Jordan will take care of acute pastoral care needs, and can be reached at 799-5791 or pastorjordan@stmaryslutheran.org

Ongoing pastoral care needs will be handled by care ministers. If you would like to have a care minister, please contact Nurse Sue at 799-4003 or fcn@stmaryslutheran.org. Nurse Sue is at St. Mary's on Tuesdays, and works remotely on Thursdays.

Prayer Requests: If you have a prayer request for St. Mary's Prayer Chain, contact: Sue VanBendegom 652 -1770 and FCN Nurse Sue 658-3555.



[HTTPS://STMARYSLUTHERAN.ELVANTO.NET/LOGIN](https://stmaryslutheran.elvanto.net/login)

USERNAME: [EMAIL ADDRESS] PASSWORD: [RESET]

OFFICE WILL HELP

Worship Attendance ~ Summer, 2026

June 6 & 7: 144 June 13 & 14: 87
June 20 & 21: 121 June 27 & 28: 76
July 11 & 12: 87

Treasurer's Report ~ May 2026

Income Actual*	\$36,083.79
Expenses Actual	\$48,650.91
Results	(-) \$12,567.12

**Only three weekend offerings recorded for May; June will have five weekend amounts.*

Fiscal Year-to-Date 25/26

Income Actual	\$475,932.47
Expenses Actual	\$519,025.29
Results	(-) \$43,092.82

The current Year-to-date percentage of electronic giving to total offerings given is 31%.

Our mission is to empower women, children, and youth through education, mentorship, and community resources. We are committed to helping women unlock their full potential while equipping children and teens with the skills, confidence, and opportunities they need to thrive.

Inspire Her
EMPOWER THEM

DONATION DRIVE

CONTACT: 262-676-2436

We're organizing a donation drive to provide essential school supplies for underprivileged students and make a difference!

MAY - JULY 2026

Happening here at St. Mary's August 2nd

VENMO

PAYPAL

Wish List

DONATE SUPPLIES OR MAKE A CASH DONATION



ST. MARY'S "FOOD ON THE FIRST" RED BAG PROGRAM CONTINUES THROUGH THE SUMMER RESUMES FOR AUGUST

Red Bag Pick Up: July 25/26

Red Bag Drop Off: August 1/2

www.KenoshaWelcomeCenter.org for news and updates.

Carthage College and You: Prayers for your future

Dear Friends,

I hope your school year ended as joyfully as ours did here at Carthage College.

Graduation weekend began with a beautiful worship service as we celebrated more than 660 graduates and sent them forward into the next chapter of their lives. While we say farewell to one class of Firebirds, we are also preparing to welcome the next generation to the shores of Lake Michigan. This fall, Carthage will welcome nearly 1,000 new students in the Class of 2030 — perhaps even some of you.

As summer begins, I pray that you find time for rest, joy, renewal, and reflection. I would also be delighted to welcome you to campus for a summer visit. Come experience what makes Carthage — your local ELCA college — such a special place to learn, grow, and belong.

I can already imagine the day we celebrate your graduation from Carthage. During your years here, we will worship together, pray together, share in devotion and service, and grow in faith and purpose as a community. Every journey begins by getting to know one another, and summer is the perfect time to begin that connection. Enjoy your summer. Please know that you are in my prayers, and I hope to see you on campus soon.



**CARTHAGE
COLLEGE**

Grace and peace,

*Pastor Adam Miller-Stubbendick
Carthage College*

The St. Mary's Lutheran Endowment Foundation is



ST. MARY'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
ENDOWMENT FOUNDATION

proud to announce the follow student as recipients of endowed scholarships and Educational Grants for the 2026-2027 school year. Best wishes to all our college bound students.

All of these scholarships were made possible by the generous donations from:

Agnes Petersen Dagmar Mead

Lydia Ostergaard Rev. Siersbeck

Col. Fonk Bertha Fonk

Betty Kuessow Dolores Akin

Wayne & Patricia Koessel

Benson Borter, UWM

Alyson Dahl, New York University

Katelyn Dahl, Alvernia University/Carthage College

Emma Eltoft, University of Iowa

Keira Plotner, UW Madison

Ryan Plotner, Carthage College

Ana Geron, Carthage College

Ava Geron, Carthage College

Joshua Manjarrez, Carthage College

Addison Matera, UW LaCrosse

Ashleigh Ours, Carthage College

Linnea Williams, DePaul University

Ben VanLaningham, UW Madison



OPPORTUNITIES @ CHURCH ~ SUMMER, 2026

WORSHIP SATURDAYS, 4PM & SUNDAYS, 9AM

Our weekend order of worship will be available online under “uploaded bulletins, announcements” each week by Friday afternoon.

ASSISTING MINISTERS An assisting minister is a liturgical leader who assists the congregation in worship and alongside the presiding minister throughout the worship service. Assisting ministers proclaim the word of God in prayer and scripture readings, receive offerings, pray for the concerns of the church and the world. They stand at the font helping welcome new Christians and help distribute the bread and wine. Assisting ministers send the congregation into the world for mission.

Singers & Non-Singers welcome!

HOLY COMMUNION will be exclusively at the rail or from your seat until further notice. Gluten-Free/regular wafer, wine/juice offered. Anyone or children who haven't received instruction yet may come forward for a blessing instead. Simply fold your hands when approaching. **Sunday Morning Schedule—** Contact Andy Schroeder

(amgeoteach90@yahoo.com)

USHERING All ages, genders & skills welcome! See Dale on Saturdays and Gary on Sundays!

WORSHIP GREETERS: Our first impression specialists! Families can sign up! Individuals! Buddies! Sign up with Margaret Van Boven (mav5804@gmail.com)

MUSIC GROUPS—OFF FOR THE SUMMER

ADULT CHOIR~ The choir rehearses on Wednesdays at 6:30pm in the Choir Room. Contact Dick Sjoerdsma (rsjoerdsma@carthage.edu)

JUBILATE! ~ Join Nathan Larsen and his dedicated teammates for rehearsals Mondays at 5:30pm in the sanctuary. Jubilate! performs the first Sunday of each month. Contact Nathan NathanLarsen2012@gmail.com

“A CHORD FOR THE LORD” YOUTH CHOIR St. Mary's 6th-12th graders youth choir will meet Wednesdays, 6:15-7pm in Chapel Lounge. Contact Kendra with inquiries kendra.richter13@gmail.com.

CIRCLES & SMALL GROUPS

St. Mary's Community Quilters ~

Mondays @ 9:00am (Gym)

Miriam Circle ~ 2nd Tuesday @1:00pm (Lo)

Circle of Friends ~ 3rd Wednesday @1:00pm (Lo)

Women's Book Club ~ 1st Tuesday @ 1:00pm (Lo)

Lydia Circle ~ Resumes 2nd Monday, September; 12:30pm (Lo)

MINISTRIES

SUNDAY SCHOOL~ 3 yr.—5th Grade

Sunday School meets during 9am worship each Sunday! Contact Joan. You can follow us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/smlcsundayschool>

FISH & FUSION YOUTH GROUPS! 6th-12th graders do not have to be members to participate! Check out the Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/smlcyouthed>.

SENIOR MINISTRY ~ St. Mary's ***The Friendly Center (TFC)*** is a senior ministry that has been around for a very long time. RSVPs needed. ***Resumes in September, 2026; 11am with devotions, programming & lunch.***

PRAYER BREAKFAST—Wednesdays, 7:00am Marina Gardens Restaurant. All are welcome. This is now the combination of the Ladies' & Men's groups for one, amazing gathering of prayer warriors.

COFFEE KRINGLE MINGLE sponsors are needed! If you love to sip some tea, coffee, water or lemonade and catch up with your church friends, we need people to assist with each event. Contact Chris Johnson 818-8879; chris.johnson1800@gmail.com.

FRONT OFFICE DESK VOLUNTEERS There are a couple vacant slots that could use coverage. No long-term commitments; will train on-site; fun atmosphere & greatly needed. Call Beth in office!



KEY CONTACTS—WHO DO YOU CALL?

CHURCH COUNCIL 2025-2026 St. Mary's Church Council meets the 3rd Thursday of each month at 6:30pm. **All are 1+(262) unless otherwise noted.** Council liaisons are as follows:

AUDIT/FINANCE

Keith Richter.....948-9020

ktrichter25@gmail.com

CHURCH IN SOCIETY

Patricia Mason.....721-8065

godslittlesinger71@gmail.com

EDUCATION (FAITH FORMATION)

Andrea Beer.....945-5901

beerski222@aol.com

THE FRIENDLY CENTER

Lisa Rasmussen-Zanin.....909-1181

lzanin1953@gmail.com

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Andrea Beer.....945-5901

beerski222@aol.com

NOMINATING

Dana Larsen.....414-748-0448

dana.larsen.wdc@gmail.com

PERSONNEL

Andy Schroeder.....344-1902

amgeoteach90@yahoo.com

PROPERTY

Keith Richter.....948-9020

ktrichter25@gmail.com

RECONNECTION*HOSPITALITY*FELLOWSHIP

Hollie DeFranco.....914-0136

holliedefranco@gmail.com

STEWARDSHIP

Stephanie Raszkievicz.....945-7519

stephrz01@yahoo.com

WORSHIP MUSIC ARTS

Markie Hylinski.....515-3032

hylinskim@gmail.com

YOUTH Sandy Bear.....496-4370

sandymbear@outlook.com

Council Connection for Summer, 2026

Contact President, Andy Schroeder

344-1902 amgeoteach90@yahoo.com

ST. MARY'S STAFF: 658-3555 *The Dial by Name directory is set up for FIRST Names except for Nurse Sue—she isn't listed.*

The Rev. Dr. Jordan Miller-Stubbendick, Pastor

ph. 799-5791 or pastorjordan@stmaryslutheran.org

Art Kotenko, A/V Technician avtech@stmaryslutheran.org

Beth Kerscher, Administrative Assistant

ph. 658-3555 or bkerscher@stmaryslutheran.org

Deb Black, organ choirmama100@gmail.com

Dr. Richard Sjoerdsma, choir rsjoerdsma@carthage.edu

Joan Oehlberg, Coordinator of Children's Ministry

ph. 658-3555 or KidMin@stmaryslutheran.org

Kendra Richter, Youth Director

ph. 287-2483 or Youth@stmaryslutheran.org

Nathan Larsen, handbells NathanLarsen2012@gmail.com

Nurse Sue, Aurora Faith & Health Team/ Care Ministry

Coordinator ph. 658-3555 or FCN@stmaryslutheran.org

Susan Peet, Bookkeeper

ph. 658-3555 bookkeeper@stmaryslutheran.org

Willy Mueller, piano sillywilly.m@gmail.com



2026-27 Church Council Candidates will be elected by the members attending the Annual Meeting on 7/26.

**We send off from the council roster:
Hollie DeFranco & Markie Hylinski.**

**Liaison Roles will be different with the
new slate of council members.**

THE SPIRIT

the newsletter of
ST. MARY'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
www.stmaryslutheran.org
Summer, 2026

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©The Spirit of St. Mary's Lutheran Church July 15, 2026 Volume 32, Issue 6

Summer Church Office Hours:

Mondays/Tuesdays/Thursdays:
9:00am-3:00pm
Wednesdays: Noon—6:00pm
Fridays: 9:00am—Noon

**The Office will be closed on
Monday, September 7, 2026**

