

Glad Tidings

from First German

Volume XVIII - Issue 4

April 2010

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MAKE EVERY SUNDAY LIKE EASTER SUNDAY

Hebrews 10:25 - *"Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another - and all the more as you see the Day approaching."*

Dear Members of First German,

On April 4th, we celebrated the Festival of Easter once again. Observing Jesus' mighty deeds and seeing the amazing proofs that He is truly the Son of God, and the promised Savior, is always a truly exciting event. It is an event which many of our members were present to experience. Every year on Easter Sunday the pews of our church are relatively full (as they also are every Christmas Eve), but unfortunately, those are about the only times we are cramped for space. Why is that?

We usually try to justify our absences from worship by saying things like, "Well, I know I really should go to church, but God understands." Does He? In our text for this devotion God has

gone on record as saying, *"Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing."* God does not understand why some of His people willfully and stubbornly hold to the habit of not meeting together. Rather, God does understand that we all need to meet together to praise Him and to study His Word. God does understand that others need the encouragement of our presence, because we are a family which He has put together. God does understand group fellowship - the power of people meeting together for mutual strengthening. God does understand that when we start missing a service now and then, we are being set up by Satan to become a dropout all together!

God understands these things - but do we? Many times we don't, and that is why so many allow Satan to bring one excuse after another into our lives, until we end up separated from our God, and separated from the assembly of those *"meeting together"* to worship Him. Maybe we still consider ourselves to be faithful to the LORD, but do we really understand what that means? Consider these questions:

- Is a car that starts once out of seven times faithful?
- Is a refrigerator that quits for a day now and then faithful?
- Is your paper boy faithful if he misses you with the paper every few mornings?
- If you fail to come to work one or two days each week, would you be considered a faithful worker?
- If your hot water heater greeted you with cold water one or two mornings a week, would you consider it to be faithful?
- If I worship only on Easter Sunday and Christmas Eve, am I being faithful?
- If I worship once or twice a month, am I being faithful?

Faithfulness implies being dependable at all times - doesn't it? As a body of believers, we strive to help one another to become more faithful - more dependable. That can be done through our words, and also through our examples. The members of our Visitation Committee regularly visit families and individuals who have been less than faithful in their attendance at worship services and the Lord's Supper, in order to encourage them to be more faithful - more consistent. It is important for us to be at our weekly worship services because that is where the LORD faithfully and graciously brings us His best - gifts of His love and forgiveness through His Word and Sacrament. It is also the place where we can bring our best to the LORD - in our songs and prayers and offerings - as we join together to worship the LORD with our hearts, and hands, and voices.

No matter who we are, we can improve our thankfulness to God as we dedicate ourselves to become more Christ-like. Those who have not been attending at all, can start worshiping again. Those who are only worshiping once a month can start worshiping two or three times a month. And even those who are here almost every Sunday can strive to remain faithful in attendance. It will take

a conscious effort on the part of each and every member of our congregation. But at the same time, all of our members will also benefit, as we encourage one another - and as we grow in our faith, and in our knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ. Pray that the LORD will help us to become more faithful in our public worship of Him. Pray for the courage, conviction, and confidence to make every gathering of the saints a time for all of us to share love, praise, and spiritual growth.

In Christ,
Pastor D. D. Rosenow

HMONG NEWS

On April 12th we had a Pastor's conference at St. John / St. Peter's in Cleveland. I made many home visits with prayer. I'm teaching Bible stories at Bethany church on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 6:20 p.m. every week. I am also teaching Ying Moua and txhi Thao to be members.

Pastor Nau Lee

YOUTH GROUP UPDATE

On Sunday mornings, all First German teens and young adults are welcome to come and study the Augsburg Confession with Pastor Schaefer. We meet at 9:15 a.m. on the second floor of the school in Mr. Siegler's classroom. Historically speaking, this is our most important confessional document as Lutherans and it also serves as a simple summary of our faith.

One note for everyone to keep in mind: on Friday/Saturday June 4th and 5th, the Youth Group will host a Brat Fry at Piggly Wiggly on North 8th Street. Mark your calendars, consider helping, or just come and buy a brat!

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Members of First German,

On Thursday evening, April 15th and Sunday, April 18th, we had an opportunity to participate and provide meaningfully input during one of three "**Listening Sessions**". I thoroughly enjoyed the sessions that I was a part of on Sunday morning. There were many interesting ideas and goals along with some common ones. A sincere "Thank You" to the many members who took the time to share their thoughts and concerns at this very important event. The Vision Task force will now begin their task to compile that information and establish long-term goals to help our congregation build on those strengths and blessings.

A special note: As there are many events taking place at First German - the PPC has scheduled a Voters' Meeting for Monday, May 24th. Some of the reports to be presented will be:

1. An update from the Vision Task Force and report of the Listening Sessions.
2. The recent purchase of the property at 702 Marshall Street and what's going on there.
3. The all-day kindergarten and other upcoming school items.
4. A report on our budget process and highlight the many things going on at First German.
5. Other reports from the PPC Directors on new and continuing items.

Please mark this meeting date on your calendar as there will much presented for discussion. As always, please keep First German in your prayers and trust in the Lord to help guide our actions and thoughts.

Yours in Christ,

Philip Nass - Executive Director

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Again we would like to say thank you for the many people who made our Lent and Easter services such a blessing to our congregation. Your work is greatly appreciated.

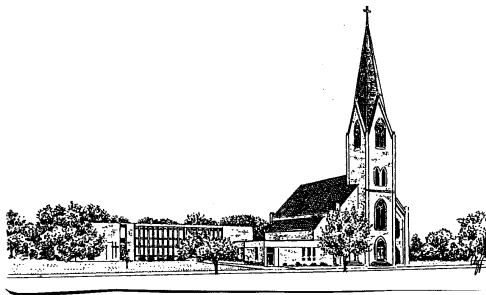
Our services on May 16th will be led by the Christian music group called Koine. Koine is well recognized among WELS churches as providing new worship, liturgical, and music settings for familiar hymns and anthems. Koine has participated in worship all around the United States. We look forward to hearing them in our own worship services that day. We also look forward to hearing their concert on May 16th at 1:00 p.m. here at First German. May God bless their work among us.

Manitowoc Lutheran High School will sing at our church on May 23rd at 7:00 p.m. The Concert Choir and Lancer Singers will perform songs for the entire church with introductions and Bible readings. Come to hear and see the many talented students our Lord has given the Church.

Our band will be playing for this year's church picnic. If you or someone you know would like to join the band, let Mr. Menk know. The more instrumentalists we have, the better we will sound. The band will play on June 13th in the 10:00 a.m. service at Silver Creek Park (at First German if weather is poor).

Finally, don't forget that service times in June, July, and August will be held Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. and on Sundays at 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. We hope to see each of you faithfully attend.

Darin Menk, Chairperson



STEWARDSHIP

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God — this is your spiritual act of worship. (Romans 12:1)

The 'Helping Hands' board is ready to be placed and will be immediately ready for use! This board will work as an avenue for people in need. All you have to do is fill out the 3x5 card and place it on the board. Here are a couple examples: I need someone to mow my lawn for 2 weeks, shovel snow as needed, walk my dog or help paint my house. Then anyone in the congregation can take the card and use his or her *Time and Talents* to help someone in need. This board will be located in the church hallway right across from the 'Little Lambs' board.

Our 'Greeter' sheet is also ready to be placed (next to the 'Helping Hands' board) and will be immediately ready for use! Anyone interested in greeting people as they arrive at First German are welcome to sign up. When your date and time are here please be at church a half an hour before the service begins and be ready to open the door with a big smile and 'hello' to welcome all churchgoers. We will be working on some type of name tags so people know who you are. Thanks in advance for making people feel welcome!

Thanks to everyone who came to the listening sessions. Remember that the purpose of these sessions was to gather information from members for planning of the congregation's future. What do we want to keep as we move forward and what do we add? Trying to save the lost and grow God's people. Our Lord would have us think and plan with those priorities in our minds and hearts.

Please remember to return your Time and Talents surveys. A side note to this is that just because you put down that you "like to greet people" does not mean you will be forced into being on the greeter list. Or if you put down that you're interested in the Stewardship Board does not mean that you will be automatically put on the board. It just means that in the future, if we are looking for help, we could call you and see if you are still interested.

Can you believe that the school year is almost over? Where does that time go? As I write this our upper grade students from First German and other Lutheran Schools from the area are on their way to Martin Luther College. Thanks to the members who donated items for the trip. Again people using their Time, Talents and Treasures as God wanted you to use them!

Respectfully submitted,

Greg Haupt, Director
Board for Stewardship

LETTER FROM LUTHER

Dear fellow Christians,

Saint Paul wrote, “We were buried with Christ through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life” (Romans 6:4). Every Christian consequently has enough to learn and to practice all his life in regard to Baptism. For he will always have enough to do in order steadfastly to believe what Baptism assures and offers him: victory over the devil and over death, forgiveness of sins, God’s grace, the fullness of Christ, and the Holy Spirit with his gifts. In short, the blessings of Baptism are so infinitely great that if someone who is naturally timid thinks about them, he might well doubt whether it could all be true. Just consider this, that if there were some physician who could keep people from dying with his own skill, or after they have died could give them endless life, what a blizzard and flood of money the world would snow and rain upon him!

The way to regard and use Baptism rightly is to draw strength and comfort from it when our sins or consciences trouble us. We then must say, “See here, I am baptized. And since I am baptized, I have the assurance that I shall be saved in soul and body and have eternal life.” For where God’s name is, there life and salvation must be present also!

Peace in Christ,

Martin Luther

EVENING CIRCLE

The final total for the New Beginnings collection was \$1,594.88. Thanks again to everyone who participated. If you missed the collection and still want to donate, send checks to Christian Life Resources, 3070 Halsan Drive, Richfield, WI. 53076-9585. Make the check out to New Beginnings.

All ladies of the congregation are invited to join Evening Circle, or just come for a visit. We meet the 4th Tuesday of every month at 7:00 p.m., September through May. Come and enjoy a night of fellowship and fun.

Ellen Strutz, President

SYNOD NEWS

Christians Confirmed in Pakistan *(from the WELS Together newsletter)*

In what could be the beginning of a confessional Lutheran church in Pakistan, a Pakistani doctor and his wife—WELS’ primary contacts in the country—have been confirmed in the Lutheran faith and are now in fellowship with our church body. The development comes after Rev. Dan Koelpin, WELS administrator for World Missions, and the WELS coordinator for Pakistan met with the couple in London April 8th – 9th. Before the meeting, the doctor and his wife, both lifelong Christians, had worked through 19 lessons of a Bible instruction class through the Internet messaging system *Skype* with the coordinator for Pakistan.

For forty years, WELS has been carrying out a seed-sowing ministry in Pakistan. Twenty-two thousand Pakistani adults and children are enrolled in the Bible correspondence program that the doctor oversees. WELS Multi-Language Publications assists him with the publication of the needed materials. Pakistan is 97 percent Muslim, and Christians there face violent opposition. For this reason, the names of both the doctor and the WELS coordinator for Pakistan cannot be published. “The faith and love our contacts demonstrate in sharing the gospel in their land is indescribable,” says the coordinator. “In spite of the obstacles, they are passionate in sharing the message of salvation. God has opened a door for this ministry. There is a great hunger for the gospel in this nation. God is doing what many people thought was impossible.”

LADIES AID

The ladies were reminded of the LWMS Rally at Immanuel church which took place on Tuesday, April 13th. Sue Fink gave a presentation on “Humor for the Health of it”. It reminded us of the value of a good laugh.

We will be going to CNC Links for lunch on May 13th at 12:30 p.m. This is our annual banquet dinner in honor of the organization of The Ladies Aid. All are invited. Please call Marion Thiel for reservations if you would like to join us. We will be ordering off the menu.

The Ladies Aid are looking for volunteers to help serve for funerals. MEN, we welcome your help too. Even if it is for only 1, 2, or 3 hours. Any help is appreciated.

Armilla Mrotek shared a letter she received from Pastor Wolfgram & family. They got a call to go back to Russia for 1 year. They have accepted the call.

Marion Thiel, President

LWMS SPRING RALLY HIGHLIGHTS

TO EVERY NATION, TRIBE, PEOPLE AND LANGUAGE was the theme of the LWMS Spring Rally held on April 13th at Immanuel in Manitowoc. Over a hundred people attended.

After the opening devotion, Mark Vance spoke on the work of the WELS Committee on Relief. This work is completely funded through donations (like our door collection for earthquake relief in Haiti).

He told how needs for assistance are assessed, areas requesting relief are evaluated and help is distributed. He used the distribution of aid to Haiti as an example. This included his experiences in determining the best way to provide assistance and pictures of his time in Haiti.

Following a break for lunch, Pastor Harold Essmann explained how the Multi Language Publications Department was formed and its functions. Currently they are distributing materials in 44 languages. He explained how work on translations is carried out to insure proper and correct translation. He illustrated the work of this group by giving examples of WELS Outreach in Pakistan and Nepal. These are two areas where mission outreach is not always welcomed by the countries, but is sought for by individuals who may have heard a bit of God's Word and are searching for more. These multi-language publications have been and are an important tool and help make God's Word available to many. Pastor Essmann also illustrated his presentation with pictures and offered many examples of the hunger for God's Word in these countries. Over 550,000 copies of THE PROMISE, a booklet has been distributed throughout the world, including Haiti, Pakistan and Nepal, in the native language. This is a great outreach endeavor.

Mission box collections are due on May 10th. Please bring your boxes to the church office by May 5th. The collection from the Rally and the mission boxes will be divided between Multi Language Publication Project and Humanitarian Aid in Haiti.

Meeting notes: A host congregation is needed for the 2011 Spring Rally. 2010 Fall Rally will be at Grace in Manitowoc. Pastor Schaefer was elected to serve as Spiritual Growth Advisor for the Shoreline Circuit Board.

Elisabeth Knuth, LWMS Reporter

PIONEER NEWS

Saturday, May 1st — Kite Flying & Rocket Launching (*Weather Permitting*) begins at 6:00 p.m. at the Dewey Street Park. You may stay as late as you wish. We have extra kites for those who do not own one. The older boys will also be launching rockets. Everyone from the congregation is invited and bring a friend. (*In case of bad weather this event will not be rescheduled.*)

Monday, May 17th — Pioneer Awards Night. We will meet in the Heritage Hall at 6:30 p.m. for a light lunch. The children will receive their patches, charms and certificates. We will have Manitowoc County Fair information available that night. Many projects were completed by the children during the school year and all of them may be entered at the County Fair in August. Children may also enter other things if they desire.

Monday, May 31st – Memorial Day Parade. Meet at First German by 8:15 a.m. They should wear their uniforms or dark colored slacks or skirt with a light colored plain shirt with scarves. After the parade the children can be picked up at 1806 Michigan Ave.

LANCER NEWS

Beautiful Property for Sale – MLHS has received a wonderful donation of a residential lot on the north side of Manitowoc. We would like to give the first opportunity to purchase this lot to members of our Federation. Please contact MLHS Development Director Scott Reinhard at 242-9204 with questions or for information.

Upcoming Events

Sat., 5/1 -MLHS Lead Delegate Meeting (8:00 a.m.)

Tues., 5/4 -MLHS Board of Control Meeting (6:30 p.m.)

Sat., 5/15 -MLHS Federation Delegate Meeting (9:00 a.m.)

-Thrivent Choice Info Meeting @ MLHS (after Delegate Meeting)



MINISTRY ACTS

Baptisms

† Sydney Pribbernow
 † Grace Kurtzweil

Funerals

† Karl Olp



ALTAR GUILD

Here is the schedule for communion helpers for the months of May and June. If you have any questions, give Mrs. Mrotek a call at 682-0839.

<u>May</u>	<u>Set-Up</u>	<u>Clean-Up</u>
<u>Thursday</u>	Lee Baryenbruch Marilyn Baryenbruch	Randy Kieffer Chris Kieffer
<u>Sunday</u>	Lee Baryenbruch Marilyn Baryenbruch	Kathy Lahaie Bette Heinzen
<u>June</u>	<u>Set-Up</u>	<u>Clean-Up</u>
<u>Thursday</u>	Ray Luisier Don Carbon	Jean Fischer Kristy Schmidt
<u>Sunday</u>	Ray Luisier Don Carbon	Sue Menk Sue Pekarske

Communion Linens

Cynthia Nass for May & June



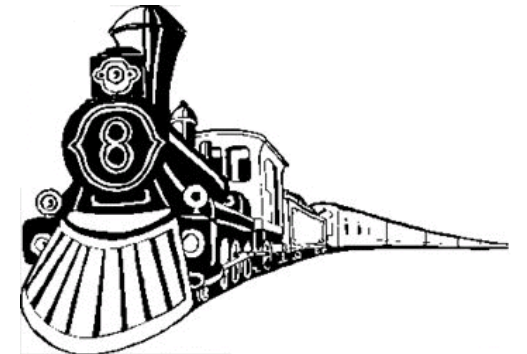
SCHOOL MUSIC

The end of the school year will soon be here. Don't miss the many upcoming music events these next few weeks:

May 5 th	7:00 p.m.	Piano student recital (in church)
May 13 th	6:30 p.m.	Ascension Service (student led service)
May 16 th	1:00 p.m.	Koine (Christian contemporary concert)
May 17 th	9:30 a.m.	Koine concert for students
May 18 th	10:30 a.m.	Music Show-folk songs
May 19 th	5:30 p.m.	Talent Night/Awards Dinner
May 23 rd	7:00 p.m.	MLHS Choir concert at First German
June 13 th	10:00 a.m.	band plays for Church Picnic

This year's music show, May 18th at 10:30 a.m., is about folk songs. Students will sing, play instruments, describe what is being learned in class, and even do a dance. Audience members will sing along with several songs and learn about the national standards of music and how our students use them at all grade levels. Come down and join us.

*Darin Menk, Director
 Church & School Music*



TREASURER'S REPORT

Month Ending March 31, 2010

Unified Budget Summary:

	MARCH, 2010 (Current Month)			JULY 2009-MARCH, 2010 (Fiscal Year to Date)		
	Actual	Budget	Difference	Actual	Budget	Difference
Receipts	\$52,617	\$62,683	(\$10,066)	\$473,129	\$446,935	\$26,194
Expenses	\$55,557	\$57,968	(\$2,411)	\$504,847	\$521,492	(\$16,645)
Net Income (Loss)	(\$2,940)	\$4,715	(\$7,655)	(\$31,719)	(\$74,558)	\$42,839

Line of Credit (Bank Loan): The Line of Credit balance was **\$201,183**.

Building Fund: At the end of March, the Building Fund had a balance of **\$21,857**. There were no large expense items (over \$500) in March.

Memorial Trust Fund: Total bank balance: **\$70,981**. Of this amount, \$59,435 was designated and \$11,546 was undesignated. An additional \$35,102 of undesignated funds were borrowed to submit to WELS Kingdom Workers for the Hmong ministry. This amount will be returned in about a month with a 10% match added. \$27,750 of the designated funds are for the purchase of the 702 Marshall Street property.

Capital Appeal: Total received to date: **\$150,905**. Bank balance: **\$4,870**.

Offerings: Weekly offerings for March averaged \$11,377; which was 8% HIGHER than the same month last year, and 3% HIGHER than the same month 2 years ago.

	OFFERINGS PER WEEK			TOTAL OFFERINGS		
	2007-8	2008-9	2009-10	2007-8	2008-9	2009-10
March	\$11,069	\$10,540	\$11,377	\$55,347	\$52,701	\$45,507
Total Fiscal Yr	\$10,923	\$10,428	\$10,412	\$436,934	\$406,703	\$406,070

Endowment Fund Balance: The endowment fund balance at the end of March, 2010 was \$374,984.

Respectfully submitted,
Marty Schaller, Treasurer

LUTHERAN SCHOOLS

It is hard to believe another school year is fast approaching an end. A lot of our time on the Board was researching full day Kindergarten. As a Board, we felt it was time to make this a reality. The PPC called a special Voters' Meeting to ask the congregation to extend Mrs. Jean Fischer (she was teaching at a half time salary) a full time call to teacher kindergarten full days. Basing the need that parents need all day Kindergarten because of work schedules and even when they liked our program they would opt for full day somewhere else and generally would not return for 1st grade. So on March 14th, the voters granted the Board's request and we will be offering all day Kindergarten starting this fall.

Some other changes this fall are, we will be changing our school hours from 9:00 a.m. to 3:50 p.m. to 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Mr. Menk and Mr. Leckwee will be sharing a class room and we will be moving 3k and 4k out of the basement into Mr. Menk's room at the end of the hall by the north doors. This move will take some added man power and expense so donation of time or money would be appreciated as we try to make this move probably sometime in June. (For more information call myself (905-0422) or Principal Leckwee for details. Thank you).

As through Parish Assistance, the best way for our school to grow is through early childhood. So a priority will be to contact Pre-School children of First German to inform them of our programs and also to seek out preschoolers in our immediate community thus using our school as an outreach tool. One other thing we will be working on is offering what we call aftercare for our preschoolers. This is supervision of preschoolers after class has been dismissed. This service will be fee based thus not affecting the budget. We also need to put together a recruitment committee that would work with the admissions director at MLHS. If this interest you, please contact myself (905-0422) or Mr. Leckwee.

May the Lord Bless every member at First German for their support of Christian Education.

In Christ's service,

Allen Liermann, Director
Board for Lutheran Schools

MANITOWOC LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL

As you may or may not know, Mr. Kevin Buch is Admissions Director for Manitowoc Lutheran High School. His mission is to encourage Christ-centered education in our area, not only at MLHS but also in our Lutheran Elementary Schools. He is helping to strengthen the bond between area elementary school students and MLHS students. Lancer-for-a-Day brought almost 200 7th and 8th graders to Lutheran high. The students had a morning schedule where they learned about high school life and classes. They boarded buses to the roller skating rink for some fun, and then came back to the school to watch basketball games.

The high school played a much bigger role in the 3 federation basketball tournaments held at MLHS this year. Volunteer students were hosts for each team. The students spent time with the team before and after the game, and even sat on the bench with them. It was a great way for the grade school students to connect with the high school students.

Mr. Buch has been working to improve the programs already in place—programs designed to build connections between our elementary school students and MLHS. He has also been instrumental in the formation of Lakeshore Lutheran Schools (LLS), an association of our area Lutheran Elementary Schools. It is designed to promote the Christ-centered education—getting the word out about the wonderful blessing parents have available here for their children. The organization has developed a logo and will be promoting our schools on an ongoing basis. LLS will also have a website as soon as the redesigned MLHS website is up and running. We pray that God would bless these efforts to strengthen our area Lutheran elementary schools and MLHS.

Manitowoc Lutheran High School will be sponsoring various sports camps in June and July. These camps are run by coaches at MLHS, and provide an excellent opportunity for both boys and girls to learn and improve basic skills and develop team skills:

Lancer Boys Basketball Camp	June 14 th – 17 th	Grades 5-9	Mornings
Lancer Girls Basketball Camp	June 14 th - 17 th	Grades 5-9	Afternoons
Lancer Wrestling Camp	July 14 th - 17 th	Grades 3-8 and 9-12	Mornings
Lancer Volleyball Camp	July 19 th – 22 nd	Grades 5-7 and 8-9	Mornings
Lancer Football Camp	July 26 th – 29 th	Grades 5-8	Mornings

For more information including registration, call MLHS at 682-0215 or visit the Lutheran High website at www.mlhslancers.com.

Mark Fischer, Lead Delegate

ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC

Sunday, June 13, 2010

Silver Creek Park

(at church if weather is bad)

**Worship Service in the park at 10:00 a.m.
English & Hmong Worship Services In Separate Areas**

(bring a chair or blanket to sit on)

Band will play for the worship service

Dinner: (serving will begin shortly after the worship service)

Hamburgers & Bratwurst & Hot Dogs (with condiments & sauerkraut)

Cold Potato Salad & Baked Beans (prepared by the Evening Circle)

Desserts & Pies (prepared by the members of the congregation)

Ice-Cream cones or dished, Coffee & Milk & Soda

Enjoy Your Meal and Stay For the Activities

Activities:

Children's Fish Pond — Noon-1:00 p.m.

Children's Games — 1:00-2:00 p.m.

Softball Game — 2:00 p.m.

Bingo — 2:30 p.m.

Frisbee Golf is also available

Help is needed

- ★ to haul items to the park and set up beginning about 6:30 a.m.
- ★ in the food and dessert stand, at the fish pond and with the children's games.
- ★ to clean-up and transport items back to church at the end of the day
- ★ ***To volunteer your assistance sign up on the sheets in the church lobby.***
- ★ feel free to jump in and help at any time.

Bring the whole family. Invite your friends. All are welcome.