



Yellow Medicine Lutheran Church * ELCA

P. O. Box 119 * 101 Main Street * Hanley Falls, MN 56245

www.yellowmedicinelutheran.org

Pastor Ponderings



September

God Hears the Needy That's the title of a devotion that caught my eye in a book entitled Best-loved Passages of the Bible.

Here's the best loved passage: Psalm 10:17 *You hear, O Lord, the desire of the afflicted; you encourage them, and You listen to their cry.*

This verse tells us with confidence that God hears and listens. When we are afflicted and cry out, God hears. I need that kind of assurance!

I looked up the verse in my Bible to cross check how a different translation might read. That's when my eyes fell on a picture in my study bible. It was a sketch with praying hands, and eyes with tears. That picture went with Psalm 13, a psalm of lament. Did you know that 39% of the psalms are psalms of lament? That tells us that to struggle is part of the human experience. Others have experienced these things too. Lament is praying with tears. Lament is coming before God saying *"How long, O Lord? Will you forget me forever?"* There are times when we are afflicted and we're not sure we're being seen. Is God even listening?

I shared the passage with some of the people in care centers. It was a verse that resonated. I know two couples, both married over 70 years, where the husband and wife have been separated because one needs more care than the other. Now, they aren't even in the same town! That is a reason to lament.

There is a family in our region who just lost their home with all of their belonging to a fire, set by a lighting strike while the Dad and Mom and four sons were away on vacation. That is a reason to lament.

One woman was lamenting having to move from her home into an Assisted Living closer to her daughter because of health concerns. Her beautiful furniture got left behind, along with her books. Now she was far from her friends. She didn't like the food in her new residence. She wasn't very happy. But then she saw a news clip about the homeless population and how many of the elderly homeless, or at risk to become so. Suddenly, she saw how lucky and blessed she was to have a comfortable apartment, people caring for her, and a phone to call her friends back home. She began to practice gratitude, and felt so much better!

I kept reading in Psalm 13.

Consider and answer me, O lord my God; light up my eyes, lest I sleep the sleep of death. vs. 3.

But then, in verse 5 the tone changes.

But I have trusted in your steadfast love; my heart shall rejoice in your salvation. I will sing to the Lord, because he has dealt bountifully with me. Psalm 13 vs. 5 & 6

What happened? What changed? We don't know what got turned around, but somehow things got better for David, the writer of the Psalm 13. Things got turned around. There was a good ending.

This is the story of our faith. There will be a good ending for us too. Our faith will one day be made sight, the tears will be wiped from our eyes. Rev. 21:4 God who raised Jesus from the dead will win the victory for us too. Even now we experience the steadfast love of God.

Do not hesitate to lament and cry out to God, even with tears. Keep the faith that "All shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of thing shall be well." Julian of Norwich, 14th century.

SEPTEMBER 2026
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Issue 8

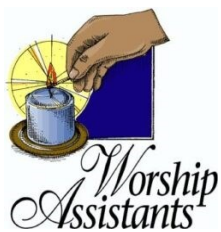
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Bible Study



WOMEN, WE WOULD LIKE TO INVITE YOU TO JOIN US FOR BIBLE STUDY, IN THE CARE CENTER, TUESDAY, September 1 AT 9:30 AM. We will study Session 3, *We need each Other* of the I am worthy study from the Gather magazine of Women of the ELCA. Please pick up your copy in the Narthex or in the Care Center and come join us!



SEPTEMBER ASSIGNMENTS:

Leader:

6 Pastor Sarah Tade
13 Pastor Sarah Tade
20 Gwen Arneson
27 Pastor Sarah Tade

Accompanists:

6 Augusta Volstad
13 Augusta Volstad
20 Emma Gregoire
27 Augusta Volstad

Ushers:

6 Justin Torke
13 Gary Enger
20 Kevin Eye
27 Gary Enger

Lay Readers

6 Pastor Sarah Tade
13 Augusta Volstad
20 Gwen Arneson
27 Julie Volstad

Technology

6 Paige Lehrkamp
13 Julie Volstad
20 Paige Lehrkamp
27 Kevin Eye

Altar Guild:

Jean Nelson-Anderson

Communion Assistant TBD

Funeral Chairs:

Service Team #4 will be in charge of the next funeral. Co-chairs are: Steph Fry at 507-829-6603 and Tanya Lundin at 507-828-3501

ALTAR GUILD MEMBERS NEEDED: If you would like to help with the Altar Guild, please talk to Angie Thostenson at 507-766-0909.

WE ARE LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS TO HELP WITH TECHNOLOGY DURING WORSHIP SERVICES, which includes streaming on Facebook and clicking through the PowerPoint during the service. Contact Kevin Eye if you're interested in learning!

NEW COOKBOOKS AVAILABLE: Is your church cookbook worn out, splattered with various ingredients, missing a cover or pages? You are in luck, for the newly reprinted Favorite Recipes of Yellow Medicine Lutheran cookbook is now available. This is a joint fundraiser between the Yellow Medicine Lutheran and WELCA. Cookbooks are \$10.00. They are for sale at First Independent Bank or please contact Cindy Eye if you would like to purchase one. (507) 768-3547 or ceye@mvtvwireless.com.

YELLOW MEDICINE COUNTY EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION SYSTEM: To receive emergency warnings within Yellow Medicine County, click on the CodeRED logo at the website www.co.ym.mn.gov. You can register to receive community notifications of severe thunderstorms, flash floods, & tornadoes and other emergency information.

September Birthdays!

- 3 Finnley McCoss
- 5 Cody Nelson
- 6 Terri Thostenson
- Freya McCoss
- 8 Nyomi Hustad
- 9 Roger Olson
- 11 Bonnie Gustafson
- Lola Hoseck
- 20 Mark Reishus
- 21 Netta Picard
- Wanda Vance
- 23 Jeff Stevens
- 24 Alan Velde
- 26 Jocelynn Mock
- Otto Gregoire
- 27 Amanda Stengel
- 28 Bruce Ellingson
- Sandra Torke
- Owen Torke



YMLC Stewardship Offerings 13 weeks beginning Sunday, May 31, 2026 and ending Sunday, August 23, 2026

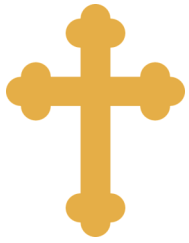
General Fund	\$ 16,811.00
Cemetery Fund	.00
TOTAL OFFERINGS	\$ 16,811.00

Budgeted each week: \$1,566

YTD Budgeted Offering	\$ 53,244.00
YTD Actual Offering	50,288.55
BEHIND OF BUDGET	\$ 2,955.55



Ministerial Acts:



DEATH: Carol Engel died on July 6, 2026 and was buried at the YMLC East Cemetery on July 10th, 2026.

Effective January 1, 2026, cemetery lot prices will increase.

Member: One (1) 4' x 16' grave lot will increase to \$200.00

Non-Member: One (1) 4' x 16' grave lot will increase to \$400.00

Thanks,
YMLC Cemetery Board

Huge thank you to
Skyler Littlecreek
for teaching our
young children
about the Bible
Stories.

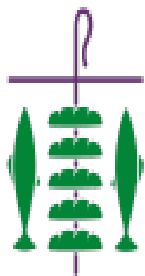


PASTOR SARAH WILL BE OUT
FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION/
SYNOD GATHERINGS A FEW
DAYS IN SEPTEMBER:

Sept. 13th – 15th: Mentor – SAM
Retreat at Shalom Hill Farm

Sept. 27th – 29th: Fall Theological
Conference for all pastors and
rostered leaders of the
Southwestern MN Synod, to be
held at Little Crow Resort, Spicer.

From Shetek Lutheran
Ministries - A very
special THANK YOU for
contributing quilts for
the 40th Annual Shetek
Lutheran Ministries
Quilt Auction. Your
generous gift of time,
talents, creations and
contributions make it
possible for Your camp to
carry out its mission of
providing Christ-
centered learning
experiences for people of
all ages.



THE BANQUET

NEEDED:

The Banquet, a feeding ministry in Sioux Falls where people in need can gather, receive nourishment and experience love in action, requests any donations of empty containers, such as Cool Whip containers, larger yogurt containers, cottage cheese, etc... for leftover food.

A box has been placed in the church entry for any donations. A very sincere THANK YOU for your generosity!

SPECIAL MUSIC

If anyone would like to provide special music, or know of someone who would be willing to provide special music—PLEASE contact one of the worship committee members: Augusta, Emma, Julie, or Colleen.



WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR SEPTEMBER

Sunday Services start at 11:00 am.

Sunday, September 6— Worship in the Sanctuary

Sunday, September 13 — Worship with Holy Communion in the Sanctuary

Sunday, September 20 — Worship in the Sanctuary

Sunday, September 27 — Worship in the Sanctuary



YMLC NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: The newsletter deadline is set for the 20th of the month. Please let Angie know of any additions or changes to the newsletter you would like to make.

Next newsletter deadline is September 20th.

Email Angie at: yellowmedicinelutheranchurch@gmail.com. **If you would prefer to read the newsletter online** (and save printing and mailing costs), please email yellowmedicinelutheranchurch@gmail.com.

Yellow Medicine Lutheran Church

P. O. Box 119
101 Main Street
Hanley Falls, MN 56245
www.yellowmedicinelutheran.org

E-mail:

Yellowmedicinelutheranchurch@gmail.com
Phone Angie at 507-766-0909

Pastor Sarah Tadé—507-589-9308
pastorsarah@granitefallslutheran.com

Tim Velde, Synodically Authorized Minister—
tcvfarm@yahoo.com, 507-828-5343
Gwen Arneson, Synodically Authorized
Minister— gwenarneson@yahoo.com,
612-280-5987



You can find us at
[www.facebook.com/
yellowmedicinelutheran](http://www.facebook.com/yellowmedicinelutheran).

Please notify us when:

There is a birth or
adoption of a child

There is a death in
your family

There is a
hospitalization in
your family

Someone becomes
home bound

Someone becomes
unemployed

You move or get a new
phone number

A child moves out of
the house or
attends college, or
whenever there is a
cause for sorrow or
a cause for joy.

PRAYER LIST:

At YMLC – Del Bresson, Barb Bresson, Kari (Severson)
VanDenHemel, Doug Anderson, Elmo Volstad, Les Reisner, Lola
Hoseck, Bonnie Gustafson
In the Community – Rudy Espinoza, Pastor Larry Olson

(If you know of any changes to the prayer list, please let Angie know. We will have people on the prayer list for a month and then remove them unless we receive an additional request or are given details for longer.)

YMLC EAST & WEST CEMETERY RULES & REGULATIONS

- NO SHRUBBERY SHALL BE ALLOWED.
 - ALL FAMILY DECORATIONS ARE AT THE FAMILY'S OWN RISK AND WILL BE REMOVED AT THE NEXT MOWING.
 - ALL FOOT MARKERS ARE TO BE SET AT GRASS LEVEL TO PRECLUDE EQUIPMENT DAMAGE.
 - IT SHALL BE THE DUTY OF THE SEXTONS TO ENTER UPON ANY LOT OR GRAVE TO PROHIBIT, MODIFY, OR REMOVE AND DISPOSE OF ANY STRUCTURE OR OBJECT WHICH MAY HAVE BEEN PLACED THERE IN VIOLATION OF ANY OF THE RULES AND REGULATIONS SUBMITTED, OR WHICH MAY BE CONSIDERED IN THEIR JUDGMENT TO BE UNSIGHTLY, DANGEROUS, OBJECTIONABLE, OR INTERFERING WITH THE CEMETERY OPERATIONS.
 - FAMILY SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE COST OF SNOW REMOVAL IN THE CASE OF WINTER BURIALS.
- THE CEMETERY BOARD RESERVES THE RIGHT TO CHANGE THESE RULES OR TO MAKE SUCH OTHER RULES AS THEY DEEM NECESSARY FOR THE OPERATION OF THE CEMETERY. NO NOTICE OF SUCH INTENDED CHANGES SHALL BE REQUIRED.

We're on the web!
www.yellowmedicinelutheran.org

Contributions



If you are in need of a new box of contribution envelopes, please contact Angie and she will get you one. But please use the old box until it is empty.

The tithes and donations you make to Yellow Medicine Lutheran Church make a difference to our church and our community. There are various ways you can donate:

- We pass a collection plate during services
- You can send a check to YMLC, P. O. Box 119, Hanley Falls, MN 56245
- Electronic giving is available for 24/7 donations. Just visit www.yellowmedicinelutheran.org under GIVING and press the "DONATE NOW" button.

"Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the first fruits of all your crops."
Proverbs 3:9

Yellow Medicine Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, June 10th, 2026 6:30 pm - Care Center

Present: Rich Hagen, Gary Enger, Will Lecy, Vonnie Severson, Megan McPhail, Pastor Sarah Tade
Absent: Augusta Volstad, Daryl Gregoire, Teresa Oftedahl

1. Meeting called to order by Chairperson Rich
2. Devotions led by Pastor Sarah
3. Agenda approved: Mesa motioned, Gary seconded
4. Approval of Secretary's Minutes: pending submission for April & May
5. Treasurer's Report approved: Will motioned, Gary seconded.
6. Committee Reports: Parish Ed: Ayla is going to Bible camp. Stewardship: none. Worship: outdoor services start Father's Day. Donuts and coffee. P & M: none.
7. Pastor Sarah Report was reviewed.
8. Old Business
 - Parish House door replacement.
 - Church outdoor services will be first Sunday of month
 - Coffee pot purchase: Gary is going to get one at Sam's or Costco.
 - Threshing Show Food Stand: First Responders/Fire Department is taking it over.
 - Cemetery workday update: Got spray quote for weeds – both cemeteries will be sprayed. Animals are causing problems, digging holes (skunks, woodchucks, badgers, not sure).
9. New Business
 - Add order of service for Facebook livestream.
10. Next meeting will be on 6:30 pm Wednesday, August 12th.
11. Adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Augusta Volstad, Secretary

Yellow Medicine Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, August 12th, 2026 at 6:30 pm - Care Center

Present: Augusta Volstad, Vonnie Severson, Megan McPhail, Will Lecy, Gary Enger, Rich Hagen
Absent: Teresa Oftedahl, Daryl Gregoire

1. Meeting called to order by Chairperson Rich.
2. Devotions led by Gary.
3. Agenda approved.
4. Secretary's Minutes approved. Correction to June minutes, item #3: "Mesa" should read "Teresa".
5. Treasurer's Report approved. Negative balance the past two months; may be due to summer attendance. Special Funds Report reviewed.
6. Committee Reports: Parish Ed: Sunday School will start again 8/30/2026. Stewardship: no update. Worship: no update. Property & Management: Will get a quote from Buysse roofing for some shingles & siding that need to be fixed.
7. Pastor Sarah's Report reviewed.
8. Old Business
 - Parish House Door Replacement: Southwest Glass is to get us a quote for replacing these.
 - Coffee Pot Purchase: Gary will look for one at Costco or Sam's Club.
 - Cemetery Work Day Update and Spray Quote: Will be getting quotes for clearing weeds. Will need to schedule a workday to level off the mounds made by critters.
9. New Business
 - Sunday school in the fall: will begin August 30th during worship services (after lessons and Children's Sermon).
 - Need volunteers to help with technology during worship services, which includes streaming on Facebook and clicking through the PowerPoint during the service. Currently have three people rotating each week. Megan McPhail volunteered to be a backup. Ayla Volstad is also interested in helping. Could always use more help. Contact Kevin if interested in learning!
 - Confirmation: We have one child interested in joining (age 13, 8th grade). Recommend looking into GFLC or Christ Lutheran, as that is what others have done in the past, while doing acolyte, sermon notes, lay reading, etc. to continue serving at YMLC home church.
10. Next meeting will be on 6:30 pm Wednesday, September 9. Megan will fill in to take notes.
11. Adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Augusta Volstad, Secretary

Monthly Treasurer's Report - Jun 2026

6/1/2026 through 6/30/2026

8/3/2026

6/1/2026-
6/30/2026

8/3/2026

Monthly Treasurer's Report - Jul 2026

7/1/2026 through 7/31/2026

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Category	6/1/2026- 6/30/2026
INFLOWS	
RECEIPTS	
Easter Lilies	-238.00
General Expense Offerings	5,173.59
TOTAL RECEIPTS	4,935.59
TOTAL INFLOWS	4,935.59
OUTFLOWS	
LOCAL MINISTRY	
Federal & State Withholding	80.00
FICA-Medicare (lay employees)	147.82
MN Paid Family Medical Leave	25.85
Pastor's Salary	2,871.34
Staff Salaries	1,932.58
Travel Expense (Pastor)	72.50
TOTAL LOCAL MINISTRY	5,130.09
OUR CHURCH BUILDING	
Property Upkeep - Church Building	95.37
Utilities & Fuel	104.95
TOTAL OUR CHURCH BUILDING	200.32
WORSHIP & EDUCATION	
e-Giving Transaction Fees	15.00
Office Supplies & Repairs	396.00
TOTAL WORSHIP & EDUCATION	411.00
TOTAL OUTFLOWS	5,741.41
OVERALL TOTAL	-805.82

SAVINGS

Parsonage Sale \$ 30,755.89
Food Stand Profits 9,158.17
Other savings 101,653.23

TOTAL SAVINGS \$ 141,567.29

CHECKING

CHECKING BALANCE AS OF 5/31/26 \$ 3,328.15
CHECKING BALANCE AS OF 6/30/26 2,760.33

TOTAL SAVINGS & CHECKING: \$ 144,327.62

Category	7/1/2026- 7/31/2026
INFLOWS	
RECEIPTS	
General Expense Offerings	15.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS	4,611.53
TOTAL INFLOWS	4,626.53
OUTFLOWS	
LOCAL MINISTRY	
Federal & State Withholding	-40.00
FICA-Medicare (lay employees)	93.40
MN Paid Family Medical Leave	-4.31
Pastor's Salary	2,871.34
Staff Salaries	1,304.83
Supply Pastor Expense	175.00
Travel Expense (Pastor)	58.00
TOTAL LOCAL MINISTRY	4,458.26
OUR CHURCH BUILDING	
New Equipment & Maintenance	480.00
Property Upkeep - Church Building	106.26
Utilities & Fuel	331.33
TOTAL OUR CHURCH BUILDING	917.59
WORSHIP & EDUCATION	
e-Giving Transaction Fees	15.00
Worship Supplies	147.55
TOTAL WORSHIP & EDUCATION	162.55
TOTAL OUTFLOWS	5,538.40
OVERALL TOTAL	-911.87

SAVINGS

Parsonage Sale \$ 30,755.89
Food Stand Profits 9,158.17
Other savings 101,653.23

TOTAL SAVINGS \$ 141,567.29

CHECKING

CHECKING BALANCE AS OF 6/30/26 \$ 2,760.33
CHECKING BALANCE AS OF 7/31/26 1,848.46

TOTAL SAVINGS & CHECKING: \$ 143,415.75

Yellow Medicine Lutheran Church

SEPTEMBER 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Bible Study at 9:30 am in the Care Center	2	3	4	5
6 11:00 am Worship in person or via Facebook live.	7	8	9 YMLC Council meets at 6:30 pm in the Care Center	10	11	12
13 COMMUNION 11:00 am Worship in person or via Facebook live. <i>Pastor Sarah at Mentor- SAM Retreat</i>	14 <i>Pastor Sarah at Mentor-SAM Retreat</i>	15 <i>Pastor Sarah at Mentor-SAM Retreat</i>	16	17	18	19
20 11:00 am Worship in person or via Facebook live. NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 11:00 am Worship in person or via Facebook live. <i>Pastor Sarah at Fall Theological Conference</i>	28 <i>Pastor Sarah at Fall Theological Conference</i>	29 <i>Pastor Sarah at Fall Theological Conference</i>	30			