Dear Fellow Team Members at Prince of Peace,

American football emerged from the European game of Rugby. Walter Camp, a player and coach of Yale University, is recognized as "The Father of American Football" as the early rules of the game were instituted by him. In 1873, the Intercollegiate Football Association was formed by the representatives of Columbia, Rutgers, Princeton, and Yale. Till then, the increasingly popular game was being played with many different rules. The association brought into effect the first set of rules of intercollegiate football which allowed fifteen players in each team. However, it was Walter Camp, a coach at Yale, who began the final process of evolution from rugby like game to what we know today as the American Football. The number of players was reduced to eleven and the standard size of the field was set to hundred and ten yards. A little later, downs were introduced and tackling below the belt was legalized.

While football is not mentioned in the Bible, the application of the team concept does exist. Paul in his letter to the Corinthians relates it this way: " 12 For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. 13 For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit. 14 For the body does not consist of one member but of many. 15 If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. 16 And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. 17 If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? 18 But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. 19 If all were a single member, where would the body be? 20 As it is, there are many parts, yet one body." Though the analysis may seem elementary, the quarterback cannot say to the guard or tackle, I have no need for you. These immense linemen protect the quarterback so that he can run the offense.

What kind of success can a team possess if even one person on the team refuses to fulfill the duties of his position? It would not be successful. It would not be a winning team. Bear Bryant is known to once have said, "I'm just a plowhand from Arkansas, but I have learned how to hold a team together. How to lift some men up, how to calm down others, until finally they've got one heartbeat together, a team. There's just three things I'd ever say: If anything goes bad, I did it. If anything goes semi-good, then we did it. If anything goes real good, then you did it. That's all it takes to get people to win football games for you."

Paul understood the importance of every person on the team. He also warned about getting involved on the wrong team. "Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness? 15 What accord has Christ with Belial? Or what portion does a believer share with an unbeliever?" If the believers, the members of the Christian community, should in any way join with the heathen in their idol worship, if they should associate with them in such a way as to erase the essential difference between Christian and heathen, then this union would be absurd and wicked, with the peril of leading to denial attached, and should therefore not be practiced by the Christian.

For those times we have aligned ourselves with the "wrong" team, we need to confess and seek God's forgiveness. In humility we approach God's throne of grace. With contrite hearts we come to him and apologize for the error of our ways as we followed the patterns of this world. The Good News is: "If we confess our sins, he (God) is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:9) He welcomes us back to himself. We are restored. We are part of His family once again.

In this grace which we now stand Paul welcomes our partnership in the Gospel. He says in his letter to the Philippians: "I remember you always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, 5 because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. 6 And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ." Paul understood and the church today needs to understand that every member is a vital member in the life of her people. There is no one who can say, "I have no need for you." "You are not worth our time." "You are not worth our effort."

If anyone is saying those things to you, please do not listen to them. Listen instead to the Word of God who values every human life. He values the life of the unborn to the centenarian. He values the life of the poor as well as the wealthy. He values the life of the sick and the healthy. Hear God when he says to you: 10 "See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven. 12 What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? 13 And if he finds it, truly, I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. 14 So it is not the will of my Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish. (Matt 18:10-14) Yet it is made most clear in the sending of his only son Jesus. God loved us enough to spare not his own son, but gave him up for us all, so Paul says, he (God) loves us enough to be with us in all things.

He also loves us enough to equip each of us with certain gifts and talents. "Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. 28 And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, helping, administrating, and various kinds of tongues. 29 Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? 30 Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? 31 But earnestly desire the higher gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way." As redeemed children of God, we seek to serve Him. We us the gifts he has given to each of us for the extending of His Kingdom and the blessing of His people. You all are part of His team. You all are important! Together we can make this "school" year an awesome success to the Lord's Glory!

Your fellow coach and teammate,
Pastor Steven K. Benson

Board of Education

August 5, 2026

Members: Kari Johnson, Sue Macek, Pastor Benson

Pastor Benson began the meeting with prayer. June minutes were approved as written.

Library: We have a new book written by Shannan Martin titled, "Start With Hello" (And other simple ways to live as neighbors). This book is your field guide to a life of security and joy. It is a love letter to your community and a call to hospitality. It is easy reading.

St. Paul: First day of school for M-W-F Pk 3 and 4 on 8/31, Pk 3 T-Th on 9/1, Kindergarten - eighth grade is 8/26.

Catechism and Sunday School report: We will start Unit 4 of the Concordia curriculum covering stories from the Old Testament. Sunday School will resume on 9/13. We will also include the Lord's Prayer, Books of the Bible, and the Ten Commandments through the year. The mission for the year will go to Mission Central, Mapleton, IA.

Family Fellowship report: Pending the pastoral call

Wednesday Bible Study: Pending the pastoral call

Cradle Roll: Two children have aged out of the cradle roll and were added to the Sunday School roll.

Old Business: Thanks to all the helping hands at Rev Jerry Raether's retirement dinner.

New business: A great welcome to Rev Steve Benson for assisting our congregation.

Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer. Meeting adjourned at 5:40 pm. Next meeting is Sept 2nd at 5:15 pm.

Sue Macek
Chairman

Lutheran Women's Fellowship

August 6, 2026

The Lutheran Women's Fellowship met on August 6 at noon potluck. Eleven members and eight guests attended noon potluck and guest speaker event. Guest speaker, Tiffany Peterson, of OBRIA presented and handed out informational material on services provide in their new medical facility at 3 N 17 th St., Suite 2, Fort Dodge.

Committee reports:

Treasurer: $143.36 in checking, $2,212.06 in savings, and $2,222.57 In Lutheran Extension Fund.
Card Counter Checking: $764.08.
Funeral Fund: $2,807.85.

Upcoming September:
September 3 Meeting: Hostess; Louellen, Nancy Herzberg
September Funeral Committee: Sally Zuspann, Sue Macek
Shut-ins Birthday: Billie Jo Matter
Birthdays: Missy Husseman, Louellen Steckelberg, Sally Zuspann

LaVonne Peters

Secretary

The Lutheran Women's Missionary League and the Sewing Group are hosting a quilt, craft, and bake sale on Saturday, October 10, 2026, from 10:00a to 2:00p. We will be serving sloppy joes, chips, bars, and beverages for a free will offering. Proceeds go to Obria Medical Clinics, The SALT Center, and Home Missions.

We will have sign up sheets for helpers or for donations of crafts or baked goods. Make sure prices are marked on items.

Vicky Escobedo and Nancy Herzberg

ORGAN FUND UPDATE

Received in 2024	$28,453.15
Received in 2025	$ 6,505.00
2026 YTD Received	$ 1,120.00
Reimbursed to Foundation	$31,000.00
Organ Fund	$ 6,298.15

ATTENDANCE

Sunday	Worship	Communion
8/2	41	
8/9	39	31
8/16	34	
8/23	36	32
8/30		

SEPTEMBER

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Buffy Brookshire -(9/4), Sally Zuspann -(9/4), Austin Andrews -(9/5), Billie Jo Matter -(9/7), Myles Trost -(9/7), Susan Baedke -(9/9), Tabatha Sundermeyer -(9/10), Louellen Steckelberg -(9/12), Sandra Schaumburg -(9/16), Missy Huseman -(9/20), Keven O'Brien -(9/20), Jerilyn Maher -(9/27), Molly Elsberry -(9/29), and Pat Waddell -(9/30).

Pat & Linda Wrede	9/5	29th
Mason & Payton Waddell	9/20	1st
Melvin & Jean Martinson	9/23	54th
Doug & Angie Vinson	9/30	31st

Membership Report for August 2026

GAIN

Confirmed +

Baptized +

LOSS

Confirmed -1

Baptized –1

Communicant =153
Baptized (not confirmed) =47
Total baptized souls =200

Financial Report August 2026

Income (Offerings)

Home/Current $7942.50, Missions Budget $127.50, Loose Offerings 3, Special Offering $93, Miscellaneous $, Organ Fund $1220.

Total Offerings $9386

Expenses

astor $, Payroll $, Organist $, Pastoral Expenses $, Ministry Ex-enses $, Computer/Internet $190.72, Church Supplies $, Water 116.36, Pest Control $42.00, Gas & Electric $764.00, Sanitation 42.80, Property Repairs $, Miscellaneous $ W/H Tax $, Missions 127.50, Charities $93, Advertising $.

otal Expenses $8538.03
et Income $ 847.97