

Congregational Clarion

A M E R Y C O N G R E G A T I O N A L U C C

Benefits of worship

We go to church to be with others who either know God or wish to know God. The church is a place of acceptance, friendship and fellowship. It's a place to honor and worship our loving Creator who accepts us as family.



In church we pray to God, sing about God, hear God's Word for us and find support and direction for whatever challenges face us. In church we find comfort in our sorrow, encouragement in our struggles and the Holy Spirit's assurance that "all things work together for good for those who love God" (Romans 8:28, NRSV).

"Healthy" Spirituality

While studying elderly people and their immune systems, Duke University scientists discovered that senior adults who attend worship regularly have healthier immune systems than those who don't attend regularly.

And at the University of California, Los Angeles, a study showed that college students who participate in religious activities have better emotional and mental health than those with no religious involvement. A high degree of spirituality correlated with high self-esteem.

Participating in worship and other church activities appears to boost not only your spiritual health but also your physical and mental health. Make a commitment to stay involved — even in the busy summer months. Content Credit: <https://www.churchart.com/subscriber/content/search?term=june>

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Being a male species does not make a man a father, for a dad is a special blend of hero; disciplinarian; a friend; someone to look up to; someone to model ... someone with a touch of the "mother" in him; someone who is big enough to say, "The fault was mine" ... someone who lives the kind of life that makes you want to say, "I, too, shall follow him!"

—Alton Kaul

An Important Message from the Trustees

As you may have heard, Rev. Dana Caldwell has submitted her resignation to serve our church. We are now in a time of transition while we decide what to do next as a congregation. That process has already started. A church meeting with Michael Jones, an Associate Pastor of the Northwest Conference took place March 28th with approximately 25 church members in attendance. Michael shared with us what our next steps could be, and it was decided at this time not to consider an interim Pastor, but to continue Preaching the Gospel with a rotation of church members. You can read more about that arrangement in the commentary below. It was also decided to take a step back, do some personal contemplation and prayer and start this process in earnest after the June Mission Trip with a small team reviewing the existing Church Profile then moving on to putting together a search committee for a called pastor. In the interim, we must remember that our church is ultimately led by Jesus Christ, the Good Shepherd, so we are not without any pastor (pastor means shepherd in case you hadn't thought about that).

We know what we have to do at this time:

Preaching the Gospel. We have several members who will share this task including Chad Leonard, Abby Betzold, Colleen Kwong, Barry Tulkki and Adam Tulkki. The Diaconate can also obtain supply pastors from a list available through the NW Association of the UCC. We currently have preaching covered for all Sundays through June. If you are interested in making even a brief testimonial at a service about what your faith has meant to you, please contact Barry Tulkki.

Chris Lindee continues to be the director of music, so come and sing together, and let her know if you want to do any other musical performances at our worship.

Visiting the sick or distressed. Nyla Anderson of the Diaconate has agreed to be the point person to make sure anyone in hospital care, congregational care, sick at home, or in need of Pastoral Care get attention from our church members. You can contact Nyla at 715-554-3297. The Diaconate sees this as their role—they may ask others to do some visiting or calling. We are all part of the Body of Christ. If you know of people who need pastoral care, call the church office 715-268-7390 or Nyla.

Connecting with Youth. Abby Betzold is our Youth Coordinator and continues to work on providing programming for our youth. She may call on you for help.

Staying Connected with each other. This is a time to stick together, worship together, and talk to each other. The church is not the building; it is the inhabitants!

Bible Study Group/Adult Studies continues to meet under the leadership of Rae Wooldridge.

Mission Team is still going strong.

All Boards and Committees have local leaders and continue to do their work.

We need everyone's continued support for our church. We have everything we need to function at this time if we work together and communicate.

Barry Tulkki and Dave Bowman



Find us on Facebook at Amery Community VBS for registration details

JOIN US

AMERY COMMUNITY VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL!

June 8th-12th, 2025
5-7:30pm - Dinner Provided!
Our Savior's Lutheran Church - Amery, WI
Hosted by Amery Ministerium
Open to youth Pre-K through 5th Grade!

****Amery Community Vacation Bible School: Save the dates! June 8th-12th held at Our Savior's Lutheran Church this year! If you are able to help with the Wednesday evening meal please let Abby Betzold know!

One summer afternoon, a grandfather picked up his 4-year-old grandson at church. "Well, Jason, how did you like your first day of vacation Bible school?"

"It was great!" the boy replied. "We heard some stories and drew some pictures. Then we went out to play, and when we came back in God had juice and cookies waiting for us!"



A huge Thank You to all who helped make this year's Dinner Theater a HUGE success! All three nights entertained a full house (minus one seat on opening night.) of eager viewers who shouted praises at the end of each evening meal and performance. It was so rewarding to not only raise money for the upcoming Mission Trip, but to also see the results of many volunteer hours on stage, backstage, in the trenches and in the kitchen. Thank you ALL!



Cast of "Arrivals & Departures"

Plan on attending these special Sunday Services

***June 15th: Send Off Service 10 am

In June 2025, the Congo Mission Team will embark on our 25th annual Habitat for Humanity mission trip. This year the team will be traveling to La Crosse, Wisconsin, where we will spend one week working for the local Habitat for Humanity affiliate. In the past, the mission team has worked on a wide variety of building and remodeling projects, ranging from demolition to foundation work, framing, roofing, siding, painting, landscaping, and more. 164 unique individuals have participated in these Congo Mission Team builds over the last 24 years. Thank you for supporting this legacy of service!

***June 22nd: Come Back Service 10 am

****Please Note:
No Adult Studies during June and July**

Upcoming Meetings At A Glance

June 1: 9 am Diaconate
11:15 am Christian Educations
June 8: 11:15 Missions and Social Concerns
June 11: 7 pm Trustees Meeting
June 22: 9 am Congo Giving
June 29: 9 am Church Event Planning Mtg





Come help support hungry kids!

BACKPACK BASH

AMERY FIRE HALL
101 KELLER AVE. S.

Friday June 6th 4:30pm–7:00pm

FREE WILL DONATIONS AT THE EVENT OR MAIL DONATIONS
P.O. BOX 129 CLEAR LAKE, WI 54005

DUNK TANK
BOUNCE HOUSE
HOSE SPRINKLERS

 THE SALVATION ARMY

SILENT AUCTION
BAKE SALE
PRIZE DRAWINGS
50/50 DRAWING
FOOD & FUN

 LIVE MUSIC

 715-912-2834  amy.clay@usc.salvationarmy.org

Salvation Army Backpack Bash

Many of you may be semi-familiar, or have heard of the Backpack Bash, but maybe don't know a whole lot about it. This program supports all of Polk County by sending home backpacks full of nutritious food with students in need on weekends. Many of these students may not have a good source of food other than their school lunches so this allows families to stay fed all week long. This program, while providing an important service, does have its costs, that's where the Backpack Bash comes in!

This is a community event that has many opportunities to support the program. You can attend and donate free will for the supper provided, bid on silent auction items, or take place in a variety of raffles. You can also participate in helping make the event successful—one way I'm helping with is trying to round up items for the silent auction. Do you do something unique? Maybe you do woodworking, sewing, quilting? Or, do you just enjoy putting together a cute themed basket? If you would like to donate something to the silent auction you can either coordinate with me, or bring it to the Amery Fire Hall on the day of the event between 12:30-4 pm. Another way we are looking for support with this event is through baked goods. If you like to bake and would like to drop off goodies, please do so between 12:30-4 pm the day of the event as well!

I hope you'll consider helping make this event a success by either attending or donating something, or both! If you'd still like to support, but these option don't work for you please feel free to send a check to: The Salvation Army, PO Box 129, Clear Lake, WI 54005 and include in the memo of your check, "Backpack program".

Thank you and please reach out to me with any additional questions! Abby Betzold 715-641-2237

The Joy of Generosity

He who has received much should also give much. It is essential to give a goodly part of what God has allowed us to accumulate. Otherwise greed and miserliness will seize our hearts and minds. Furthermore, by not giving generously, we will miss the many joys that generosity brings to us. Let us not cheat ourselves of those blessings.



Rae Wooldridge	06/07
Laura Rau	06/10
Nancy Sigsworth	06/16
Emma Rose Dusek	06/20
Bill Faughn	06/22
Samantha Ross	06/27
Gabriella Moody	06/28

****Church Event Planning Meeting Sunday, June 29th 9 am

Join us to help look at the year ahead and plan what activities, church dinners, and larger events we want to do this upcoming year and when we'd like to do them! We invite everyone to come and help us look at the year ahead.

Other Special Dates in June

- Pentecost, *June 8, 2025*
- Flag Day, *June 14, 2025*
- Trinity Sunday, *June 15, 2025*
- Father's Day, *June 15, 2025*
- Juneteenth, *June 19, 2025*
- First day of summer, *June 20, 2025*

The Unseen Pain: A Grandparent's Heartache When Their Child Gives Up a Baby for Adoption

By Rae Wooldridge

On the Saturday before Mother's Day, my daughters, Amy and Traci, and I attended a brunch to honor birth mothers. Amy and I were there to support Traci who had placed her child for adoption. The panel of speakers consisted of young women sharing their experiences of choosing adoption to provide a better life for their babies and to allow themselves to move forward with their lives.

Notably absent were testimonies from another group of women—those like Traci, who dealt with mental health issues and addiction. While there remains considerable stigma associated with mental health illnesses and addiction, it was far more pronounced 40 years ago. During that time, depression was rarely recognized in children, let alone bipolar or borderline personality disorders. Traci did not give up her baby so she could move forward, she placed her baby because she was afraid of herself and doubted her own future.

Also notable to me is there were no testimonies from grandparents. The decision to place a child for adoption can be one of the most challenging choices parents face. However, the emotional ripple effect extends beyond the immediate parents, deeply affecting the grandparents, who often experience their unique form of grief and loss. I really think this is an important issue to be addressed at future events.

When a child informs their parents—the soon-to-be grandparents—that they are considering adoption, the news can be profoundly distressing. Even as they acknowledge the altruistic nature of the choice, grandparents often imagine a future that could have been filled with the joy and love of their grandchildren. While I felt great pride in my daughter for knowing that she was not ready or able to give up her alcohol and drugs, I still had the longing to hold my first granddaughter, watching her staring steadily at me to memorize the features of someone who would always make her feel safe and loved. I imagined her sweet, milky breath and the scent of Johnson and Johnson baby shampoo. Realizing that I would not witness her milestones or be able to do some grandparental over indulging of my granddaughter was heartbreaking. I would miss supporting and encouraging her through life challenges and showing her unconditional and unending love.

As the reality of the adoption decision sets in, grandparents like my husband and myself, may grapple with profound feelings of loss and grief. These emotions can be akin to bereavement, as they mourn the loss of a relationship that will never fully develop. The anticipation of bonding with a new grandchild, sharing family traditions, and watching the child grow disappear, leaving an emotional void.

A common yet seldom-discussed emotion among grandparents in this situation is guilt. They may question their own actions, wondering if different choices could have prevented this outcome. This self-blame can be compounded by societal expectations and perceived judgment from others. Grandparents may feel isolated, struggling to find a safe space to express their feelings without fear of criticism. I never did seek or receive much needed help in dealing with these emotions because it took years to bring up the subject without breaking down into uncontrollable, ugly, snot running down to my shoes, sobbing. I know there was a couple out there who was given an incredible gift, but it was certainly at an emotional cost to our family.

Traci managed to overcome her addiction through prayer and her faith in God. She continues to manage her mental health issues day by day. I know she feels the loss of her daughter and often fears that her child does not want to find her due to possible harsh judgment picked up from the attitude of the adoptive parents. I worry that the mental health disorders, inherited from both our families, could have manifested in Traci's child. If so, I wonder how the adoptive parents handled it. Were they supportive and understanding? Is my grandchild still alive? Is she happy? I am 80 years old and the chances of knowing the answers to these questions are slim and getting slimmer as every year passes – as does the chance of ever holding my granddaughter and being able to tell her I never stopped loving her.

It has been approximately 40 years since Traci decided to place her baby for adoption. I hope her faith helps her cope and that she understands that her decision provided a blessing to a couple unable to conceive on their own. God used Traci in a special way. I hope her emotional scars, while never completely healed, have faded and softened. I pray that she understands the pride I feel in her.

My wound, however, must keep a tough, tough scar. One that never opens. If it did open, even a little, I am certain my heart would fall out.

Blessings,
Rae

If you have a story, poem, experience or advice you would like to share with your church family, email the office at: office.ameryucc@gmail.com

Council Meeting Held May 18, 2025

Attendance: Beth Leonard, Maralyn Salah, Nyla Anderson, Sherry Monson, Sandy Morris, Chad Leonard, Dave Bowman

The meeting opened in prayer led by Nyla A.

Motion to accept April Minutes made by Sandy M. and seconded by Dave B. Passed.

Financial/Treasure Report: Chad L. reported income is low. If needed, we can dip into the reserve fund. The furnace/boiler was an unexpected expense. For at least a few months we will have no pastor salary and insurance costs. We still are controlling expenses. A motion to accept the financial/treasure report was made by Dave B. and seconded by Sandy M. Passed.

Clerk's Report: Sandy M. reported no change in membership. Currently at 145 members.

Board of Trustee: Dave B. reported the following:

Discussed filling Pastor position

Called Mike Jones for assistance moving forward.

Asked Dana C. to be out of the office by May 31.

Catherine O. will be the point of contact for people needing visits and will funnel it out to Nyla A.

New bathroom doors have been installed.

The lock on the Pastor's door is still not working.

Gutters will be installed on the south side of the Sanctuary

They are waiting on bids to plant Maple trees along the south side of the green space.

The code on the Birch Street door will be changed.

Dave B. read a letter from our Lawyer handling the Granum Trust.

Board of Christian Education: Abby B. reported last week was the last Firestarter's & Breakfast Club for the school year. The last adult bible study will be May 27. There will be an Italian cooking class led by Peter Kwong after the study. VBS will be June 8-12 led by the Wapo Staff.

Board of Diaconate: Nyla A. reported the following items:

Plans made for Congregational care. Nyla A will be the point person for members and non-members needing home visits. Barry T., Penny C., and Vonnie N. will help with those needs.

Upcoming services will be led by: Barry T. (May 11), Chad L. (May 18), Abby B (May 25), Pulpit Supply (June 1), Colleen K. (June 8), Mission Team (June 15), Mission Team (June 22), Hymn sing and testimonial by Nyla A. (June 29).

It was brought up at council, has anyone contacted the Funeral Home that we are currently without a pastor?

Board of Congregational Giving: Maralyn S. reported that Evie Porter's leaf is up on the Memorial tree. June 29th will be Noisy Kettle and the money will be given to the Wild River Habitat for Humanity. Maralyn S. will send a condolence card on behalf of the church to Judy Sigsworth whose husband passed away. Judy was a member of our church for quite a few years.

Board of Mission and Social Concerns: No report.

Pastor Report: None.

Old Business: None.

New Business:

Chad L. was going to check to see if the Catalyst grant for the Block Party could be given directly to the school Mental Health Program if we decide not to have the Block Party or have a scaled down version of the Block Party

A meeting will be held on June 29th at 9:00 am to discuss what activities the church wants to tackle in the next year like fundraisers, etc.

A meeting with Mike Jones will be held on Wednesday evening.

Next Meeting: July 20th at 8:00 am.

Motion made by Dave B and seconded by Maralyn S to adjourn. Passed

Submitted by Sherry Monson, Recording Secretary



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:00am Diaconate Meeting 10:00am Sunday Worship-Communion 11:15am Christian Ed. Mtg	2 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open 6:30pm Boy Scouts	3 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open	4 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open	5 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open	6 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open Backpack Bash 4:30—7 pm Amery Fire	7
8 9:00am Mission Team Meeting 10:00am Sunday Worship 5:00pm - 7:00pm Amery Community Vacation Bible School	9 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open 5:00pm - 7:00pm Amery Community Vacation Bible School 6:30pm Boy Scouts	10 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open 5:00pm - 7:00pm Amery Community Vacation Bible School	11 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open 5:00pm - 7:00pm Amery Community Vacation Bible School 7:00pm Trus-	12 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open 5:00pm - 7:00pm Amery Community Vacation Bible School	13 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open	14
15 10:00am Mission Trip Send Off Service 11:15am Missions & Social Concerns Mtg.  Father's Day	16 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open 6:30pm Boy Scouts	17 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open 5:00pm Gaither Video	18 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open	19 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open	20 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open	21
22 9:00am Congo Giving Mtg 10:00am Mission Trip Come Back Service	23 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open 6:30pm Boy Scouts	24 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open	25 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open	26 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open	27 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open	28
29 10:00am Sunday Worship –Noisy Kettle Offering-Hymn Sing 9 am Event Planning Meeting	30 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open 6:30pm Boy Scouts	1 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open	2 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open	3 10:00am - 2:00pm Office Open	4 Office Closed 4th of July	5

