

# Living Gospel Church

www.livinggospelchurchrio.org

Simply Living the Gospel

July 2025

## God Bless America

**Psalm 33: 10-12 NIV** <sup>10</sup>**The Lord foils the plans of the nations; he thwarts the purposes of the peoples. <sup>11</sup>But the plans of the Lord stand firm forever, the purposes of his heart through all generations. <sup>12</sup>Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people he chose for his inheritance.**

The principles upon which the United States was founded are deeply intertwined with the concept of divine providence and individual liberty. Many of the Founding Fathers, while diverse in their personal beliefs, often spoke of a higher power's role in the nation's destiny. They believed that true freedom was not merely the absence of oppression, but the ability to live according to one's conscience, guided by moral principles. In the Declaration of Independence, it is asserted that all men are "endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights." These sentiments reflect a common understanding among the nation's founders that the strength and longevity of the republic depended not just on its governmental structures, but on the moral character and spiritual grounding of its citizens. This legacy reminds us that the pursuit of freedom and the recognition of a benevolent God have been central to the development of America from its very beginning.

***"God bless America, land that I love. Stand beside her and guide her through the night with the light from above. From the mountains to the prairies. To the oceans white with foam. God bless America, my home sweet home."***

We all know the lyrics to this song and most likely sing it with great love for our country and all it stands for. This song was written by Irving Berlin who was born in Russia in 1888 and originally named Israel Baline. He and his family fled to America to escape

Russian persecution of Jews. They arrived in New York in 1893 and made Manhattan their home.

Irving went on to serve in our US Army and penned this song while stationed at an Army camp during WWI. Much like many hymns we sing, this song is truly a prayer put into a melody. **This prayer is from the heart of an immigrant who experienced what it meant to live among the free and believed a country that followed God would remain in His blessing.**

This is a powerful message, reminding us where to put our hope and trust in those dark or uncertain times. This independence day, and throughout our lives may the words of this song and the heartfelt prayers of an immigrant be on our lips. May we also believe as we are faithful, our God will always watch over us. May we pray for American hearts to return to serve our God faithfully, for blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord.



### July Birthdays

Lloyd Buchmeier	July 2
Brittany Sugden	July 3
Lois Thurber	July 8
Nick Kuenzli	July 17
Riley Landsverk	July 19
Reese Landsverk	July 21
Lexi Landsverk	July 27

### July Anniversaries

Rick & Shari Kleist	July 14
Gary & Cindy Waterworth	July 23

## July Mission Focus

### Filling Backpacks Making a Difference

*Proverbs 22:6 "Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it."*

The "Filling The Backpacks" initiative continues to be a cornerstone of community support for Rio Community schools. This program stands as a testament to the generosity of individuals and organizations, ensuring that every student has the necessary supplies to thrive academically.

Beyond alleviating financial stress for families, the program fosters an environment where all students start the school year on equal footing. This commitment extends to teachers as well, providing them with essential classroom supplies.

Our July mission focus is dedicated to this vital program. We invite you to contribute either in person or online. Please remember to designate your donation with "backpacks" to ensure proper allocation of funds. Your continued support makes a profound impact on the lives of students and educators in our community. If you would like to give a direct donation, you can do so with the information below. Checks Made Payable to: Rio Community Event Fund, 207 Lincoln Ave, PO Box 276, Rio, WI 53960.

### Upcoming Events

Communion Sunday      July 6th

Potluck Sunday      July 6th  
At the home of Dawn Keepes N5307 State  
Road 78 Portage WI 53901  
(About 2 miles down from the Petro Truck  
Stop on the right hand side.)

Library Lunch      July 14, 16 & 18th

Ladies Prayer Group      July 16th @ 9am

### Pastor Karrie Sabbatical

Beginning July 7th and going through August 4th Pastor Karrie will be on Sabbatical. This is a time for her to rest, refresh, and reflect on what God is calling her to do.

During this time, and truly at any time, know that the Church is a family! As such, we are all here to help one another and lift each other up. You can, and should reach out to your brothers and sisters of Christ for encouragement and guidance. Additionally, Pastor David Lusse has agreed to be a Pastoral support, should anyone have the need.  
Pastor David Lusse 608-206-1559

### Rio Summer Lunch Program

**How it works...** Lunch will be served three times a week (M, W, F) at the library. All youth, 18 years old and under, are welcome to participate, regardless of their school enrollment status. Volunteer teams, in coordination with the library director, arrange to deliver and serve prepared lunches at the library at a designated time. All are welcome to participate, and no questions asked.

**How Can You Help?** Living Gospel Church is signed up to provide "Lunch at the Library" the week of July 14th - July 18th. Ideally, volunteers would meet at the church around 11 am on the designated days and prepare the lunches. At approximately 11:45 am, the volunteers would go to the library to assist with setting up and prepare to serve lunch. Generally speaking, cleanup can begin at around 12:30 and does go fairly quick. If you are interested in assisting with either the coordinating or the serving, please reach out to Deb [neurohrdeb@gmail.com](mailto:neurohrdeb@gmail.com)

**Thank you for supporting this community event and blessing the children!**