

The Window

On a journey with the living Christ;
connecting with God, others, and the world.



June 2019

Servant Sunday - May 5, 2019

One of the dear ladies we visited was so excited to sit down and talk with us. Her faith is strong. She can no longer drive, so she is going with friends to their church. She said it isn't necessarily everything

she would want, but she is so thankful to just be able to worship God. So she considers the details of service insignificant as compared to her chance to worship God.

She also shared that her husband died two years ago on Christmas day. She said through her tears she told God that her husband was her Christmas gift to him and then she thanked



him for sharing her husband with her for sixty-five years. Her faith helped grow my faith that day as I listened to her stories.

Our whole group gathered round her and held hands and prayed for strength for her when she is lonely and to remember she is never alone. God is always there.

I am so glad we got to meet her. I told her I would come back and check on her roses that we worked on. *Peg Shirley*

"I think it is a great experience to get out and serve those that need a little extra help. Even though they may not be able to do the work themselves anymore, they have not lost the pride they take in their yards and neighborhood. It is fun to hear their stories about how the area has grown and changed over the years. Everyone is so thankful for the services we are able to provide." *Tim Weller*



continued on page 2

The Cross of Jesus Christ

by Pastor Emad Tawadrous

The conception of the cross of the Roman Empire was a symbol of a murder weapon to kill criminals, social outcasts and outlaws. The crucifixion was lifted up in a high place so that everyone might see it to bring fear into the hearts of all who saw it.

Also the crucifixion for Jews was a curse and divine wrath as the Holy Bible says in Galatians 3:13 *"Cursed is everyone who is hung up on a pole."* So the word *cross* meant criminality, breaking the law and cursing.

So the question is, Why did Jesus die on the cross? The testimony of the Roman Empire was *"I find no basis for a charge against him."* (John 18:38) Also, the centurion said *"Truly this was the son of God."* (Matthew 27:54.)

So my dear reader, if Jesus wasn't a mistake, why did Jesus die on the cross?

The answer is:

The story of the cross of Jesus was God's plan for redemption of mankind from condemnation. Through the cross, Jesus Himself reconciled all the nations into one body with God.

Ephesians 2:16 *"... and one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross by which he put to death their hostility."* Also, through the cross of Jesus the divine love and divine worth met together so Jesus on the cross did pay for our sins.

Col 1:14 *"In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sin."* Also, through the cross of Jesus God showed his great love to all the world.

John 3:16 *"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."*

Despite the great love story on the cross the world refused it and they considered the cross a dramatic play and persecuted all the believers in him.

In the year 303, during the period of the Roman Empire, Diocletian burned thousands of holy Bibles, churches, and crosses and thousands of Christians were killed for the cross.

When Islam occupied the Middle East (previously Christian countries) thousands of holy Bibles, churches and crosses were burned and thousands of Christians were killed for the cross of Jesus, too. You will be against the flow if you try to explain about the meaning of the cross of Jesus to Muslims and you might go to prison.

So the cross of Jesus became shame and accusation to many Christians in the world.

What is the Bible teaching us?

The Bible teaches us to bear witness to love and peace between God and mankind to all the world through the cross of Jesus.

No matter the cost!

"May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world."

(Galatians 6:14)

PNC Update by William Scheopner

In the book of Esther, King Xerxes, at the prompting of an advisor named Haman issues a decree to exterminate the Jewish people. A Jewish official named Mordecai discovers the plot and informs his cousin, Queen Esther. He begs Esther to go before the king in order to save the people of Israel. There is a catch, though. It is against the law for anyone, even the queen, to go before the king without being summoned. While Esther is weighing the potential consequence of appearing before the king uninvited, she asks Mordecai to encourage the Jews to join her in her deliberation.

Esther 4:16 "Go and gather all the Jews of Susa and fast for me. Do not eat or drink for three days, night or day."

The same spirit of unity Esther encouraged as she gathered the strength to appear before Xerxes applies to the West Hills pastor search process. We on the PNC ask you to join us in united prayer over this entire process as you did on May 23rd. Set aside some time each day to pray for the next pastor of West Hills. Pray for continued unity on the PNC in our discernment process as we evaluate candidates and move closer to selecting the next Senior Pastor for West Hills.

Pray for the next pastor and his or her family. Pray for a smooth transition as they settle into a new normal at West Hills. Pray that God is preparing his or her heart for what He has in store for West Hills next.

Pray for the West Hills family. Pray we would remain open to the Holy Spirit's work in our midst. Pray that we would accept change as we move into the next chapter of our story. Pray that we will embrace our next leader and their family and engage in relationship with them quickly.

Pray that we will continue to follow the path God has set for us in this search. And pray for the future of West Hills as we embark on the grand adventure God has in store for us as we work for His glory.

The rest of the story is familiar. The people join Esther in prayer, she goes before King Xerxes, he hears her plea and reverses the decree. God rescued the people of Israel, and at the center of the story is prayer and preparation. God has great things in store for us at West Hills - let's keep prayer at the center.



The poster features a photograph of a group of people, many wearing purple shirts, holding colorful flowers. The text on the right side of the poster reads: "Alzheimer's Seminar", "Saturday June 8, 2019", "9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.", "Presented by The Alzheimer's Association Nebraska Chapter", and "FREE Event!". At the bottom, it says "Sponsored by West Hills Church Stephen Ministers" and includes a small graphic of colorful flowers.

Servant Sunday

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Thank all who did my yard work Sunday May 5th. Everyone was so very nice and pleasant to me and they all worked very very hard. What a great group of people thank you also for your prayers. The Lord bless me in so many ways thanks to people like you. Thank you again and the Lord bless you all.

*Barbara Johnson
5/10/17*

"This was the first time for me to be a team leader for Servant Sunday. My wife Linda and I comprised the whole team! It was fortunate for us to have a location that was close to our home and an active homeowner to help with the work! One of the great benefits was that we got to know Dee Buckley better. We enjoyed her nice home and beautiful yard. The work we did was in the flower beds that included weeding and mulching. Dee was right there with us! There was an invasive plant that was trying to take over the flower bed. It was a tough one to remove but we persevered. I also got a water fountain reconnected. It is now working great! Servant Sunday is a great opportunity to reach out to others." *Terry Gadwood*

Silent Retreat in June



One of the most common reasons women give for not attending our Women's Silent Retreats year after year is their belief that "There's no way I could be silent for that long!" Those who have used this excuse in the past, but attended at the urging of their friends, have been heard to say over and over again on Sunday after the retreat ends, "I don't want it to stop! I don't want to talk, the silence brought me so much peace and closeness to Jesus." That is the reason the silent retreats have continued for so many years. Once you give into the silence, and let go of yourself, you don't want the sound of speech.

Often, if there is another group at St. Benedict Center where the retreats are held, their "chatter" can be overwhelming and one may seek refuge by walking around the beautiful lake, or meandering into the hills, or going to the centers' wonderful library, where silence is golden.

The retreat this year will be held June 21-23, and for \$125 you will receive your own private room and bath, delicious meals, and the opportunity to connect with HIM from Friday at 7 p.m. to Sunday morning...just the two of you enjoying one another without cell phones, computers, emails or deafening noise that can prevent you from the connection we all need in our busy world.

The **registration deadline is June 9**, but if you missed it, you might want to call or email Linda Springsted at 402-290-4704 or linda@springsted.net to see if she can "squeeze" you in. You won't regret it!

Spiritual Correspondence

by Jana Prescott



(God Calling, May 1). God) was being, as usual, very direct. I'm sure all of you have had some kind of delay in your life. Something that has become so easy to accept can turn into something you never expected. Think about things changing television channels, or painting something, or typing something (I'm an expert at hitting an 'h' when I wanted a 'g'!) Making mistakes, basically delaying a task, can definitely cause us to hurt our feelings. But Jesus is right with us, leading us to a new understanding that what we think of as a mistake could easily be a chance to let Christ lead us to where He wants us to be: with Him. Delay is sometimes inevitable. You must realize that our lives are intricately intertwined with others, and closely bound to others by circumstances.

God's Servants

by Peg Shirley, Elder - Mission

Galatians 6:2 *"Carry each other's burdens and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ."*

On Saturday, April 20, our church responded to the need of two West Hills families who were impacted by the flood: Kayla Wilson and her parents, Tom and Kelly Wilson. Kayla and her sister Kylee found their homes destroyed in the mobile home park. Tom and Kelly found their home damaged and their mobile home business destroyed by the Nebraska floods. There is much work to be done and six of our congregation members stepped up and volunteered for clean-up work at their property.

Kayla's parents' home was built in 1886 and was a hotel and saloon.



In the 1880s a railroad station was just across the train tracks, which ran near their home. The home has been owned by the Wilson family since the 1930s. This is where family memories have been built and it is precious to them. They want to reclaim it from the flood waters and make it home again. The mobile home park is their livelihood and mission field and it is in jeopardy. Please pray that they will get permission to rebuild it.

Ron Gatzke coordinated the work crew that included Fred Picavet, Terry and JoAnne Topolski, Paul Bates, and Bob Drake. The comment shared by one of the crew was, "We spent 3½ hours of fun filled destruction. While five of the crew were enjoying the destruction, Paul was building stairs down to



the cellar so they could get damaged appliances out.

The work is still in the clean-up phase and there is an abundance of work to do. Please feel free to call Peg Shirley if you are interested in coordinating a time to help with clean-up efforts, 402-980-2650.

Please keep Kayla, Kylee and Tom and Kelly in your prayers and be sure to give them a hug on Sundays at church. God has called us to be brothers and sisters to one another. John 15:12 states, *"My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you."* This clean-up effort was our congregation loving one another and reaching out.



Flood Donations by Peg Shirley, Elder - Mission

Once again West Hills you have stepped up and let your servant hearts shine. Our support of the flood relief efforts has been a true blessing and we wanted to thank you for all that you have done and how you have helped.

- 40+ Hygiene bags donated
- 20+ Flood clean-up buckets donated
- \$629.00 donated (last count)
- A team of six West Hills members helped clean up a West Hills family home impacted by the flooding
- Many large donations of food items delivered to Heartland Hope
- Numerous items were delivered to PDA for use in building more flood cleanup buckets

Thank you from the bottom of the Mission Team's hearts for all you have done and all that we know you will still do. Flood relief will be a long term effort and volunteers will be needed in the future to help the family above and many others get back into their homes. So check out the Flood Relief table by the west entrance for ongoing events. There is a Heartland Hope list for flood relief items you can purchase and drop off at the church in the marked tubs. They will continue to provide support long-term for flood victims by offering a free pantry once a week for flood victims.



Runza Casserole

This is an oldie but goodie from Peg Shirley

Ingredients

- 2 pounds hamburger
- 2 chopped onions
- 4 cups chopped cabbage
- salt and pepper
- 2 packages crescent rolls
- 1 pound shredded mozzarella cheese



Spread one tube of crescent rolls in 9" X 13" pan

Bake 7 minutes

Brown hamburger in a skillet, with onion, drain grease

Add cabbage and let steam.

Salt and pepper to taste.

Spread meat mixture on top of the baked crescent rolls.

Sprinkle mozzarella cheese on top of meat.

Layer second tube of crescent rolls on top of meat mixture.

Bake 350°

25 to 30 minutes

Remove pan and cover with foil

Bake additional 10 minutes

Have a Recipe to Share?

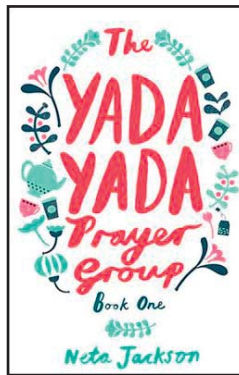
Please send your recipes to Maralee Gifford:

giffordgr@msn.com

In the subject line please put "Recipe for Newsletter."
(she will know it is a safe to open)



Holding Nothing Back: Ernst Vatter: A Portrait of Perseverance by Ron Susek is a look into the life of a former Hitler Youth who later became a renowned missionary.



This book tells the story of a German teen who became involved in the Hitler Youth movement during World War II. Later when the Third Reich was defeated the same young teen found himself in prison living in squalid conditions with a fellow prisoner, a Christian, who carried God in his heart and gave the young man half of all his food.

According to the book's publisher, Christian Publications Inc., "Death, disease and danger pursued Ernst as God worked out His purposes in Ernst's life."

In later years Ernst and his wife Sigrid were missionaries in Japan and he became the overseas director of Liebenzell Mission, which now manages approximately 250 missionaries in 22 countries.

The author, Ron Susek is an evangelist, Bible teacher and founder of Susek Evangelistic Association.



Check This Out: This twenty-eight minute video, is currently available in the Soul Café. The DVD discusses six different creation topics including:

- Radiometric Dating
- Fossils and the Flood
- The Origins of Races
- Pain and Suffering
- The Nature of Science
- Problems with Evolution



Each topic is approximately four minutes in length and is told using animation and humor. The DVD is perfect for teens and young adult classes.

This DVD was produced by "Answers in Genesis," an apologetics Christianity defending ministry, dedicated to enabling Christians to defend their faith and proclaim the gospel.

TEST YOUR BIBLE KNOWLEDGE



HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW THE BIBLE?

1. Who recognized Jesus as the Messiah when he was presented at the Temple as a baby? A. Bartholomew B. Felix C. Simeon D. Boaz
2. Who was the first person to come upon the injured man in the parable of the Good Samaritan? A. A Jewish Priest B. A Temple Assistant C. A Levite D. A Samaritan
3. What does Paul say may “abound more and more in knowledge and in all judgment”? A. Faith B. Love C. Good Works D. Hope
4. What tribe was Paul from? A. Benjamin B. Levi C. Judah D. Joseph
5. According to the Beatitudes, who will be filled? A. Those who hunger and thirst for faith B. Those who hunger and thirst for knowledge C. Those who hunger and thirst for the truth D. Those who hunger and thirst for righteousness
6. What was Jesus’ first miracle? A. Healing the lame man B. Healing the leper C. Changing water into wine D. Healing the blind man
7. What verse in the Bible prophesies that Jesus would be born in Bethlehem? A. Genesis 3:6 B. Daniel 10:5 C. Micah 5:2 D. Proverbs 2:3
8. Who were the Nephilim mentioned in Genesis and Numbers? A. Cain lineage B. Tribe in Mesopotamia C. Fallen Angels D. Giants that walked the earth
9. What is a man or woman justified by in the eyes of the Lord? A. Faith B. Good works C. Money D. Helping the poor
10. Who is the “Queen of Heaven” mentioned in the Book of Revelation? A. Mary B. Israel C. Jerusalem D. A celestial wife
11. How long will the tribulation mentioned in Revelation last? A. 7 weeks B. 7 days C. 7 years D. 7 months
12. Which Book in the Bible was written first? A. Psalms B. Proverbs C. Job D. Genesis

Answers are on the back page.



Jet Stream - At a time when it was thought that winds blew straight, the Bible declares “*The wind goes toward the south and turns around to the north; The wind whirls about continually and comes again on its circuit.*” (Eccl. 1:6) King Solomon wrote this 3,000 years ago.

Now consider this: it was not until World War II that airmen discovered the jet stream.

Tee Party!



Tee Party Fun! Several miniature golf holes were made by volunteers that displayed a multitude of personalities and levels of difficulty. They were colorful, tricky and challenging, some with a theme and others not. Folks of all ages tried their hand (club) at the many holes. When you were finished there were treats to be eaten! Watch for the next event open to all!

Westgate Pool Party - 8233 Grover St.

June 2 1-9 p.m.

Join Children’s, Mission, and Youth & Young Adult Ministries to kick off the summer with our Westgate neighbors right at our neighborhood pool! Sign-up at whcomaha.org to help make a great community day!

West Hills Park Dash

July 5 6-8 p.m.

Take a timed “tour of area parks” with friends. We begin at the church playground and popsicles will cap off the night.

Practical Needs- by Ted Tromler

Hi West Hills! My name is Ted Tromler and I am a deacon for Practical Needs. I'm sure you know exactly what I mean by that ... Just in case, my responsibilities are in coordinating Home Bound Communion and transportation for members to Sunday services. Recently, I was able to experience for myself what limited mobility and the need for transportation feels like. I have severe arthritis in my left knee and for most of this year, I was wearing a brace, using a cane and cursing all staircases. After a nerve block in early April, I'm mostly pain free (except those stupid stairs are still pretty mean). This experience helped me realize more fully how frustrating it can be to want to participate in an event and know it won't be possible due to a disability. I took my mobility for granted.



I want to update you on the current state of my ministries. For Home Bound Communion, we serve six individuals or couples regularly and a group at

Westgate Assisted Living monthly. Since our volunteers always serve in pairs, this means a minimum of fourteen servers each month. We have a core group of dedicated and selfless servers who volunteer whenever their schedules allow. As you can imagine, they are living very busy lives, but they set aside an hour or two each month to bring joy and fellowship to people who would love to attend service and take Communion with the whole congregation. We need more volunteers to help cover schedules and be back up when we add new recipients.

If you have been an Elder or Deacon in the past, you are qualified to give Home Bound Communion. Only one of the two servers needs to be qualified, and spouses are more than welcome! Contact me at tedlaressa@msn.com for more information or to volunteer.



Transportation is on an "as needed" basis. Like our Home Bound Communion recipients, those receiving a ride to church are so grateful. We are currently looking for someone to transport up to four ladies from Westgate Assisted Living to church for the 9:00 a.m. service the first Sunday of each month. Westgate is three blocks from West Hills. If you attend the nine-a.m. service and are able to assist, please contact me at tedlaressa@msn.com

I hope everyone has a safe and fun summer and thanks for reading. God Bless You All!

Leadership- by Lisa Harrison

Have you ever been in a church leadership position? If not I would encourage everyone to try it at least once or twice or even thrice.

I am currently finishing my term as Nominating Elder. My prayer is to finish strong! We have heard many times before that we all have gifts. Some examples: teaching, preaching, serving, organizing, listening, praying, etc. the list goes on and on.

I admit that "Eldership" is something I did not want to do. Many times I thought to myself, "I will just quit, this is way too difficult. I will serve in a way that I feel more confident." Somehow, somehow, God always encourages me that I can do it (only with his help). It has been great that I have a wonderful team of dedicated Nominating Committee members including, Nancy Kehrl, Chris Neil, Mike Bridgman, Judy Nelson, and Karen Lofgren-Anderson.

- This year we will have leadership positions open that you may be interested in filling. You do not have to wait to be nominated by someone, you can nominate yourself. If you are feeling the Holy Spirit nudging, contact me or someone on the committee. You do have to be a member of West Hills Church.
- We will have **four** positions open for deacons, **two** openings for Nominating Committee and **five** openings for Elders.
- Deacons serve three year terms and include Caregiving, Groups, Practical Needs, and Stephen Ministry.
- The Nominating Committee members serve two-year terms.
- Elders serve three-year terms and include Personnel, Stewardship, Mission, Nominating, and Spiritual Formation.

What is God asking of you? The time is now!

"Being confident of this; that he who began a good work in you will carry on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." Philippians 1:6

Monday Fundays
All Youth Welcome!
1:00-5:00

We will always start & end at West Hills

Transportation to locations provided with signed waiver

- 6-3..... **Putt-Putt at Boulder Creek**
- 6-10..... **Game Day**
- 6-17..... **Fun Plex from 4:00-8:00 pm**
- 6-24..... **Loco Location Game Day**
- 7-1..... **Afternoon Bowl at Western Bowl**
- 7-8..... **Go Ape at Mahoney State Park**
- 7-15..... **No Monday Funday** (Middle School Camp)
- 7-22..... **West Hills Fear Factor**
- 7-29..... **UNL Where's Waldo Trip**
- 8-5..... **Downtown Omaha Scavenger Hunt**

3015 S. 82nd Ave. www.whcomaha.org west hills church west.hills.youth



3015 S 82ND AVE
 Omaha NE 68124
 Tel: 402-391-8788
 Fax: 402-391-1812

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Save the Date for VBS!

June 23-27 6-8:15 pm

Ages 4 years-entering 6th grade

Register online:
www.whcomaha.org

ROAR!
 Life is wild * God is good

west hills CHURCH
 3015 So. 82nd Ave.

ANSWERS

"TEST YOUR BIBLE KNOWLEDGE"

- | | | | |
|------|------|------|-------|
| 1. C | 4. A | 7. C | 10. B |
| 2. A | 5. D | 8. D | 11. C |
| 3. B | 6. C | 9. A | 12. C |

ELDERS

Beth Anderson	Children's	nanabeth72@gmail.com
Patti Gatzke	Spiritual Formation	pfgatzke2@gmail.com
Don Glasgow	Building	donandcandy3@cox.net
Lisa Harrison	Nominating	tlou_harrison@yahoo.com
Mike Kelley	Stewardship	MichaelAKelley9@gmail.com
Jane Loeck	Caregiving	jaloeck@cox.net
John O'Donovan	Personnel	odonovanj@yahoo.com
Dan O'Reilly	Worship & Music	daniel@creighton.edu
Linda Schuchmann	Membership	schlin7252@gmail.com
Peg Shirley	Mission	pjshirley55@yahoo.com
Dan Travaille	Finance/Support	dtravaille@usainsulation.net
Julie Zimmerman	Youth	Juliezimmerman00@gmail.com

Core Values of West Hills Church

- Giving ourselves in God's mission
- Rooted in God's Word
- Authentic relationships-freedom to be real
- Christ-centered community
- Energized through joyful worship and prayer



First Sunday of each month.

Services: 9:00 & 10:30 a.m.

Nursery: 8:45a-11:30a

Children's Crosswalk: 9:00-10:00a

Youth & Young Adults: 9:00-10:00a

June

* denotes meets weekly

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		See CORNER AD 				1 
Dis. Class: 10:30a* 	2 See CORNER AD Youth-Monday Fundays*	3 Men's Bible: 6:30a* Knit, Chat, Sew: 9a Arts for All: 5, 6 & 7p* Worship Team: 6p* Ingathering: 6:30 snacks/meeting 7p	4 Wednesday Night Youth Group 6:30p-8p*	5 Al-Anon 12p* Women's Ldr mtg. 12p PNC: 6P*	6 AA: 7:30p* Al-Anon: new 7:30 & reg. 8p*	7 
Familia De Dios: 2-4p* Pentecost	8 AA mtg: 8p*	9 	10 	11 	12 Celebrations Lunch: 11:30a	13 
Father's Day	14 	15 Knit, Chat, Sew: 9a Men's Ministry Team: 6:30p Session Mtg: 6:30p	16 	17 	18 	19
	20 	21 NO - Arts for All Today	22 	23 	24 Newsletter Team: 1:30a 	25
26 	27 	28 	29 	30 		31

JUNE

- 1-Beth Anderson
- Kim Sedivy
- Ryan Turner
- 2-Debra Chadwick
- 4-Amanda Everhart
- Rhona Yetts
- 5-Everly Hanna
- 7-Michael Wohlgemuth
- 8-Colin Leslie
- 9-Rosemary Frandeen
- 10-Warren Powell
- 10-Joshua Thompson
- 11-Nick Gratton
- Andy Jansen
- Macy Moore
- René Padilla
- Rich Schmidt
- 12-Kathy Leach
- 15-Linda Springsted

- 17-Sue Balkovec
- Joey Laughlin
- Jeff Saar
- 18-Amanda Huck
- Aryn Huck
- 19-Kara DeHaven
- Roger Harned
- 20-Daniel Ross
- 21-Jan Vermilyea
- 23-Jordan Schaffer
- 24-Lois Crinklaw
- 26-Mark Jacobsen
- 27-Jerrian Hawkins
- Linda Nodes
- 28-Rob Laughlin
- Stan Owens
- 29-Deb Johnson
- Jane Power

- 29-Josh Sauer
- Tobias Thorberg
- Terry Topolski
- JULY**
- 2-Nancy Anderson
- Karen Hollingsworth
- Noreen Johnson
- Bud Nelson
- Linda Schuchmann
- 3-Alison Kopperud
- Caitlin O'Hare
- Alisha Sauer
- 4-Jon Hoeven
- Gavin Wohlgemuth





Alzheimer's Seminar

Saturday
June 8, 2019
9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Presented by The Alzheimer's Association
Nebraska Chapter

FREE Event!

Sponsored by West Hills Church Stephen Ministers





Skinner East

Cookout!

Sat. - June 15
5:30 - 7 p.m.

- Pass out invitation flyers @ 4 p.m.
- Donate food items
- Attend Cookout with Neighbors

