



Celebrating July

Independence Day

July 4



Mark W.

July 2

Lois C.

July 10

Joan G.

July 12

John K.

July 14

Joan T.

July 17

Lyn B.

July 19

Shirley K.

July 19

Jerre R.

July 20

Janet S.

July 21

Welcome July

July is shaping up to be a busy and enjoyable month at Praha Village. As we head toward the country's 250th anniversary, it's a good reminder of the many experiences and stories each of you brings to this community. We've got a full calendar with outings, social events, and hands-on activities—plenty of chances to get out, try something new, or just spend time with neighbors. Whether it's grabbing ice cream, joining a craft, or heading out on a trip, I hope you find something you enjoy. Thanks for being part of what makes this community such a great place to be!

Marlyn Anderson, Activities Director

250 Years in the Making

In 2026, the United States marks a very special milestone—its 250th anniversary. It's a rare and meaningful moment to pause, reflect, and appreciate the journey our country has taken.

This anniversary is about more than historical events. It's about the people, communities, and stories that have shaped our nation over the past two and a half centuries. From the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 1776 to the lives we're living today, each generation has contributed to the America we know.



Reaching 250 years gives us a chance to look back on how much has changed, while also recognizing the values that continue to carry forward. It's also a wonderful opportunity to reflect on our own memories and experiences, and how we've witnessed history unfold in our own lifetimes.

Dear Friends in Faith,

On July 4, 2026, the United States of America celebrates 250 years of freedom. More specifically, on July 4, 1776, "the second continental congress adopted the Declaration of Independence in Philadelphia. This document announced that the colonies were now sovereign states, free from British rule (Smithsonian Magazine)." Since the Revolutionary War, there have been a number of wars and conflicts to help keep the United States a democratic free nation.

While democracy is critically important to our daily civic life, as Christians, our freedom comes through Jesus Christ. The reformer, Martin Luther, wrote a document titled, "The Freedom of a Christian." In it he states, "A Christian is an utterly free man (person), lord of all, subject to none. A Christian is an utterly dutiful man (person), servant of all, subject to all."

We all have much to be thankful for; for all who have fought and served and continue to do so to keep our nation free. And we all have much to be thankful for, for the freedom that comes through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We are completely free . . . and in that freedom we are completely called to love and serve one another. May our actions and words in our daily living reflect the gifts we have received.

"It is for freedom that Christ has set us free."
Galatians 5:1

Pastor Jeanne



June Snapshots



Residents enjoyed games and crafts with St. Wenceslaus students.



It was a great day spent celebrating Father's Day with a barbecue.

Mark Your Calendar

Resident Council will be held on Wednesday, July 8 at 2:00 p.m. in the Community Room. Staff from ProRehab will be there to share fall prevention strategies.

REMINDER

Unwanted items should not be left in the mailroom. Please dispose of them properly or consider donating them to Hands of Friendship.

Outings and Special Events



- **Grocery Shopping** Sign up to go shopping on Thursday, July 2 to Hy-Vee and Thursday, July 16 to Coborn's. The bus will leave Praha Village at 10:00 a.m.



- **Let's Go Fishing** Residents signed up for this outing on Tuesday, July 6 should be ready to leave Praha Village at 11:30 a.m. We will eat lunch at the Cedar Lake Pavillion before our boat excursion at 1:00 p.m. A picnic lunch will be provided by the kitchen. The cost is \$13, if you are not on a meal plan. This outing may be canceled due to weather conditions.

- **Veteran Cafe** All veterans are invited to come for coffee, treats, and conversation on Tuesday, July 7 at 9:30 a.m. in the Bistro. This event will occur on the first Tuesday of every month.
- **Rolling Cones Ice Cream Truck** Join us for a tasty frozen treat on the Front Porch on Tuesday, July 7 from 1:00-4:00 p.m. All residents who come will receive a free scoop or ice cream (bowl/cone). Rolling Cones will have additional frozen treats available to purchase.
- **Dollar General Market** Sign up to go shopping in Belle Plaine on Thursday, July 9. The bus will leave Praha Village at 10:00 a.m.
- **Crafty Ladies** Sign up to make a painted wood sunflower craft on Monday, July 13 and a crystal suncatcher on Monday, July 20 at 1:00 p.m. in the Creative Arts Room. Class size is limited to 12 participants for these projects.

- **Guest Speaker: Chris Lynch** Author and mountain climber Chris Lynch will be here on Thursday, July 16 at 1:30 p.m. in the Theater to present *Baldy for the Blind*, a documentary in which he was featured. The film follows 11 blind hikers as they take on Mount Baldy. Climbing without sight, they rely on coordination and persistence as they adapt and rise to the challenge.



- **Baking Social** Sign up to attend on Tuesday, July 21 at 1:00 p.m. in the Community Room to enjoy some fruit pizza.
- **Generations Theater Presents: Frozen the Musical** Sign up to attend the matinee performance at the New Prague High School. The bus departs Praha Village at 12:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10. Please pay at the Front Desk.
- **City Hall Creamery & Coffee** Sign up to go to Jordan for ice cream on Friday, July 24. The bus will leave Praha Village at 2:00 p.m.
- **Music at Memorial** Sign up to go to Memorial Park on Wednesday, July 29. The bus will leave Praha Village at 5:30 p.m. The Bootleggers will be performing pre-show, followed by the Smisek Brothers. The performance ends at 8:00 p.m.



We have Dale Martell (Birthday Bash), Tractorhead (NEW), and the Fradenburghs all performing live music in July. Check your calendar for dates and times.

National Ice Cream Month



July is National Ice Cream Month, and we look forward to celebrating this summertime favorite with our community. On Tuesday, July 7 from 1:00–4:00 p.m., the Rolling Cones Ice Cream Truck will be on-site, offering a variety of tasty treats. Residents can also sign up for an outing to City Hall Creamery & Coffee in Jordan on Friday, July 24 at 2:00 p.m., where you can enjoy ice cream in a charming historical setting.

July Bingo Update



RESIDENT-LED BINGO - not listed on your Activities Calendar

Mondays at 2:00 p.m. in the Dining Room
Thursdays at 2:00 p.m. in the Dining Room
Saturdays at 2:00 p.m. in the Dining Room

PRIZE BINGO – FREE to play

Friday, July 17 at 2:00 p.m. in the Dining Room

Laughing Matters

On the Sunday before Christmas the Reverend Billy Graham was walking down Highland Street in North Carolina on his way to see a parishioner.

He wanted to mail a package urgently, so he asked a young boy where he could find the post office. After the boy had directed him, Reverend Graham thanked him and said, "If you come up to church this evening you can hear me telling everyone how to get into heaven."

The boy replied, "I think I'll pass on that. If you don't even know your way to the post office, how will you lead me to heaven?"

Purposeful Living Service Project



Join Pastor Jeanne for a service project making "plarn" mats for people who are homeless. Plarn means "plastic yarn." We will be collecting plastic grocery bags from July 1 through July 28; place them in the garbage bin in the basement elevator lobby, just outside the Theater/Chapel. We will be flattening the bags, cutting them into strips and looping them together. This project will be done jointly with St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church. MaryCarol Wolf will be here on July 28, at 1:00 p.m., in the Community Room, to teach us and provide some background about this project. We will meet for 3 more weeks on August 4, 11, 18, at 1:00 p.m. in the Community Room.

Creative Collaboration



The Crafty Ladies recently completed a button flag project that you may have seen in the halls of Praha Village. This meaningful craft brought together creativity and teamwork, making it both fun and memorable for everyone involved. A special thank you to Merle for making the frames.



Please join us in extending a warm welcome to our newest residents, Joanne R. and Claudia H.!