

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Earlier this week, my aunt noticed that the tops of some of her flowers were missing! We wondered what had caused this, because the flowers nearby looked fine. Apparently, some deer had decided that they liked the flowers, too. But rather than enjoying their beauty, they ate them.

Many of us have dealt with challenges to growing plants this summer. We have had so much hot weather, which has affected the plants throughout our area. While we have had some rain recently, the lack of rain has affected cash crops, as well as our home gardens. Thankfully, many of you have been able to use rain barrels and other water sources to gather water for your home gardens and ensure that the plants you care for thrive.

This weekend, persons who tend eight gardens in the La Farge area will be offering guests an opportunity to view their beautiful flowers and prairie plants. The Friends of Kickapoo Valley Reserve are offering their 2nd Annual Garden Walk Tour. The event takes place from 4:00-7:00 p.m., Friday, July 9. It resumes again on Saturday, July 10, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. I am hoping to see some of the gardens on Friday evening, with my aunt and cousin.

Tickets to see all eight gardens and prairies are \$20, or \$5 for any single garden. They are valid for both days of the garden walk. Tickets can be purchased at any of the gardens during the event, or online, at <https://kickapoofriends.org/>

As we reach the midpoint of summer, let us continue to care for the plants that God has provided. God has provided them as food for us, for other persons in the world, and for God's animals. God has provided some of them for our aesthetic enjoyment, too! Let us take time this week, and in the coming weeks of summer, to care for and enjoy God's gift of plants. Thanks be to God.

Peace,

Pastor Cathy