



CrossWinds

NEWSLETTER OF WINDS OF THE PRAIRIE

BETHANY : BETHANY-ELIM : GRACE : PEACE : ST PAUL

APRIL 2012

CONTENTS

- First Word, p. 1
- Notes from the Intern, p. 2
- Preaching Schedule, p. 3
- Pastor's Report, p. 3
- Bible Study, p. 4
- Synod Endowment, p. 5
- Discipleship & Prayer, p. 6
- Family Faith, p. 7
- WXY, p. 8
- TFA, p. 9
- Bethany Notes, p. 9
- Bethany-Elim Notes, p. 10
- Grace Notes, p. 10
- Peace Notes, p. 12
- Prayer Concerns, p. 12

FIRST WORD: SPRING EAGERNESS

PASTOR JULIE A. K. ANDERSON

18 I CONSIDER THAT THE SUFFERINGS OF THIS PRESENT TIME ARE NOT WORTH COMPARING WITH THE GLORY ABOUT TO BE REVEALED TO US. 19 FOR THE CREATION WAITS WITH EAGER LONGING FOR THE REVEALING OF THE CHILDREN OF GOD; 20 FOR THE CREATION WAS SUBJECTED TO FUTILITY, NOT OF ITS OWN WILL BUT BY THE WILL OF THE ONE WHO SUBJECTED IT, IN HOPE 21 THAT THE CREATION ITSELF WILL BE SET FREE FROM ITS BONDAGE TO DECAY AND WILL OBTAIN THE FREEDOM OF THE GLORY OF THE CHILDREN OF GOD. 22 WE KNOW THAT THE WHOLE CREATION HAS BEEN GROANING IN LABOR PAINS UNTIL NOW; 23 AND NOT ONLY THE CREATION, BUT WE OURSELVES, WHO HAVE THE FIRST FRUITS OF THE SPIRIT, GROAN INWARDLY WHILE WE WAIT FOR ADOPTION, THE REDEMPTION OF OUR BODIES.

ROMANS 8:18-23

Even though we have had a mild winter there is around us the evidence of the last season from its remnants. As the weather becomes consistently warmer we begin to plan for the new growing season by cleaning up and preparing. As a community of congregations we begin the transition in our mission from inside to outside of our buildings and ourselves.

The season of Easter is that time when Jesus reveals the fulfillment of his plan to make us live w(holy) by bringing the remnants of our broken lives together through his death and resurrection. In our communities our congregations become both sanctuary, a place of peace and renewal and mission stations where we are sent out to a hurting world to bring God's peace to others. Like the cycle of life in our text something must die or go through the pain of change before new life can happen.

At the end of the Easter season we celebrate Pentecost, the birthday of the church. The Church is us, the body of Jesus followers who express in the acts of love to our neighbors the holiness of God. It is the outward signs of love that people see in our actions that make them curious and interested in coming into the congregation to more deeply experience the love of God. So during the Easter season we will be looking how each of us lives out this new life found in Christ and what our missions are as individuals.

The pastors will be working with the WATERS of Baptism during Easter to teach we the disciples how to inwardly and outwardly express the difference a life lived in Christ makes. These marks or measures are how our finite world experiences God's infinite love.

After learning and examining the six marks of the WATERS of Baptism you will be putting down some goals and ideas of how you intend to live your life by becoming more aware of God's working in your life. On Pentecost Sunday, May 27, you will be given the opportunity to bring your goals to God as a response to what God has done for us in Christ. Putting your goals in an envelope and putting your name on it before putting it in the small ARC we have on each altar which will give you a weekly reminder of both your goals and God's faithfulness to walk with you each day.

CONTINUED ON FOLLOWING PAGE

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE If that sounds too much like pain and suffering remember that God feels our pain and is with us. When we come to the sanctuary we are made new, recreated, and go back out into the world from this mission station to share hope with those who don't see God at work. This hope is the firstfruit of living in God's glory and love.

NOTES FROM THE INTERN

VICAR BAILEY LANDA

¹ AFTER THE SABBATH, AT DAWN ON THE FIRST DAY OF THE WEEK, MARY MAGDALENE AND THE OTHER MARY WENT TO LOOK AT THE TOMB. ² THERE WAS A VIOLENT EARTHQUAKE, FOR AN ANGEL OF THE LORD CAME DOWN FROM HEAVEN AND, GOING TO THE TOMB, ROLLED BACK THE STONE AND SAT ON IT. ³ HIS APPEARANCE WAS LIKE LIGHTNING, AND HIS CLOTHES WERE WHITE AS SNOW. ⁴ THE GUARDS WERE SO AFRAID OF HIM THAT THEY SHOOK AND BECAME LIKE DEAD MEN. ⁵ THE ANGEL SAID TO THE WOMEN, "DO NOT BE AFRAID, FOR I KNOW THAT YOU ARE LOOKING FOR JESUS, WHO WAS CRUCIFIED. ⁶ HE IS NOT HERE; HE HAS RISEN, JUST AS HE SAID. COME AND SEE THE PLACE WHERE HE LAY. ⁷ THEN GO QUICKLY AND TELL HIS DISCIPLES: 'HE HAS RISEN FROM THE DEAD AND IS GOING AHEAD OF YOU INTO GALILEE. THERE YOU WILL SEE HIM.' NOW I HAVE TOLD YOU."

MATTHEW 28:1-7

I can't believe that this past March has set almost a week's worth of record high temperatures, and also, the warmest it has ever been this early in the year. In the course of 1 ½ weeks, we saw a snowstorm turn into 80 degree weather. And during that time, the geese have come back, robins are pulling worms up from the ground, the grass is turning green, and kids are wearing shorts and flip flops again. Spring has come.

I look forward to this time of year, because we have moved out of the gloom of winter into the sunshine and warmth of spring. The green that has come back to the grass and trees, as well as animals returning and soon, baby animals of all sorts will be born, bring us into this spring season. We are caught up in all this newness around us. But what about another sign of spring that we may not even think about, Easter. There is so much newness that comes with the Easter story. A new life in Christ.

It seems a little odd to think of a new life for us out of such a death like Jesus', but through that death we are promised that new life. We see that first act of new life in the Resurrection of Jesus. The women are so confused as to what has happened to him, when they are then told that he has risen from the dead. Or think back a couple of weeks when one of the readings for the week was John 3:16, "...whoever believes in him may not perish but have eternal life." Another promise for us, a new life in him.

So spring can remind us of new life that is returning to the prairie after the fall and winter. But it also holds one of the most important times of the year for us. The Easter story reminds us of the death of God's only son, for the salvation of each and every one of us. The promise for a new life in him.

COMMUNICATIONS

When calling the Winds of the Prairie Ministry Office please use either the 507-694-1238 or 1-866-944-9687 (WotP). Outside of office hours the Bethany-Elim number (507-694-1353) is usually forwarded to the pastor on call and can be accessed from the 1238 voicemail.

APRIL PREACHING SCHEDULE

| | | Peace (8:30) | Bethany (8:30) | Grace (10:30) | Bethany-Elim (8:30) | St. Paul (10:30) |
|---------------------|---|--------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Sun, Apr 1 | <i>Palm Sunday</i> | Landa | Rasmusson | Rasmusson | Anderson | Anderson |
| Wed, Apr 4 | <i>Seder</i> | | | | Legion 6 pm | |
| Thurs, Apr 5 | <i>Maundy Thursday Holy Communion</i> | | | | 7 om | |
| Fri, Apr 6 | <i>Good Friday</i> | 3 pm at Community Center | | Landa/Anderson 7 pm | | Rasmusson 7 pm |
| Sat, Apr 7 | <i>Easter Vigil Holy Communion</i> | | 6:30 pm | | | |
| Sun, Apr 8 | <i>Easter Sunrise</i> | At Diamond Lake | 6:30 am | | | |
| Sun, Apr 8 | <i>Easter Sunday</i> | Anderson | Landa | Landa | Rasmusson | Rasmusson |
| Sat, Apr 14 | <i>Holy Communion</i> | Rasmusson | | | | |
| Sun, Apr 15 | <i>Service of the Word</i> | Rasmusson | Anderson | Anderson | Landa | Landa |
| Sat, Apr 21 | <i>Holy Communion</i> | | | | Landa | |
| Sun, Apr 22 | <i>Holy Communion</i> | Landa | Rasmusson | Rasmusson | Anderson | Anderson |
| Sat, Apr 28 | <i>Holy Communion</i> | | | | | Anderson |
| Sun, Apr 29 | <i>Mission Sunday</i> | Anderson | Landa | Landa | Rasmusson | Rasmusson |



DRIVE A TRACTOR TO CHURCH SUNDAY-APRIL 22, 2012

We recognize the importance of the tools we use to plant the crops on Sunday April 22. You are encouraged to bring your tractor, large or small, to worship on that day for a blessing. If you have any other equipment, large or small, like shovel, hoes, tiller, seed, etc. that you would like blessed feel

free to bring it also.

PASTOR'S REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 2011

| Worship | Education | Meetings | Pastoral Acts | Visits |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| 21 - Sundays Worships Total | 9 - Bible/Book Study | 6 - Council/Meeting | 1 - Funeral | 21 - Home |
| 5 - Nursing Home | 2 - TFA | 2 - WELCA | 5 - Counseling | 6 - Hospital |
| 4 - Saturday Night | 3 - Database Training | 1 - WXY | | 9 - Public Events |
| 9 - Lenten Services | 1 week Continuing Education | 3 - Synod | | |



BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

SUNDAY TEXTS FOR STUDY

| Date | Old Testament | Psalms | New Testament | Gospel | Theme |
|----------------|----------------|------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| April 1, 2012 | Isaiah 50:4-9a | 31:9-16 | Philippians 2:5-11 | Mark 11:1-1 & Mark 15:1-47 | Passion of Our Lord |
| April 8, 2012 | Acts 10:34-43 | 118: 1-2:2 | Mark 16 :1-8 John 20: 1-18 | Mark 16:1-8 John 20:1-18 | Resurrection of Our Lord |
| April 15, 2012 | Acts 4:32-35 | 133 | 1 John 1:1-2:2 | John 20:19-31 | Second Sunday of Easter |
| April 22, 2012 | Acts 3:12-19 | 4 | 1 John 3:1-7 | Luke 24:36b-48 | Third Sunday of Easter |
| April 29, 2012 | Acts 4:5-12 | 23 | 1 John 3:16-24 | John 10:11-18 | Fourth Sunday of Easter |

MEN'S BIBLE STUDIES: Men are invited to gather at 7:30 am on the 2nd Saturday at Rusty's in Taunton and the 3rd Saturday in Ivanhoe at Bethany-Elim Lutheran Church.

FRIDAY MORNING BREAKFAST STUDY: Come to Bethany in Arco at 7 am for breakfast and Bible study.

Wednesday morning Text Study at 8:30 am at Grace Lutheran in Lake Benton will be "Reading the Bible in 90 Days" for the Lenten discipline. Come and join in on the fun.

Bible Study on Second and Fourth Tuesday at 10 am will be "Reading the Bible in 90 days" as our Lenten discipline.

BEGINNING EXPERIENCE

Beginning Experience of Southwest Minnesota, a peer ministry support group for widowed, separated and divorced people is offering its Level I Series for eight weeks beginning April 30, 2012. The Monday night sessions begin at 7:00 P.M. at the First Lutheran Church on Church and "A" Street in Marshall, MN.

Registration is held the first two Monday nights starting at 6:30 P.M. Registration is then closed for that session. The support group is open to people of all denominations. There is a fee to cover the cost of materials. This series is designed for those wishing to work through the grieving process following the loss of a loved one through death, divorce or separation. All dialogue is confidential and facilitators are trained individuals who have suffered a similar loss. If you wish to pre-register or have questions concerning level participation, contact Karen at 507-532-0922 email: kmpokey@hotmail.com, Shirley at 507-829-3106 email: bbm@mvtwireless.com, Gene at 507-215-1362 or Kathy at 507-215-2361.



GOD'S WORK – OUR HANDS:

SWMN SYNOD ENDOWMENT SUNDAY APRIL 22

The Joy of Giving

Giving is something that seems to come natural for some and can be taught to others. Regardless of how it comes to you having it be reinforced through your faith and congregational life can help to make it second nature to you.

Hawk Creek Lutheran Church, east of Granite Falls and West of Sacred Heart are great examples how a congregation can nurture and encourage ones giving.

Several years ago I worked with three families on making a gift to ministry. Two of these families used the sale of their farm in order to receive a life income through a Charitable Unitrust. Another has done two Charitable Gift Annuities.

After I completed the third gift I asked my last donor if she knew of anyone else in their congregation that had done any charitable gifting. The answer was no. I then shared that there were two more and then asked if the others were willing to share their story of their gifts. As it turned none of the three knew of the others gifting but all agreed to share their story.

That is how I became aware of how a congregation that had about 45 Sunday worshipers could be so intent on passing on the gift of giving.

This congregation was founded in 1871 and had a mission emphasis from the beginning as it commissioned a missionary to serve in Madagascar, Africa. Helen Lindquist remembered from her youth on Hawk Creek had a "Mission Sunday" where people would bring items to be auctioned off to support missions.

Thelma and Ellsworth Frederickson were grateful to gift their farm to establish a life income for them and thus saving any capital gain tax not to mention being able to provide a gift to the ministries they valued. Their gift has now matured and is being used each year to fund their vision.

Lois Hegna's farm also went to fund a life income for not just her but for her children as well. Lois Hegna's daughter

Pastor Marcia Hegna was also the recipient of the faithful giving of Hawk Creek Lutheran Church as she was assisted with her seminary education costs.

Because of this Lois felt that part of the beneficiary of her Charitable Trust should go to help others in the Southwestern Minnesota Synod fund their seminary education.

A comment that came through from all of these people was that through their church they were taught how wonderful and joyous gifting to others can be. One comment was, 'At Hawk Creek we are so small we are just one family.'

So here are three families that didn't know that they were all making a gift but felt they were guided through the legacy of gifting that was taught through their congregation.

All three of these families through their charitable gifting will help their congregation, the Southwestern Minnesota Synod, Global Missions, and even a non-Lutheran college.

In my opinion it doesn't matter how big or how small your congregation or your gift, when it is given to the work of the Lord it can do so many good things to satisfy ministry. Remember what Christ did with just two fish and five loaves of bread.

This month you are asked to contribute to the Southwestern Minnesota Synod Fund for Leadership Endowment. We would encourage any individual, congregational offering, or a congregational endowment gift to help us further fund the ministry in our synod participates in.

If you would like to talk about a testamentary or life income gift to further ministry in your congregation, the synod, or the greater church just call the synod office (507-637-3904) to set up a confidential consultation or direct you giving.

God's Work – Our Hands



WATERS OF BAPTISM

It is in the **WATERS** of Baptism that we live as members of the family of God, the body of Christ, and the communion of saints. Our TFA students have been working with the WATERS and want to share them with you as a means to learn and experience the life of a disciple.

A *Disciple* is defined by participation with God’s faithful people to learn and grow in:

Worship is hearing God’s Word, sharing the Lord’s Supper as a family within the family of God. To enrich the experience we participate in the public rites such as weekly Sunday worship, where you can also enrich it by participating in the worship as a reader, usher, or assisting minister. Our Lutheran heritage identifies our daily life lived out as a response to God’s love and grace as a form of worship. When we see God’s work around us we are worshipping.

Advocacy is an awareness of issues and concerns that result in Justice and Peace in the world. This means “speaking for another” usually one who can’t speak for themselves due to life situation. It is when we notice another’s pain and suffering, leading us to look at ways we can help them. Examples of advocacy we can participate in are Lutheran World Relief, Malaria Initiative, Justice issues due to immigration, poverty, abuse and other forms of inequity. If your heart is touched when you hear of people in need and want to help you are one who is called especially to be an advocate.

Teaching or Training is the formal learning of a disciple that includes Old and New Testaments, Catechism, and Lutheran Doctrine. It is reading from God’s Word preferably daily with the use of devotionals, study Bibles or programs, Bible Study participation, and other forms of engaging the Word. This is especially helpful and enlightening when done with others for we teach each other. Since life is always changing our understanding of God’s Word is always changing and deepening our understanding. Dedicating some time daily and weekly to listen, read, and engage God’s Word will enrich your life giving you guidance in leading a Christian life.

During April consider how you will participate in each of these areas in the WATERS of Baptism.



PRAYER: EASTER VIGIL AND FAMILY PRAYERS

1. During Holy Week you will have the opportunity to pray for your neighbors far and wide during the Easter Prayer Vigil. From 8pm on Thursday April 5 after our Maundy Thursday service until Saturday April 7 at 6:30 pm in half hour slots we will pray for 45 hours in support of the mission of our ministry.

Suggestions for prayer time: Pray for the households up and down your neighborhood, use the church directory, phone book or any other list of people you have. Go through the alphabet and pray for people or issues that you are reminded of by that letter. Read a section of the psalms which are prayers and hymns.

2. During Epiphany and Lent you have been asked to pick up another household from the basket to pray for during the season. People have told me how much they have enjoyed and reconnected with some people they had been thinking about and saw this as a God guided moment to talk to that person.

So if you picked up a household name during Lent it is time after Easter April 8 to send them a note or give them a call to let them know you have been praying for them. There are more names in the basket so pick a new name to pray for during Easter until May 27, Pentecost. Has someone told you yet they have been praying for you? How did it feel and did you sense their prayers for you? See how prayer power can change you and the world.

DATABASE UPDATE



The household contact information is in the database. We will begin adding the statistical information such as dates, phone numbers(home and cell), email addresses and the like. Part of the process is to check with each household that we have current information so contact will be made with each household at some time in the future. The more we learn the more exciting it is how we will be better able to celebrate our daily lives and events with the assistance of the program. Plans are proceeding for tools that will allow you to survey your talents for mission. Keep reading for more updates and progress.

FAMILY FAITH

NANCY KROG

NEW LIFE EASTER

TODAY'S READING: John 20:1-31

But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name. John 20:31.

FAITH WALK:

Take a walk looking for the springtime signs of new life. For example, a budding tree, a blooming flower, a newborn animal, or a baby bird.

FAITH TALK:

Read all of John 20 and make a list of all the moments of joy.

John 14:6 says, "Jesus answered, "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." What did Jesus mean?

What is the new life that we have through Jesus?

Not only do we receive a new life through Jesus but, because of Jesus, we are new creations. We are made clean and perfect, and with Jesus' help we live a newly created life of goodness.

How can we live as new creations?

FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES:

Have a resurrection celebration. Play joyful Easter music. Celebrate with flowers and balloons. Eat cake and ice cream and drink punch.

Have a family sing-along of favorite Easter songs.

Catch a new life – a spring bug – in a jar. Add grass, a leaf, a twig and some drops of water to the jar. Watch your bug for a while before releasing it back into the wild.

Start a sticker book of new life stickers such as butterflies, chicks, caterpillars, or flowers.

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S GRACE:

Dear Resurrected Lord, You are risen. You are risen indeed. Alleluia! You have given to us a new life of hope, peace and joy. Help us to live our lives as new creations in You. By Your risen power we pray. Amen.

(Family Faith Walks, by Kelly J. Haack, 2002.)

WINDS EXTREME YOUTH IS MOVING FORWARD

Our WXY folks have been busy this past month. Caroline Bunjer was a presenter at the 2012 Southwestern Minnesota Synod Senior High gathering in Mankato the last weekend of March. Katie Bump spoke at the gathering with her faith story. And Michelle Kuhlman was a candidate for the 2012-2013 Lutheran Youth Organization Board. Way to go!



Our youths have been fundraising for their trips and camping experiences this summer. Youth attending Bible camp at Shetek, along with those heading for the Boundary Waters (Gals trip – July 12-18, Guy's trip – July 26-31) and those going up to Ottertail County to work on Habitat for Humanity have sponsored spaghetti suppers during Lent.

Our Habitat servant trip this year will be with the Fergus Falls area Habitat for Humanity. We will be staying on a lake near Fergus and working on a project to winterize a home for an elder in the area (new windows, insulation and siding). She has been living in the basement during the winters, since she cannot afford to heat the upstairs. We will be joined by a crew from the youth group at St. Paul's Lutheran in Taylor Texas (Pastor Gary Veit's the pastor!). WE may also have some youth joining us

from New Life Lutheran Church in Rothsay, Minnesota.



There is still room for youths on all of the trips. We guarantee a great experience with God's people in God's world! For more information, see Vicar Bailey or Pastor Steve.



CAMP @ SHETEK

CAMP IS GREAT!!!! CAMP IS FOR EVERYONE!

Two Camping experiences are especially interesting

CONFIRMATION CAMP - Winds of the Prairie will be having their confirmation camp week at Shetek beginning on Sunday June 10th.

GRANDPARENT'S CAMP - Tailored for Grandchildren between the ages of 4-10,

Summer 2012 Dates: June 24-26, July 1-3, July 25-27, August 1-3, August 6-8

Grandparent/Grandchild Camp provides a special opportunity for grandparents and grandchildren to bond and share in faith. Stay with your grandchild/grandparent in the comfort of our retreat center or bring your own camper and build memories together learning about God out on the lake, in worship, on a surprise trip and more! Cost in Lakota Retreat Center is \$130/adult, \$80/child and maximum cost of \$340. Cost at a campsite is \$95/adult, \$60/child and maximum of \$300 per family.

For more information about camping, ask a pastor or Intern or go to www.shetek.org.

TRAINING FOR AFFIRMATION

Training for Affirmation is the program that prepares our youth, between sixth and ninth grade, to be ready to make the very important choice to deepen their relationship to Christ and the community that bears His name. Our TFA students went on retreat at Shetek Lutheran Ministries this past month. There they made plans to lead out Sunrise Easter Service at Diamond Lake, as well as preparing to assist in worships during the Easter Season. Our Senior TFA students will be finishing their training this year, and will gather for a day retreat at Bethany in Arco on May 5th. They will examine the Christian faith in the Lutheran Tradition and preparing to write their personal statement of faith. This statement will be presented to the pastor and the church council of the congregation in which they chose to have their faith confirmed. Please pray for these youth Christians as they make this great milestone in their Christian life.

BETHANY, ARCO

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS FOR JANUARY

USHERS: Ron & Lynette Madsen

ALTAR GUILD: -- Ilene Sorensen

BETHANY NEWS

ILENE SORENSEN

It looks like spring is here!! I am sure everyone is enjoying all of God's creation as color begins to come alive. Enjoy this time and thank God for all of the wonderful things he has given us.

This newsletter will have activities that will be going on at Bethany the next few months.

1—Bethany will be having a brunch following the Easter morning service. If you would like to help, please talk to a council member.

2—On June 2, we will be having church service at Lake Shetek. We will be having fun, a picnic, fun, activities, fun, worship, and more fun. Everyone please come and enjoy the afternoon and evening.

3—We are looking at purchasing a stove for the basement. This will be very nice addition for the chicken dinner. If anyone has any leads on a stove, let Randy Noble know.

4—We are also going to have our furnace system evaluated. A person from the Synod office will be coming to make suggestions to update our system. The council feels we need to do something to update the 5-furnace system that we now have. If anyone would like to be on the committee to investigate the options available to us, please let a council member know.

5—We will be having a noisy offering the third Sunday of every month. The offering for March will go to the food shelf as it is Minnesota Food Share month.

These are only some of the special things that are going on—check out the calendar—we are a busy congregation. We hope that you will fit them into your schedule. Don't miss the fun!!

See you in church.

BETHANY-ELIM, IVANHOE

"PASTRIES IN A BASKET"

After the Easter Sunday 8:30 service, please stay for pastries and fruit, juice, coffee and fellowship. Check the bulletin board for the sign up sheet to help contribute to the basket.

BETHANY-ELIM SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

NANCY KROG

Sunday School children will be singing during worship on April 29, please wear your blue VBS t-shirts. We will be collecting a noisy offering for our amazing missionary, Heidi Epple. After worship we invite everyone to our Prayer Pal Revealing Event, coffee and muffins will be served in the parish hall. Thank you to our adult prayer pals who have prayed for and encouraged our children all year. The countdown is on to reveal our secrets!

Thank you to our preschool through ninth grade Sunday School teachers who have donated their time and shared their faith with our youth, words cannot express the impact you are making in the lives of our children.

Shetek Lutheran Ministries will be leading Vacation Bible School June 18-21, 2012, at Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church in Ivanhoe. If you have not registered, deadline is May 1, contact Nancy. Cost is \$25 per camper.

BETHANY AND BETHANY-ELIM VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2012

NANCY KROG

Shetek Lutheran Ministries will be leading Vacation Bible School June 18-21, 2012, at Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church in Ivanhoe. If you have not registered, deadline is **May 1**, contact Nancy. Cost is \$25 per camper. All members of Bethany and Bethany-Elm are invited to attend, as well as friends, cousins, and other family members. The theme this year is "The Good Shepherd", Shetek has a week filled with faith and fun, please join us!

GRACE, LAKE BENTON

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS FOR JANUARY

USHERS: Jim Herschberger, Allan Johnson,
Jeff Johnson, Jared Johnson

ALTAR GUILD: Karen Lichtsinn

NOTES & DATES

April GLCW: April 4, 1:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Room

"The Cross From 7 Viewpoints"

Devotions: Garnet Petersen

Hostesses: Deloris Johansen and Joan Klitzke

April 18th-Block Day

April 25th -Do Day

GRACIOUS WORDS

KAREN LICHTSINN

Spring is officially here, and the signs are everywhere.....robins, meadowlarks, daffodils, tulips, and buds on the trees and bushes. These are obvious signs of new life, but as we study in Mark there are many signs of New Life with Christ. The council will focus on New Life this season....."in Christ all things are new". The Grace council began our 2012 planning by gathering feedback from the congregation on areas of need and focus in the upcoming year. The key suggestions were to have more care and concern for our neighbors and the community. During 2012 the council will promote "new life", with programs and activities providing support and assistance to our members and others in the community. We encourage all members to share any immediate or long-term needs with the council to help direct our efforts.

The Grace council is planning a Church-wide garage sale and fundraiser on June 1-2 (Friday and Saturday), including a bake sale and lunch. Proceeds of the sale will go to the general operating fund, with 10% designated to the Pastor's Emergency Relief fund, to support local families in need. So during your spring cleaning, remember to set aside items for the sale. This is a great opportunity to clean out your house or garage and help support the church and the community. Other churches in the WOTP are welcome to share items for the sale as well. Make a donation and let us do all the heavy lifting. More details to follow in early May.

Each quarter the council designates a new recipient for the "noisy offering", which is collected on the first Sunday of

each month. For April – June, the noisy offering will go to Campus Ministries. If you have suggestions for other organizations that need our support, please share your ideas with any council member.

The council and Sunday School are jointly planning a new work project, adding new pew Bibles and hymnals for our worship. The council and youth will help in collecting and organizing our pew Bibles, hymnals and songbooks, including adding bookmarks and organizing a book cart for the extra Bibles and hymnals. The addition of large print Bibles will be part of this project. We will be seeking volunteers to help with this effort later in May/June.

This spring, Grace council will schedule our annual Spring Cleanup Day for late April/early May. So dust off those rakes for a day of service and fun (date to be announced in April). As always, our trustees, custodians and volunteers work hard to keep our grounds and facility in good repair and running smoothly throughout the year. A big thank you to them for all they do to maintain our place of worship.

God Bless.

*Karen Lichtsinn
247 Grant Street South
Lake Benton, MN 56149
507-368-2008 (H)
952-607-7002 (C)*

GRACE LUTHERAN SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

PAT JOHNSON

In March, we decided to sponsor the ELCA Easter Buck-a-Chick Fund Raiser. We sold chick coloring pages for \$1 each and will send the money raised to the ELCA Good Gifts program to purchase baby chicks for families in need. The chick will grow quickly and furnish the family with protein rich eggs and possibly the potential to sell the eggs for needed money. The coloring pages can be done as thank yous for all we have - such as food on our tables, our children, grandchildren, in memory of our loved ones, etc. We will display the coloring pages at church during the Easter season.

On Palm Sunday, April 1, the Sunday school families will serve their VBS Breakfast Fundraiser. It will run from 9

a.m. - 10:15 a.m. Pancakes, sausage, scrambled eggs, fruit, juice, milk, & coffee will be served in the basement and fellowship room. A free will donation will be taken. The VBS raffle drawings will be done at 10 a.m. during the breakfast. Thank you to everyone that came to our breakfast and purchased raffle tickets. We hope to cover our material costs for our VBS scheduled for June 4-8.

Our Secret Prayer Pal revealing party will be at 9 a.m. on Sunday, April 29 in the fellowship room. Thank you to all our volunteers for this special program. Please let me know if you are unable to be at the party.

UPCOMING DATES FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL:

April 1 - VBS Fund Raising Breakfast & Raffle
(starting 9am)

April 8 - Easter - no Sunday school

April 29 - Secret Prayer Pal Revealing Party (9am)

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH GARAGE SALE / FUNDRAISER -

June 1-2 (Friday and Saturday) - It is time for spring cleaning, so start setting aside items for the first annual Grace Lutheran Church Garage Sale. Donate your items to the church in late May, and let us do all the work. This is a great way to clean out your house or garage and help support the church. A lunch and bake sale are also planned during the sale. Contact Karen Lichtsinn with questions.

PEACE, RUTHTON

NOTES AND DATES

Sunday, April 1—Palm Sunday -- The elementary children will sing for Church Service

Tuesday, April 2, 2pm – St. Mark Circle meets at the home of Deloris Dagele.

Wednesday, April 4, 7pm -- Church Council

Sunday, April 8, 7:30am—Easter Breakfast sponsored by the Sunday School

Monday, April 9, 5pm – St. John Circle meets at the church.

Wednesday, April 11, 2pm – PLCW

Monday, April 23, 9am – Quilting Day

PRAYER CONCERNS

BETHANY (ARCO):

Pray for Eloise and the family of Carl Hauschild. Pray for Don & Delores Oerter, Dagmar Blegen, Elsie Barber, Travis Noble, and Harley Johnson (brother of Joan Lundberg)

BETHANY-ELIM (IVANHOE):

Pray for the family of Mavis Nielsen. Pray for Vivian Larsen, Kay Weckert, Bernie Aronson, Dennis Healy, Muriel Koopman, Rhoda Larson, Charmaine Lundberg, Dave Lawrence, Dennis Amundson, Ken Swanson, Brenda Sheik, Dan Buffington, Bruce Kelm (brother of Gretchen Suhr); Gabriel Johnson (Grandson of Norma Jean Johnson); Leigh Jerzak; Michael Kropp; Jackson Nelson (son of Ryan & Kate Nelson); Kristi Morelan; Dareld Benz (brother of Mavis Nielsen); Nancy Resmen (sister-in-law of Bernadine Olsen); Linda Vlaminck (Sister-in-Law of Dave & Marlene Lawrence); and Mary Grace Nelson (daughter of Ryan & Kate Nelson).

GRACE (LAKE BENTON):

Pray for the families of Geraldine Meyer and Rev. Gary Kubly. Pray for Norma Burdick, Robert Boll; Joyce McColn (sister of Carl Burk); Paula Jacobson (Daughter of Wayne & Annette Fehrman); Earl Klitzke; and Chet Borresen

PEACE (RUTHTON):

Pray for Florine Bannick, Bonita Fuhrmann, Herb Vinson, Doretta Vinson, Lance Preston, George Vinson, Carolyn Holck, Edna Haraldsen, and Cliff Kittelson.

ST. PAUL (MINNEOTA):

Pray for Lyall Gislason, Doris Richards, Clara DeRoode, & Crystal Gawarecki.

TYLER NURSING HOME:

Cliff Kittleson, Carolyn Holck, Harvey Christensen- Peace Lutheran

HENDRICKS NURSING HOME:

Ila Rasmussen, Bethany Lutheran

Rhoda Larson, Bethany-Elim Lutheran

Kay Weckert, Bethany-Elim Lutheran

DIVINE PROVIDENCE NURSING HOME (IVANHOE):

Mabel Dressen, Bethany Lutheran

Elsie Barber, Bethany Lutheran

Dagmar Blegen, Bethany Lutheran

MILITARY:

Pray for the leaders of this nation and all the nations of the world that all may seek peace. Pray for those family and friends of the members of WOTP who serve in the military or reserve forces, especially Matt Schaefer (in Kuwait); Lucas Oerter, Scott Johnson, Jon Dougherty, Christian Vizecky, Jon and Jack Healy, Danielle Thomsen, Michael Colman, Ross, Ryan, Angela, and David Nelson, Allan Peterson, Brook Brown, Derrick Linneman, Todd Board, Kyle Sheik, Alyson Bylone, Steve VandeBerg, Jim Pedersen, Justin Schmidt, Adam DeRoode, Pam Gregor, Paul Gregor, Jr., Corey Gregor, Christopher Gregor, and Paul Gregor