



Cross Winds

Winds of the Prairie Ministries

Bethany • Bethany-Elim • Grace • Peace • St Paul

**AUGUST 2010
NEWSLETTER**

FIRST WORD

Pastor Julie A. K. Anderson

Five Principles of Vibrant Faith

We continue to build the frame of Vibrant Faith. In review we have looked at the Christian's characteristics to be **Authentic, Available, and Affirming**. Faith is practiced through **Caring Conversations, Devotions, Service Rituals and traditions**.

This month we explore the **5 Principles** for living and passing on faith. The heart of Christian ministry is expressed by these principles.

Faith is formed by the power of the Holy Spirit through personal, trusted relationships-often in our own homes. Our identity and time is spent most in our homes and with our families of origin. These are the closest relationships where trust is built through daily life and service to each other. It is our history, our story of living in the faith. The Holy Spirit is present as the very life and breath of the home when the Word heard on Sunday and daily in the home is acted out as life principles and practices.

- Use a daily devotion such as "Christ in Our Home", the weekly "TAKING FAITH HOME" or an annual devotion in a book or Bible that you choose.

The church is a living partnership between the ministry of the congregation and ministry of the home.

The church is a spiritual resource center of grace through Word and Sacrament. The intent is not to only consume the divine gifts on Sunday and fast all week, but to take the gifts home to serve to the larger world as the reconciling power of God. The church is not a social club by membership, a convenience store for a quick fix or a social ministry support agency. The Church is where disciples go to engage in the meaningful ministry with others in God's world.

- What is the mission or ministry you are most attracted to? How can you fill your hunger for doing God's work?

Where Christ is present in faith, the home is church, too. Jesus did most of his ministry in homes as a guest. The early church began in homes where people gathered for worship and meals. After Luther's death when the government of the Holy Roman Emperor tried to reinstate the State Church the people rebelled because for them the kitchen table was an altar.

- Become part of a small group such as a Bible/Book Study or a ministry group. Start a group in your home, ask one of the pastors how or for ideas.

Faith is caught more than it is taught. "Your life may be the only Bible a person reads" is a wisdom that comes down through the ages. People are quick to see when Christianity is used as a mask of hypocrisy, when our talk doesn't match our actions.

- Consider that when you claim a relationship with the Church you are an example of Christ to the world.

If we want Christian children and youth, we need Christian adults. It takes a church to raise a child is the vow the congregation makes at Baptism. According to the 4th commandment children are to honor all adults for adults are responsible for caring for all children. We all learn when we teach and are able to see the world through the new eyes of a child. Let's not leave our children orphaned.

- Become a mentor, teacher, prayer pal, TFA or WXY adult leader. Remember that we leave a legacy, our story, with the next generation who lives in and out of it.

The month of August is time to consider and determine how you will grow in your faith in the new program year beginning in September. A Vibrant Faith is one that is living in response to the grace of God.

MEET OUR NEW INTERN!

By Pastor Steve Rasmusson

This month as we wish Jackie Harvestine well in her continued studies we also look forward to the beginning of learning and ministry of Jackie Braun.

Jackie Braun will have her first day in the parish on August 15. She will really hit the road on Tuesday the 17th as she gets a tour of the area, meets people in the parish and gets settled into her office. Her first meeting with the internship committee will be on Thursday of that week.

You will be able to meet our new Vicar on Sundays at your worship: August 15 at the Hole in the Mountain Gospel Worship at 10 a.m., August 22 at St Paul and Bethany and August 29th at Peace and Bethany Elim.

Let Ms. Braun introduce herself:

Hello! My name is Jackie Julian Braun. I've been married to Lyle nearly 19 years. He is an incredibly laid back and caring man. We have been blessed with two children. Marlee, who is 17 and will be graduating from high school in the spring of 2011. We can't believe how quickly the years have passed and how she has grown. Our son, Nathan, is our "baby" who is 13 and will be in the ninth grade this fall. We also have two dogs and two cats to complete our immediate family.

Brookings is my home town and we live in the home I grew up in. In 2005, our family made the decision to move into my parents' home to provide support for them. Both are now deceased, but we are thankful for the time we had together and for the wonders and challenges of caring for aging parents. I gained a

deeper appreciation and insight for multi-generational relationships and young, old and in-between caring for each other. I believe this experience also deepened my understanding of the "theology of the cross" and experiencing God's presence and even joy in unexpected moments.

I have always felt a call to serve in ministry but grew up in a home where my parents had left the church, my father having grown disheartened by the way congregational members treated each other and the minister. I remember hearing many theological conversations between my father and his adopted father – a Presbyterian minister. In high school I became active in the youth group at Ascension Lutheran, welcomed by friends and their families. The first time (but not the last time) I chose a different direction than my parents was choosing to be confirmed as a Lutheran as a high school student. I've never looked back – always believing that we are saved by God's actions alone through the faith given to us.

Jackie Braun

COME AND GROW WITH US

New Members Inquiry Class

Do you know someone you'd like to introduce to Jesus? A course of the basics of the faith will be taught this fall in our parish. Classes will be held Sunday afternoons from 3:30 to 5:00 p.m.. Dates and locations are:

- September 12, Grace Lutheran in Lake Benton
- September 19, Bethany in Arco
- October 3rd, Peace in Ruthton

- October 10th – St Paul Lutheran in Minneota
- October 17th – Bethany Elim in Ivanhoe
- October 24th – to be determined
- October 31st – New Member Sunday

Just as we have sponsors at Baptism to assist new Christians in their growth in the faith, we also seek sponsors for new members in our congregations. Invite a friend, come with them to classes, deepen your faith and work with Jesus to win souls for the Kingdom!

SUMMER FUN



Here are some dates to put on the calendar:

August 15 – New intern arrives

August 18 – New intern Welcome

September 1 – Last Summer Worship at Diamond Lake

September 12 – Rally Sunday and Box-elder Bug Days (New worship times --watch to see if your congregation's time changes or stays the same this year)

RALLY DAY IS COMING!

Our Rally Day for the new academic year will be September 12. Consider how you will use this new year to strengthen and grow in your faith. May I offer some suggestions:

Consider helping teach a Sunday School class.

Serve as a reader or assisting minister for worship.

Start or join a Bible or Book Study group

Look for a task force or group around and interest of yours to become a part of.

God gives us choices and opportunities everyday to be a part of His marvelous plan for creation in response to the gift of grace given so freely. What is your response going to be?

WOTP NEWS

By Karen Richmond, President

Our Winds of the Prairie parish is richly blessed by its pastoral leadership. We see Pastor Steve and Pastor Julie working diligently with the people of our parish. We have been blessed to have Vicar Jackie here as an intern. We started with this dream of strengthening our faith community by our five churches working together. And we are doing just that! This summer we see our youth provided with servant and fellowship opportunities. Our children take part in Bible School learning and Bible Camp experiences. We are able to participate in Bible studies and Christian book studies. We have ample worship opportunities on Sunday mornings and Saturday evenings as well as Wednesday evenings at Diamond Lake. We see our pastors making calls at hospitals, nursing homes and to those less able to get "out and about". The 'wind' of the Holy Spirit is definitely blowing through the prairie here.

We want to express our sincere thanks to Vicar Jackie. We have watched her confidence grow in her calling to do God's work. We have been blessed to be part of her personal growth and our collective growth as well. We, at our Winds of the Prairie parish farewell, presented her a picture on Wednesday, July 28th of a country farm scene, with a Bible verse imprinted. The verse is Psalms 65:11 from the Contemporary English Version, and reads "*Wherever your footsteps touch the earth, a rich harvest is gathered.*" We know that God is walking with Vicar Jackie as she continues her journey to share His word and His love. We know that she will be instrumental in the rich harvest to be gathered wherever she goes. We give thanks for her service.

AUGUST STATEMENT STUDY



What could be better than a reason to gather, eat and study before the

Wednesday Worship at Diamond Lake? Bring something to eat at 5:00. A Social Statement on Genetics draft should be finished in early August and our comments will be sent in. The Statement on Human Sexuality should be starting on August 11, so come join that discussion. Copies can be obtained at www.elca.org or ask one of the pastors.

WOMEN'S RETREAT



64th Annual Shetek Women's Retreat

Brochures are at each

congregation for the Shetek Women's Retreat on September 17 & 18, 2010. The theme is "Rejoice" with keynote speaker Jerry Dahmen on "I Love Life: The 6 Spiritual Principles for Successful Living". A great day of fun, food and fellowship for \$30 at our wonderful Shetek Lutheran Ministries Camp on Lake Shetek.

FAMILY FAITH

By Nancy Krog

Our summer months are spent gathering and re-connecting with family. So as you make one more potluck dish to pass, toss your lawn chairs into the car, and grab the bug spray, on your way to the upcoming family reunion...smile. Smile because you are making memories with your family. Each time families gather and connect with each other they are strengthening their family, remembering the memories they have made along the way. This summer we have enjoyed both the Richmond and Krog family cousins gather at the lake. The conversation is entertaining, the kids are old enough to seriously stay in the water all day, and we visit about past memories and hope that future memories are being created. As I stood outside the bedroom at the cabin filled with cousins, I had to remind myself that they can

visit and giggle a little longer past bedtime, since they are making memories of course. And I smiled. Enjoy the family devotion below and pack this summer with family memories!

"Making Memories"

Faith Theme: In celebrating worship, we remember what Jesus has done for us. At the Last Supper, Jesus gave us a way to remember him.

Teachable Moments:

A mother asked her grown daughters what some of the happiest memories from their childhood were. Both of them enthusiastically replied that their happiest memories were from the times the family went camping. They treasured watching their mother create a little piece of home around the tent and picnic table at the campsite. They enjoyed having no phones or TV sets and leaving the daily concerns of life behind for a few days. And they prized the long evening hours spent sitting around the campfire listening to family stories and tall tales. Memories such as these are the glue that bind a family and make it strong. These memories depend on feelings of togetherness, not on money or material goods. What memories are you creating for your child today?

Starting the Conversation:

Ask your child about his favorite memory of something your family did. What makes it so special and memorable? Share your favorite family memory as well.

Connections:

You may want to share with your child a story about a special meal that you have had with your family. Try to include details such as sights, sounds, and smells. Explain what made this memory so special to you. Special meals play an important role in banding a family together and strengthening its identity. They also play an important role in your faith. It may be helpful to your child if you point out his similarity.

In Prayer:

During worship, we bring to the table of the Lord all the love and joy that we have experienced in sharing meals with our family at home. In return we receive the Body and

Blood of Christ as our food for the journey.
The meals we share both at home and at church bring life and meaning to us.
“Thank you, Jesus, for giving yourself to me.
And thank you for my family and friends with whom I have made wonderful memories.
Amen.”
(*Simple Ways to Talk to Your Kids about Faith*, by Jim Campbell, 2007)

TRAINING FOR AFFIRMATION



New Beginnings:

With the start of the new school year it is time to begin our training for affirmation for the youth. This is not your typical confirmation preparation

for we are coming together with our fellow ELCA Lutherans in Lincoln and Lyon counties as the L3, to give our youth a richer, educational experience.

Beginning in September 2010 our TFA students will:

Instruction will begin in 6th grade, right after First Communion instruction and go for 3 years until the end of 8th grade.

Groups will meet on Wednesdays based on school districts with the following arrangement:

RTR/Pipestone/Elkton meet at 5:30 pm to 7:30 in Tyler at the ROC

Lincoln HI meet at 5:30 to 7:30 pm in Hendricks at Christ Lutheran

Minneota meet at 5:30 pm to 7:30 at Hope Lutheran.

The second Sunday of the month from 5:30 to 7 pm students, parents and mentors will meet at various locations around the county for fellowship, fun and some learning about faith.

We will be using the **HERE WE STAND** confirmation program of Augsburg Fortress and are looking forward with great excitement to helping our youth experience the breadth and depth of the Christian faith that is right our their front door. Opportunities to help our youth as

mentors and table leaders will give everyone a chance to assist with fulfilling our baptismal promise to each other.

Students who have completed 2 years of TFA

The final review sessions for those who have completed the original two year program and are eligible for Affirmation of Baptism will meet on Thursday, Aug. 5 & 12 at 7 pm in Arco at Bethany. Students will come alone on the 5th & parents will join them on the 12th. Afterwards we await their celebration. Please pray for these students in their time of discernment:

Donovan Breszinski, Tyler Epple, Maranda Jerzak, Logan Johnson, Anna Madsen, Hank Neyens, and Emily Swanson

WINDS EXTREME YOUTH

The first fall meeting of the WXY Board will be held at Grace Lutheran in Lake Benton at 4pm on Sunday, September 12, prior to the monthly TFA event. We will meet at 4pm and have a chance to announce the upcoming events to the area TFA youths and their parents.

CELEBRATE!

We have three youths on our Synod Lutheran Youth Organization Board: Jessica Epple, president, Kate Bump and Tisha Burch, members at large. The board is comprised of youth and adults from across the Southwestern Minnesota Synod. Pastor Steve is the adult board member from Prairie Conference.

Tisha Burch and Pastor Steve will help represent our synod at the national training on world hunger to be held in Detroit Michigan September 16-19. This World Hunger Leadership Gathering will be an opportunity to see how hunger affects the whole of human life. This is an invitation only annual meeting for hunger leaders. It is a concentrated learning event geared at training, equipping and energizing people on synod hunger task forces, synod staff involved in hunger ministry and others who raise money and educate

others about ELCA World Hunger work.

Here are a few dates to remember:

August 14-15 - Family camp out at Hole in the Mountain Park – Tent camping, campfire worship and smores.

Junior High Gathering “Are you Hungry”
November 19-20 or 20-21.

September 12 – Rally day and Minneota Bug Days Parade (We'll ride the float again!)

BETHANY NEWS

By Gayle Rasmussen

We are bidding Vicar Jackie farewell and wish her continued success in her quest to the ministry. In my opinion she will become a really good minister. Thank you for all you have given us this past year.

Summer is really speeding along and it has been a busy time at Bethany and WOTP. The Chicken Dinner committee is meeting now getting ready for the dinner.

I hope everyone is enjoying this summer and resting up, if that is possible, for the coming events in our lives and in Bethany.

Take the time to talk to God. Thank Him for His generosity and ask Him to guide us in our lives. Do we put God first above all else?

Thank God for being here for us.

BETHANY HELPERS FOR AUGUST

Ushers: Ron & Lynette Madsen Family
Altar Guild: Ardis Henriksen

WOMEN'S RETREAT

Women's Retreat to be Held August 11

The women of Bethany, Bethany-Elim, and Danebod invite the women of Prairie Conference to their annual Retreat to be held

Wednesday, August 11th, at Bethany Lutheran, Arco. Registration and coffee will be from 9-9:30am. Our theme for the day is “God's Gift of Time.” A free will offering will be collected at registration, and the remaining money after expenses will be sent to Casa Hogar, a mission school for the children of poor families in the area of Oaxaca, Mexico. At noon we will have pot luck, so bring a dish (salad, dessert, sandwiches, etc.) to share.

Two speakers will look at time in entirely different ways. They are:

1. Barb Schmidt of Vesta, MN, will be our morning presenter. Presentation is “19th Century Fashions” and will take us back in time to when our state was brand new. She will talk about what women wore and will have actual clothing along that will show us what a well-dressed woman had in her wardrobe.
2. Marie Henriksen, Arco, will be the presenter in the afternoon. Her topic is “Time in a Bottle” and will be a look at how time rules our lives or on the other hand, how we control our slice of time.

In addition, there will be devotions and music. So put August 11 on your calendar and plan to join us for a day of learning and fellowship.

GRACIOUS WORDS FOR AUGUST

By Darren Nelsen, Council President

I hope everyone is having a good summer. We have potluck that Grace Lutheran is serving for Wednesday August 18th at 5:30 pm. It will be at Diamond Lake, services will be at 7pm. This will be for Vicar Jackie, our new intern, and it will be a great time to meet and greet our latest intern and enjoy some great food.

I would like to personally thank Vern Paschke for building the cabinet for enclosing the sound system at Grace. He did a great job.

May God be with you!

GRACE LUTHERAN SUNDAY SCHOOL

By Pat Johnson

No, there isn't Sunday school going on right now but I'm always thinking and planning. Sunday school will be starting on Sept. 12. It will start at 9:45 a.m. and go until 10:45 a.m. I invite anyone who is interested in helping with this program to please give me a call or catch me in church.

Church cleaning has been scheduled to be done before the end of August. The Sunday school families are to clean the Sunday school rooms so I will be calling to set up a cleaning date.

I'd like to say thank you to the GLCW for the donation for Sunday school materials and also thank you to Service Group 2 for serving a great lunch after our VBS program. Everyone especially enjoys the ice cream cones!!!

At VBS we looked for God Sightings. This month I'd like to say "Great Job" to Karen (Lichtsinn) Harris, and the Grace men--Ray Sportel, Carl Burk, Wayne Fehrman, LaDon Prosch, Bob Worth, Vern Paschke, Pastor Steve, and their accompanist, Diane Evers. Thank you for giving of your musical talents to make our worship time more special.

The men's group was started by Pastor Steve around last Christmas. They sing old favorite hymns that are chosen by request, so if you have something special you'd like to hear just let them know.

I hope everyone is having a very fun summer. See you in church.

GRACE LUTHERAN NOTES & DATES

August Ushers -- Gerry Rochel, Jason Miller, Blaine Maranell, Tim Anderson

August Altar Guild -- Karen Fredrick

Wednesday, August 4, Noon – GLCW Potluck in the Fellowship Room – "Over 80's Party" --

members and Methodist Church Ladies;
Devotions: Romelle Pritchett; Hostesses:
Deloris Johansen, Diane Evers, Mary Paschke

Wednesday, August 11 – Bible Study.
Hostess: Judy Thomssen

Need a Ride to Grace on Sunday?

Contact Faye Rochel at 368-2088 and she will make arrangements to have you picked up.

90th Birthday Party!

Everyone is invited to help Lorraine Krog celebrate her 90th Birthday at a party to be held on Saturday, August 7, from 2:30pm – 7:30pm at the Lake Benton American Legion. Howard & Sonja Hanson will be playing! No gifts please.

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY IN LAKE BENTON

Join the Men's Discipleship and Prayer group in Lake Benton on Saturday, August 21, at 8am at the Buffalo Ridge Trading Company in Lake Benton (across from the Fire Hall). This is a non-denominational gathering, and all men are welcome to discuss issues and get acquainted over a cup of coffee, while studying the word of God! For information, contact J.R. Harris at (952) 288-4013 (email - gettfree4god@hotmail.com) or Keith Greer at (605) 690-0845 (email - kgee2372@yahoo.com).

BETHANY-ELIM TO HOLD AUCTION!

Bethany-Elim is having an auction—a service auction. This will be something new for all of us! This will be something FUN for all of us! Kevin and Andrew Swanson have agreed to be our auctioneers for this event. EVERYONE at Bethany-Elim is invited to donate something to be auctioned off. We DON'T want old appliances, furniture, or antiques; we want your talents or gifts. The auction will be held on Sunday afternoon, September 12th, following Rally Day, and will be open to the public as well as our church family. We have listed a few examples and ideas to get you to start

thinking. We have a church full of talented people, so we are hoping to have a large list of items to auction off—GET THINKING NOW and be as creative as possible.

It is no secret that our church family is in debt. We need to all come together and search our hearts and find our talents that God has blessed us with. We will be getting forms out soon to be filled in with your donations. This auction is for EVERYONE. Contact your Council members if you have questions. They are Sherry Rost, Kyle Krier, Loretta Lundberg, Bernie Olsen, Brandon Gifford, and Sharon Rasmussen.

Here are some ideas to get you thinking:

Senior High Youth -- Work 1 ½ Hour
(Labor to be agreed upon)

Other Donation Ideas:

Movie Tickets

Babysitting Services

Surprise Baskets

Pies

Cookies

Decorated Sheet Cake

Carrot Cake

Homemade Bread or Rolls

Large Packages of Gummy Bears (KIDS ONLY bid)

Afghans or Quilts

Weed Spraying Service

Driveway Snow Removal

Brownie Sundaes (to serve 24?)

Will Paint 1 Room—buyer furnishes paint

Christmas Cards created by donor

Will Mow Lawn twice at your home

Homemade Jellies or Jams

Easter Morning Rolls

Singing Telegram

Home-Canned Dill Pickles

Breakfast, Lunch, or Supper for 4 people

Homemade Christmas Candy Tray

Put on your thinking caps--the possibilities are endless!

BETHANY-ELIM'S 125TH ANNIVERSARY

Attention Bethany-Elim Members and Friends!

2010 marks the 125th anniversary of the forming of our church. The committee is compiling a book that will be available for sale later this fall. We are also planning a celebration on October 2, 2010! Please plan to come and celebrate with us on October 2 at 2 pm.

Also needed are memories, artifacts and any other item you wish to share.

Please let Bernie Aronson know if your family donated a memorial gift to the church that commemorates your loved one, such as crosses, bible stands, communion ware and other tangible gifts made in the name of your loved one. We want to be sure we include these gifts in our book. Bernie's number is 507-694-1266.

Thanks for your help and support. See you on October 2!

The 125th Committee

POLSKA KIELBASA DAYS

Polska Kielbasa Days in Ivanhoe

Polish Food is back by popular demand....join us at the Divine Providence Health Center Auxiliary Polish Food Stand on Saturday, August 14, serving from 11am – 1pm at the Ivanhoe VFW. The menu includes Polish Sausage & Sauerkraut, Charnina & Kluski, Golabki, Pierogi, Ponzcki, and beverages. All items are individually priced.

PEACE LUTHERAN DATES

Monday, August 2, 5:30pm – St. John Circle meets at the church

Tuesday, August 3, 9am – St. Matthew Circle meets at the home of Carolyn Holck.

Tuesday, August 3, 2pm – St. Mark Circle meets at the home of Valerie Petersen.

Wednesday, August 11, 9:30am – PLCW

attend Arco Women's Retreat – potluck lunch

Monday, August 23, 9am – Quilting Day

ST. PAUL'S NEWS

Vacation Bible School. This year three churches in Minneota are working together to hold a community VBS. Hope Lutheran, St. Edward's Catholic and St. Paul's Lutheran invite all children preschool through 6th grade to join in this fun week August 9-13. The theme is the *High Seas* with many great stories and activities being planned. It will be held at Hope Lutheran each morning 9:00-Noon. We also need volunteers to help out. If you have questions, can help out, or would like to register, please call Sue Buysse at 872-6219 or visit the website

<https://www.groupvbspro.com/vbs/ez/HopeStEdsStPaul>. Also hanging in church, we have a Wishing Wave of needed supplies/food for the week. Please grab a fish and help furnish the frenzy. ☺

Our Pie and Ice Cream Social was held on Sunday July 25th. Thank you to all everyone who was able to come to Minneota and enjoy good food and fellowship. We are truly blessed to be a part of the WOTP parish.

Also thank you to St. Paul's people who helped deliver Meals on Wheels in Minneota during the month of July. It is a wonderful way to Praise the Lord and help those in need. Plan on it again next July.

We continue to update our record books. So if you have life-event dates for your family...births, baptism, confirmation, weddings, deaths... please contact a church council member and submit them.

Enjoy the lazy (?) days of summer.....



Prairie Fire: The Spirited News of the Prairie Conference

22 congregations and ministries of the

Southwestern Minnesota Synod of the ELCA make up the Prairie Conference who work together on missions locally and globally. The

Executive Committee wants you to be informed of upcoming events, opportunities and preparations.

In August we have some new news:

- We welcome Jennifer Thul, wife of Daryl Thul, as pastor at Trinity and Sillerud Lutheran Churches of Balaton. Daryl has been serving in Balaton since January, and Jennifer is being installed on August 1st.
- Two visitors are coming in October somewhere between October 5 and 26 to experience life in the Prairie Conference according to Pastor Janet Colby of Canby. Each congregation is encouraged to have a representative on the Companion Circuit Task Force who will plan and host our visitors. Tell you pastor if you would be a host or what we can show and tell our visitors about this area. Several events and fellowships are in the planning so look for more information this fall. Pastor Janet is available to share her experience of traveling to South Africa earlier this year, so give her a call. Contributions for the Companion Synod should be sent to; **Jean Haug, Prairie Conf Treasurer, 1408 Pinehurst Road, Marshall, MN 56258** and mark "South Africa visitors or synod" on your check's memo line.
- Linda Wimmer of Sillerud/Balaton and Bruce Berg of Marshall are in the call process and await a call. Keep them in your prayers.
- We continue to offer support through pray our 3 seminary students:
 - Stephanie Christoffels of Bethany-Elim Lutheran in Ivanhoe attending Luther Seminary.
 - Mark Lund of First Lutheran in Marshal at Luther Seminary.

- Dan Nelson of Christ Lutheran in Hendricks at Luther Seminary.
- Plans are underway for a workshop with the Anti-Racism Team of the SW MN synod.

Look for more information on our South African visitors and the happenings of the Holy Spirit here in the Prairie Conference.

Rev. Julie Anderson, Conference Secretary



**Thank you from the
Pipestone, Murray,
Lincoln and Lyon
Counties Public Health** for

the bounty of baby supplies that were collected during Lent at our Winds of the Prairie Ministry congregations. The hampers were full to overflowing and were a great surprise.

LETTER FROM ELCA BISHOP

Time for Immigration Reform: A Letter from Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson of ELCA

July 13, 2010

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

The time has come for immigration reform in the United States. Yes, the issues are complex and not easily resolved. It is understandable that people are wary of engaging this politically and emotionally charged issue.

Yet it would be tragic if we withdrew as people of faith and our voices fell silent. We have an opportunity for evangelical witness to our faith in God who is present in the stranger and calls us to extend hospitality. "Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God" (Romans 15:7 NRSV).

The biblical witness is clear. The distinctions that so often divide humankind are overcome in Christ. By grace through faith on account of Christ we are joined together in a radically inclusive community. "For in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no

longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus" (Galatians 3:26-28).

Because God mercifully extends gracious hospitality in restoring us to community, we have a clear calling. That call is heard in God's command to the people of Israel, "You shall also love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt. ... Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the Lord your God has given to you and to your house" (Deuteronomy 10:19; 26:11).

Most, but not all, Lutherans in the United States are the descendants of immigrants or are recent immigrants. Others are descendants of slaves brought to this country or people who lived here before the arrival of the first Europeans and Africans. Our personal histories and faith stories are of an immigrant people moving in search of freedom, opportunity and safety.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is being renewed by the faith and witness of new and recent immigrants. This year 23 of 41 new ELCA ministry starts will be in immigrant communities, and more than 100 African national ministries have begun in the past three years.

We cannot welcome people into the ELCA, however, without caring about their lives, their concerns and their experiences as newcomers in this country. For that reason the ELCA repeatedly has affirmed the biblical witness and our shared experience, culminating in an affirmation by the 2009 Churchwide Assembly "that the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS) are committed to work toward comprehensive [immigration] reform that balances respect for the law with the recognition of due process and respect for humanitarian principles." Stating that "the nation's immigration system is broken, and Congress and the administration must work together to find a just and humane solution while assuring orderly migration," LIRS

identifies four foundational values for immigration reform:

keeping families together

maintaining basic human and worker rights

helping our new neighbors come out of the shadows

seeking a path to permanence for our new neighbors

As you serve in your communities, I commend to you resources for study and action (*Toward Compassionate, Just, and Wise Immigration Reform* [2009] and other resources), the voices of immigrant families and believers, and the witness of the Scriptures.

The concluding words of the *Message on Immigration* (1998) remind us "that all of us in the Church of Jesus Christ are sojourners, 'For here we have no lasting city, but we are looking for the city that is to come' (Hebrews 13:14). As we journey together through the time God has given us, may God give us the grace of a welcoming heart and an overflowing love for the new neighbors among us."

In God's grace,

The Rev. Mark S. Hanson

Presiding Bishop

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

PRAYER CONCERNS

Bethany (Arco): Pray for the family of Bernadine Stynski. Pray for Kendall Lundberg, Luella Madsen, Elsie Barber, and Carol Marin (Beth Daniels' Sister).

Bethany-Elim (Ivanhoe): Pray for Bruce & Julie Nelson and the family of Mindy Linscheid. Pray for Dave Lawrence, Dennis Amundson, Ken Swanson, Greg VanOverbeke, Dawn Rund, Brenda Sheik, Kelsey & Robin Hoffman (Grandchildren of Gene & Alice Faulds); Michael Kropp (Ken Swanson's son-in-law); Jackson Nelson (son of Ryan & Kate Nelson); Kristi Morelan, and Leann Wadsworth; 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 Eleanor Worth and her family; Clyde Krog; Tony Skaar (Lorraine Krog's Great-Grandson); Linda Borresen (Sister of Gerry Rochel); Paula Jacobson (Daughter of Wayne & Annette Fehrman); Larry Neuberger; Darrell Paulson; Joe Harris Sr.; Earl Klitzke; Leann Wadsworth; and Chet Borresen

Peace (Ruthton): Pray for Audrey Ranheim, Lavonne Fuhrmann and Cliff Kittelson.

St. Paul (Minneota): Pray for Lyall Gislason, Reese Kompelien, Doris Richards, Clara DeRoode, and Crystal Gawarecki.

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 Lucas Oerter, Scott Johnson, Anthony Nielsen, 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, Scott Lundberg, Aaron Darrel Lundberg, Justin Schmidt, Adam DeRoode, Pam Gregor, Paul Gregor, Jr., Corey Gregor, Christopher Gregor, Stephanie Christoffels, and Paul Gregor

Tyler Nursing Home:

Marjorie Meyer, Grace Lutheran
Sigurd Nielsen, Grace Lutheran

Divine Providence Nursing Home, Ivanhoe:
Elsie Barber, Bethany Lutheran

Dr. Mary Bird, St. Paul Lutheran
Pat Metzen, Bethany-Elim Lutheran

Hendricks Nursing Home:

Harvey Noble, Bethany Lutheran
Hilda Herschberger, Bethany-Elim Lutheran

Veteran’s Home, Luverne:

Evelyn Rudebusch, Grace Lutheran

universities in settings where matters of learning and faith are engaged. The chapel is the center of the campus which invites students to see and experience the integration of faith and study. Questions of faith and their effect on the vocation, calling, of the students to their areas of study is addressed on a daily basis.

A high percentage of public university students take five or more years to graduate, paying more of that “cheaper” tuition, and foregoing a year or more of income – which now averages around \$30,000 for a recent college graduate. The vast majority of Lutheran college students graduate in four years, saving a year or more in tuition, and entering the workforce sooner. The average grants that range from \$8,000 to \$14,000 or more per year. Most Lutheran colleges also offer a variety of scholarships that are not based on financial need, but instead reward a student’s academic achievement or talent in a particular area, or support specific career goals.

August- ELCA Ministry of the Month

Lutheran College Values and Information

One of Luther’s greatest influences was that each person should be able to read the Bible and experience for themselves God’s Word. Hence a great emphasis on public education for the sake of the Gospel is an identifying feature of the Lutheran faith expression. The understanding that each person has a vocation for which they are called to serve and need to prepare for in the earthly kingdom of God is another need for educational institutions, especially colleges and universities.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is in partnership with its 26 colleges and

Lutheran College Statistics

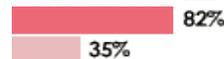
The Lutheran Educational Conference of North America recently surveyed thousands of graduates of both Lutheran colleges and other

types of colleges and universities, and the findings from this research project reinforce our reputation for educational quality.

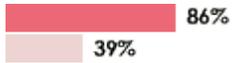


Commitment to a Personalized, Challenging Learning Experience

Professors were interested in students personally as well as academically

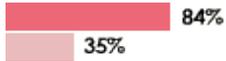


Benefited from many small classes with less than 20 students

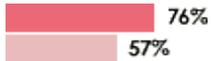


Plus the Daily Integration of Faith and Values

Benefited from an emphasis on personal values and ethics



College helped them develop a sense of purpose in life



And the Differences Last a Lifetime

Many more Lutheran college graduates say their undergraduate years prepared them with writing, speaking, teamwork, and leadership skills — and they place a greater emphasis on family, ethical, religious, and community concerns.

Pastor’s Report for June 21, 2010 to July 16, 2010

Worship	Education	Meetings	Pastoral Acts	Visits
3- Sundays Worships @ 5 congregations	8- Bible/Book Study	1- Council/Meeting	1-Funeral	23- Home
3- Nursing Home	0-TFA	2-WELCA	1-Baptism	5-Hospital
4-Wednesday Worship	0-VBS	1-WXY	2-Counseling	
	0-Continuing Education	3-Synod	1-Wedding	
		0-LCC	0-Affirmatin of Baptism	
		3-Public Event		



Shetek Mini Camp – Cody Gifford, Jason Epple, Rosie Aschenbrener and Molly Krog enjoyed 2 nights and 3 days at Shetek!



Shetek 4 – 6th Grade Camp – Jennifer Krog, Kira Gifford, Kathy Richmond and Tory Neyens and their awesome counselor Trina spent a whole week together at Shetek learning about and loving God!