



CrossWinds

NEWSLETTER OF WINDS OF THE PRAIRIE

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

AUGUST 2011

CONTENTS

First Word, p. 1
Notes from the Intern, p. 2
From the Bishop, p. 3
Pastor's Report, p. 3
Preaching Schedule, p. 4
Wednesday Worship, p. 4
Announcements, p. 5
Bible Study, p. 7
Spiritual Gifts, p. 8
Family Faith, p. 9
Youth Activities, p. 10
T.F.A., p. 11
Bethany Notes, p. 12
Bethany-Elim Notes, p. 12
Grace Notes, p. 13
Peace Notes, p. 13
Prayer Concerns, p. 13

FIRST WORD: WHAT NOW?

PASTOR JULIE A. K. ANDERSON

On July 1 we all found out how little control we have when it comes to nature. A storm of Biblical proportion came through our area leaving various degrees of damage from a few branches to total devastation. It seemed random and unjust as to who was affected. Several of our families had a total loss of a lifetime of work and possessions while others had a mess to clean up. It seems that with each cleanup more damage is found so what now? When does one just walk away and look at new opportunities and new life? As a community called the church we support all those who have suffered such loss and marvel at God's hand protecting us from such disaster.

After the resurrection the disciples were sent to a mountain in Galilee. Their teacher was alive again and they were curious as to what was next. As Disciples they were expected to watch and learn from the master. A disciple was one who followed and asked questions. What now, how would things change?

Jesus informs them that they are to go forth and make disciples of all nations by baptizing them into the family name. As one sent they are now Apostles, who are to go and share to make disciples, students. They are to become the teachers and messengers, something they have never done before. Their world is about to change in a dramatic way rather stormy way.

As they go out they find that they need to come back together to be renewed by learning from each other's experiences, they become a student, disciple, again. It is this cycle of learning by teaching and interacting with each other that we continue today.

When we come to worship, studies or other events we gather publically as the family of God. It is a time to catch up with each other as we share, listen and learn. There are times when our words helps others to better see God's hand in their life and other times when the words of another give us that deeper understanding.

In this season of Pentecost we are hearing, learning and doing the mission of the Church. The Church is the physical expression of Jesus, it is called a body, made up of those who believe that his life giving actions by death on the cross makes a difference for our lives today. As we go back and review the stories of Jesus healing, preaching, teaching and miracles we see a loving and living God at work on this earth.

I have been amazed as we have begun the semi-continuous reading of the Old Testament how often God interacts with humanity. Jesus is God's ambassador, who delivers the message that God would have a one on one relationship with all people. Again and again people who are often not perfect become instruments for showing God's love for others.

CONTINUED ON FOLLOWING PAGE

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE What about now? When you go out of worship on Sunday does what you heard, saw or experience make a difference in your life? Do you see the world, your neighbor, family or enemies like God sees them? That is what the Word of God is meant to do, to help you see others as your brothers and sisters in Christ. By following Jesus' example we can both do what he says and does for his actions are coming from the will of God, not his own.

This is the season in which we explore and experiment with the gifts we have been given to serve others. At times the gifts are easy and seem natural while at other times it seems like God has sent a great storm into our life to mess up and destroy as much as possible. The answer to the question 'What now?' becomes the opening up of new opportunities to do something different. When the former is destroyed we become aware of the other ways in which we can live, learn and love each other. The simplest tasks take on a holiness for they seem more connected to God's will than our own efforts.

What now! then becomes an exclamation of surprise and wonder instead of fear and dread for you are hearing God speak to you as one who is fully living. Perhaps we should all begin each day when we rise by asking, "What now?" and see where it takes us, for that is what living by grace and faith means.

MEET OUR NEW INTERN!

As we continue in our task of sharing with the seminaries of our church in the training of ministers for ordination, we are excited about our new intern, Bailey Landa. Internship is normally the third of four years of training that is required of candidates for ordination as a Pastor in the ELCA. Interns are not fledgling pastors, but students in ministry who are with us for a year of intensive learning. As I speak with my colleagues, I share that I am very proud of our congregations of Winds of the Prairie. We have become a wonderful site for learning for our interns. They get a full introduction into all aspects of ministry, receive wonderful support and counsel for our members and leave us with a heart for sharing the Gospel. As Vicar Landa joins us on the 15th of August, she will have a chance to tour the parish and meet some of you. But the BIG WELCOME will be on August 17th at Diamond Lake. Join us for potluck supper at 6:30, followed the official ceremony of welcome. WELCOME BAILEY!

NOTES FROM THE INTERN

Greetings to you all during this steamy summer! My name is Bailey Landa and I am a 24 year old, Augustana College graduate from the far away town of Tracy, MN! My family is still in Tracy with my younger sister in Sioux Falls beginning her senior year at Augustana. I am engaged to Erik; a wonderfully caring, funny, and down-to-earth man from Canton, SD. And rounding up my family are my two cats- Kona and Bella.

Besides growing up in Tracy, I also worked at Shetek Lutheran Ministries for 6 years. I graduated from Augustana College in 2009 with a BA in Religion and began my studies at Luther as a Master of Arts student in Children, Youth, and Family. Close family and friends tried to convince me that I should be a pastor, but I always told them that was not what I wanted to do. Last year I heard the call that God was trying to tell me, and here I am today learning and living out the call to serve the people all around us.

As I look to what this next year has to offer- I'm looking forward to learning more about my call to become a future pastor. Preaching, pastoral care, building relationships, community, and the many surprises that will come in this short year. I look forward to what this year will bring, all that I will learn from each of you, and meeting all of the members of Winds of the Prairie!

Bailey Landa

The heat wave is coming to an end!

PRAYERS FOR A TIME OF CHANGE

OUR BISHOP JON ANDERSON CAME TO VISIT OUR AREA IN JULY AND HAD THESE REFLECTIONS:



As I drove across the prairie last Tuesday things did not look right. It was not the eerie sight of torn apart grain bins littering the prairie that was so odd. It was not the broken trees snapped and twisted off littering the landscape that troubled my sense of normal. It was not the blue tarps on houses, businesses and nursing homes that grabbed my attention. It was the strange look of soybeans stripped of all leaves....just stalks, miles of fields of stalks. I have seen damaged crops before. But it was so odd-looking that I found myself wondering, what crop is this? I have seen plenty of hailed-out crops, but not something like this.

It was the result of fifteen to thirty minutes of howling winds tearing up homes, tearing up trees, tearing up fields, tearing up people's sense of security for mile upon miles. Sometimes there had been hail, sometimes just wind, sometimes tornados.

People looked shocked. I felt shocked as I saw the weird sights. A blue Harvestore silo bent over another blue Harvestore. Wind turbines twisted over. A farmstead on a hill destroyed. Mr. Lynn explaining what happened with so much surprise in his voice that you could tell he had not been able to integrate the reality that his life's work had been largely destroyed. But when he talked about the particularity of his damaged favorite car, the emotion finally was unveiled. People were working so that they did not have to feel their sadness and anger (Old Norwegian for grief). In my working dress clothes, I just wanted to stop my email and meetings and plow in with a chain saw in hand to help. I am thankful for all who could and did...sisters and brothers in Christ coming from all over to help. Storms tear apart homes, towns, trees, crops and change our lives. In the midst of the damage, dear God works to redeem our experiences of storms of all kinds.

Dear God please use the storms to help us remember who we are...neighbors...in this world together. We can be at our best in the storms of life.

- + People showing up for each other.
- + People loving each other and supporting each other.
- + Neighbors walking with others after the flash of the disaster has passed.
- + Pastors, lessons, hymns and prayers proclaiming we are more than our stuff

Dear God thanks for working to redeem this storm and all the storms we face as we walk through this life. Where have you seen signs of God's presence lately. I watched God's children loving, helping and supporting one another along the path of the storms of July 1st.

PASTOR'S REPORT FOR JUNE 2011

Worship	Education	Meetings	Pastoral Acts	Visits
13 - Sundays Worships Total	12 - Bible/Book Study	7- Council/Meeting	8 - Counseling	25 - Home
5 - Nursing Home	18 - VBS	1 - WELCA		2 – Hospital
3 - Saturday Night		1 - WXY		9 – Public Events
		4 - Synod		

AUGUST PREACHING SCHEDULE

		Bethany (8:30)	Grace (8:30)	Peace (10:30)	St. Paul (8:30)	Bethany-Elim (10:30)
Sun, Aug 07	<i>Holy Communion</i>	Parish Picnic service at Lake Stay, 10 am. (Rasmusson)				
Sun, Aug 14	<i>Service of the Word</i>	Anderson	Rasmusson	Gideons	Gideons	Anderson
Sun, Aug 21	<i>Holy Communion or Lay Service (Gideons)</i>	Gideons	Anderson	Anderson	Rasmusson/ Landa	Rasmusson/ Landa
Sun, Aug 28	<i>Holy Communion or Lay Service (Gideons)</i>	Landa/ Rasmusson	Gideons	Anderson	Anderson	Gideons



WORSHIP ON WEDNESDAY AT DIAMOND LAKE

Mark your calendars for the Wednesday evenings after the Summer Solstice at 7 pm for the Wednesday worship at the Diamond Lake Chapel. Let your council know if you can help with the worship or lunch after worship on your congregation's week. The Pastors are offering a study of the texts for the upcoming Sunday beforehand at 5:30. Bring your bible and bag supper for fellowship and study.

❖ Date	Topic	Texts	Church/Committee	
August 3, 2011		Prayer	Matthew 6:5-15	Bethany
August 10, 2011		Perspective	Matthew 6:16-23	WXY
August 17, 2011	Intern Welcome	Caretaking	Matthew 6:24-34	Intern Committee
August 24, 2011		Golden Rule	Matthew 7:1-12	Bethany-Elim
August 31, 2011	Dessert Potluck	Doers of the Word	Matthew 7:13-28	Peace

PARISH OUTDOOR WORSHIP – AUGUST 7TH

NOW FOR SOMETHING NEW!

The whole parish will not have worship in the churches on August 7th, but will join for a parish picnic at Anderson Park on Lake Stay, east of Arco at 10 a.m. This will be a service of Holy Communion, so the folks assigned for communion assistants on that Sunday will assist with communion at the park. Following the worship at 10:00 a.m. we will have lunch and follow up with games for all ages.

Check with folks at your congregation to share rides, bring a lawn chair and plan for a great morning!

See you at the park! Praise God in his Creation!

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.



RALLY DAY IS COMN'

August is the month where plans begin for our next year of Sunday School. Rally Day is on September 11, the 18th for St Paul. If you know of someone in your neighborhood who has children that would be interesting in coming to Sunday School please let the following people know as the leaders of Education at our congregations.

Bethany: Bille Jo Moat

Grace: Pat Johnson

St Paul: Sue Buysse

Bethany-Elim: Nancy Krog
Anna Epple

Peace: Tracey Kuhlman
Laurie Madsen

ACOLYTES, NEW AND EXISITING GATHER FOR WORSHIP CELEBRATION DAY: AUGUST 10 AT 2 TO 7:30 PM



On Wednesday August 10 all those entering 4th grade and on up are to come to the Diamond Lake Campus for a time of fun, learning and worship. This is a time for all those who are serving as acolytes to have a review and help to teach the new 4th graders the importance of worship and how to get the most out of it. This will be a review for the current acolytes and some basic information for the 4th graders and others who need training. That evening after a light supper they will participate in leading worship at the Diamond Lake Chapel. Then this fall each church will have a time after worship with the 4th graders to help them to learn how to serve as acolytes in their own congregations. We come together to share the foundations and then build up each other by learning to serve in our home congregations.



FIRST COMMUNION INSTRUCTION: AUGUST 27

Considering the last two years of weather it was thought to have First communion instruction to begin the new year. So those who are entering 5th grade and others who need the instruction along with at least one parent should be at Bethany in Arco at 9:00 on August 27. Plan on a field trip to a special place in the afternoon after baking bread in the morning, a hands on day for a very hands on sacrament. We'll plan on being finished around 4:30 pm. Please confirm with Pastor Julie (507-215-2388 or pastorjuliea@frontiernet.net) how many from your family will be attending.

DIG A WELL – SAVE A VILLAGE.

You have heard of the drought and the resulting famine that is striking Africa. We are nearing in on our goal of \$2500 to send to ELCA World Hunger. This will provide a well and water system for an entire village. For more information check out www.elca.org/hunger. To join in on this venture, make a donation to your congregation's offering and mark it Well Project.

SAVE THE DATES! 125TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

The Grace Lutheran congregation will be celebrating their 125th anniversary on Sept. 17 and 18, 2011. It is the anniversary for both the Lake Benton and Diamond Lake sites. On Saturday, Sept. 17 a 5:30 p.m. potluck supper with church service following will be held at Diamond Lake and in town on Sunday, Sept. 18, there will be a 10:30 a.m. church service followed by a catered dinner (reservations required) and an afternoon program. Please join us in celebrating this wonderful milestone in our church life. Let your family and friends know so they may join us.

PASTORAL TASKS 2011-2012



It is the nature of the office of pastor to have certain tasks associated with it. These are laid out in a document called "Visions and Expectations" which sets for these tasks which are then adapted to the place where the pastor is called to minister. We thought we would share these eight areas of ministry with you over the next few months so you all understand what the Personnel committee has helped the pastors to determine as the needs of the Winds of the Prairie Ministry congregations.

General Expectations	Associate Pastor	Lead Pastor
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inspiring others to be a disciple of Jesus Christ Visioning a caring future for rural community Instilling evangelical Passion in disciples for all people in our area communities Accountability – to staff and personnel committee of the WOTP council Mutual support and shared responsibility – As assigned (see below) Maintain the Visions and Expectations of Clergy in the ELCA. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Study of Rural Issues with local groups Council /Group Devotions that focus on mission and duties of individuals. Work with Lead and Intern to have coverage for worship and pastoral care. Read new Visions and Expectations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Study of Rural Issues with local groups Inspiring others to be disciples of Jesus Christ Visioning a caring future for rural community Instilling evangelical passion in disciples for all people in our area communities Accountability to Personnel Committee and Winds of the Prairie Council Supervision of called and hired WOTP staff Maintain the Visions and Expectations of Clergy in the ELCA.

WOTP BABY SHOWER THANK-YOUS

"Again you have gone above & beyond our expectations. The baby shower items are all beautiful and will be gratefully used. In fact, two new moms & babies have received some of the gifts. We will always tell parents who the generous people are who gave us all the lovely gifts. Thank you so much!" *WIC & Public Health*

"On behalf of the staff in Lincoln, Lyon and Pipestone Counties, the management team and the governing board, I want to express our gratitude for your continued interest and support of our programs for young families through your donation of baby supplies and clothing." *Ardis Henriksen, Executive Assistant*

POTLUCK FAVORITE

At the first Wednesday potluck this summer Darlene Meyers of Grace brought a wonderful salad that she has shared with us all here.

MAKE AHEAD VEGETABLE SALAD

- | | |
|---|------------------------------|
| 1 Can- Petite Peas, drained | 1-small onion diced |
| 1 Can – French cut Green Bean, drained | 1 Cup Sugar |
| 1 ½ Cup Diced Celery | ½ Cup Vegetable Oil |
| Green Pepper diced | 1-Tablespoon of Salt or less |
| 1-2 oz jar of chopped pimentos, drained | ¾ Cup White Vinegar |

Combine all ingredients in a large bowl, cover and refrigerate for at least 12 hours before serving. Can add ½ Cup diced Carrots for some color. Can drain off some of the liquid before serving.

Thanks Darlene, this is so simple and refreshing.

BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES



SUNDAY TEXT STUDY ON WEDNESDAY: Beginning Sunday June 26 we start a semi continuous reading of the Old Testament so why not use this as an opportunity to study and prepare for Sunday worship. Bring your Bible, whatever you have, and your portable supper **at 5:30 pm to the hall at Diamond Lake Chapel** to read and talk about the readings for the upcoming Sunday. Ask those who have participated in such study and they will tell you that it helps your get much more out of worship and the sermons. Come as you can for it is an open invitation and each week is a new set of readings. Or use the chart below for your own personal preparations.

Date	Old Testament	Psalm	New Testament	Gospel	Theme
August 3, 2011	Genesis 37:1-4; 12-28	105:1-6; 22;45b	16- Romans 10:5-15	Matthew 14:22-33	Silent Heart
August 10, 2011	Genesis 45:1-15	133	Romans 11:1-2a; 29-32	Matthew 15:10-28	Answered Prayer
August 17, 2011	Exodus 1:8-2:10	124	Romans 12:1-8	Matthew 16:13-20	Gift of Faith
August 24, 2011	Exodus 3:1-15	105:1-6;23-26;45b	Romans 12:9-21	Matthew 16:21-28	Call to Suffering
August 31, 2011	Exodus 12:1-14	149	Romans 13:8-14	Matthew 18:15-20	Love One Another

MEN'S BIBLE STUDIES: August is a month off for the men but you are invited to gather in September 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 throughout the summer.

Coming in September after Labor Day.

Wednesday morning Text Study at 8:30 am will meet at the Buffalo Ridge Coffee Shop in Lake Benton. A reading and discussion of the upcoming readings for the Sunday worship.

Old Testament Study on Second and Fourth Monday and Tuesday at 10 am will begin by focusing on the Old Testament readings that review for us the faithfulness of God's plan for the upcoming weeks. When the readings are suspended for the early seasons of the church year we'll pull out the Serendipity Bible or a book or two for study.



W3- WINDS WOMEN'S WEDNESDAY

Starting in September on the fourth Wednesday, September 28th, the women of Winds of the Prairie Ministry are invited to come together for an evening of fellowship, conversation and surprises. We'll use a variety of resources from movies, TV programs and studies to help us to explore how our faith affects our daily life. Ask Pastor Julie if you have any questions and we'll plan on meeting at Bethany in Arco at 7:30 pm. Feed the family and leave the dishes for them to do and come for a time of renewal and recharge.

SPIRITUAL GIFTS INVENTORY



God has given each Christian two vitally important gifts. The first is the gift of faith in Jesus Christ, his work of redemption, and thus forgiveness of sin. The second is the gift of one or more special abilities, which are to be used for the purpose of unifying the body of Christ and for the growth of God's Kingdom. These abilities are called spiritual gifts and they are received through our baptism.

Like other presents, it is impossible to fully appreciate and make use of our spiritual gifts until they have been opened. This tool will help you begin to open your spiritual gifts by guiding you through scripture review, scripture references, and self-assessment inventory.

Each month we'll give you the 3 inventory questions for several of the gifts. For each of the questions which follow, select the number that best matches how you perceive yourself.

Numerical scores are presented as:

- 4, consistently true
- 3, frequently true
- 2, occasionally true
- 1, infrequently true
- 0, rarely true

Questions	Score: 0-4
Administration	
1. When presented a goal, I immediately think of steps that need to be taken in order to achieve the desired results.	
2. I enjoy organizing thoughts, ideas, hopes and dreams into a specific plan of action.	
3. I have been successful in organizing, directing and motivating people to achieve a goal.	
Total for Administration	
Artistry	
1. I express myself through artistic means.	
2. I can translate into artistic form what I first see in my imagination.	
3. My artistic work has given spiritual strength to both believer and non-believer.	
Total for Artistry	

Scores of 7 or greater are considered strong gifts. Following are descriptions, biblical references and ministry suggestion for each gift. If either is a gift of yours, use the resources below to learn more and discern how to use your gifts.

Administration: The gift that enables a believer to formulate, direct, and carry out plans necessary to fulfill a purpose.

Biblical References: I Corinthians 12:28, Acts 14:23.

Suggestions: Congregation Council, Finance Staff, Sunday School Superintendent, Vacation Bible School Coordinator, Business Manager

Artistry: The gift that gives the believer the skill of creating artistic expressions that produce a spiritual response of strength and inspiration.

Biblical References: Exodus 31:

1-11, Psalm 149:3a.

Suggestions: Banner Making, Drama Club/Clown Ministry/Puppetry, Film/Photography Work, Crafts/Handicrafts, Decorating Team, Set/Props Design Team

Next month: discernment, evangelism and exhortation. All questions from the Spiritual Gifts Assessment at elca.org.

WINDS OF THE PRAIRIE CELEBRATES WITH PASTOR STEVE

On the 30th anniversary of Pastor Steve's ordination a celebratory service was held at the Diamond Lake Chapel, Wednesday, June 23rd. The service was led by Vicar Jackie Braun, filled with song and prayer. In the middle of the service a skit illustrating all the roles Pastor Steve plays was performed by members of WOTP congregations. A gift was also presented to him by Karen Richmond, president of the WOTP Council. Coffee and brownie sundaes were served at the hall following.



FAMILY FAITH

NANCY KROG

HEAT WAVE

TODAY'S READING: Revelations 3:14-15 "I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot."

FAITH WALK: Go on a long hike on a warm summer day. Weed the garden with the sun on your back. Walk briskly to get the mail.

FAITH TALK:

- Talk about what it felt like to be walking or working in the sun.
- When something is frozen, it is stiff. It does not move. But fire cannot be contained. It moves quickly, spreading rapidly. What does it mean to be spiritually hot or cold?
- How can the actions of a church or individual be hot, cold, or lukewarm?
- When Jesus died on the cross for us, He was showing us a blazing love. Now He desires that we love Him with a fiery love that cannot help but spread to others. How can you be "hot for Christ"?

FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES:

- Boil a pot of water, then set it aside for an hour. Have each person test it with a finger. What happened to the water? If you do not keep heating water, it cools. People are like water. If we do not fuel our faith with the fire of God's Word, we will become lukewarm Christians.
- Fill a pot half full with water. Measure the water depth, then boil it for half an hour. Measure the depth again. What was the difference? If you continue to boil the water, it will evaporate away. Likewise, if we burn the fire of our lives and do not add the WATER OF LIFE – CHRIST'S WORD – we will burn out.

CONTINUED ON FOLLOWING PAGE

- Make a list of the ways you can stay connected to God’s Word. Did you remember to include the church? Make a list of people who lead you to God’s Word, helping to keep the fire of your faith burning. Did you remember to add your Pastor, Sunday School teacher, and parents?
- Write a list of ways to physically warm up when you are cold. Next write a list of ways to warm up when spiritually cold, such as reading God’s Word or going to church. Keep your spiritual list posted as a reminder of the ways God works His fire in you.
- Write a prayer asking God’s Spirit to be alive and active in your church and that your church will be on fire for Christ.

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD’S GRACE: Dear Spirit of God, You stand at our hearts and knock. Come into our hearts and build a blazing fire of Your love so the spirits of others might be warmed and our faith in Christ may spread like a fire until the whole world is filled with You! For Jesus’ sake, Amen.

(Family Faith Walks, Kelly J. Haack, Concordia Publishing House)

I chose the above family devotion for two reasons. For one, today it’s HOT and humid outside, you can almost chew the air instead of breathing it. The second reason is because it reminded me of a passage that was discussed at the Passing on Faith conference I attended a few years back. Pastor Rhonda Hanisch, from Ascension Lutheran Church in Brookings, is fond of fishing. She talked about the church needing to be a fancy lure that “catches” people. She related the movement of the church to fishing. If you have dull services and no action in a body of church, it’s like putting an empty fish hook in the water, your odds are not good. If you have an active church body, activities, and service groups busy working in and out of church – making movement – you will catch people’s eye and draw them near. This theory relates to the devotion above, we pray that God’s Spirit BLAZE more strongly in our church, to gather people, keep us connected to each other and to God. So go on your way today, have some fire in your belly for the Lord and cast your sparkling lure, loaded with fresh bait way into the water and wait for the Lord to answer you.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES –

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Yearly planning meeting and kickoff picnic** – Diamond Lake (Hwy 75 and Co Rd 13), August 31 at 5:30 p.m. for all youth between 6th and 12th grades.
- **Junior High Youth Gathering** – November 18-19, Willmar Conference Center
- **Senior High Gathering** (location to be determined) – March 9-10 (tentative)

VENTURE CREW –

The Venture Crew 316 is a joint project of the Boy Scouts of America and Winds of the Prairie Ministries. It is an organization run by the youth of our community who are between the ages of 14 through 21, with an interest in outdoor activities and community service. It is a Lutheran sponsored organization, but is not limited to only the youth who are members of Winds of the Prairie.

YOUTH! Check out ADDENDUM D – “Venturing Activity Interest Survey.” Fill this out and it will help us plan activities for the coming year. Anything is possible! Bring your interest Survey to our first monthly meeting on Wednesday, August 31st at Diamond Lake at 5:30 p.m. Let’s get the year started off with a bang and a barbeque.

ADULTS! We are looking for adult leaders for the council and to mentor our youth. Please find the attached sheet marked Addendum B on the bottom and see where your gifts and the need of our youth might intersect. If you are able, bring it with you and we’ll meet with the youths before the final Diamond Lake Worship for the summer.



TRAINING FOR AFFIRMATION (TFA) 2011-2012

On again the planning begins for the 2011-2012 year for education of the disciples of Winds of the Prairie Ministry. The middle school students of 6th, 7th and 8th grades will continue their studies to prepare for Affirmation of Baptism.

This year we will meet at Winds of the Prairie Ministry congregations at Bethany Lutheran in Arco after school on Wednesdays.

Sixth Grade will be learning by reviewing the Old Testament stories they have been hearing in Sunday School for years. From 4:30 to 5:30 they will receive instruction from the pastors. At 5:30 they will join the other grades for a short worship and meal. They will then clean up the meal and participate in their small group until 7. Later in the year they will have a retreat to explore the Wisdom Literature.

Seventh, Eighth and Ninth Graders will study the New Testament. When they arrive around 4:30 they will participate in small group activities for worship preparation, service and meal preparation. After worship and meal they will have instruction with the pastors. Retreats centered around the Lord's Prayer or Apostle's Creed will occur later in the year.

On the **first Wednesday** of the month we'll make a **SPLASH** with the Ten Commandments. Our first Wednesday on September 7 will be Orientation for Parents and Students. Parents and mentors are invited to join us for supper at 5:30 followed by an evening program lead by the students. Plans to meet with our fellow Lincoln county churches on occasion for special events that celebrate our common faith and gifts.

To prepare for this new year there are several things you can do to help with TFA.

- Consider being a mentor for a TFA student. The sixth graders will each need a caring adult who will walk with them in their TFA journey by meeting with them monthly to discuss faith issues and how faith is an important part of your life.
- We will need adults, especially men, to be leaders for the small groups of five to six students on Wednesday evening. If you feel that you are gifted and called to help young people and along the way get to review what you learned in Confirmation.
- We are looking for several people who would help to prepare the meal with the students assistance. If you love to cook why not share it.

If you have any questions or comments please share with the pastors. We are looking forward to an exciting year.

BETHANY, ARCO

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS FOR JULY

USHERS: Ron & Lynette Madsen

ALTAR GUILD: Lynette Madsen

BETHANY NEWS

GAYLE RASMUSSEN

Summer, a time of informality and leisure.....WELL get ready, because Bethany is going to have some services to change the pace.

Sunday, August 7, we will be having worship services at Anderson Park on the shore of Lake Stay, and all are invited to come and be part of this special service.

Sunday, August 14, we will be joining Bethany-Elim at the gazebo in Ivanhoe, as part of the Polska Kielbasa celebration.

We invite you to come and worship in some different settings .

WOMEN'S RETREAT TO BE HELD AT BETHANY, ARCO

The Women's Units of Bethany, Bethany-Elim and Danebod invite the women of Prairie Conference to their annual Women's Retreat. It will be held August 10th at the Bethany Lutheran Church in Arco and will begin with registration and coffee at 9:00 a.m. With the theme of **"Every Life Has a Story"** we will celebrate the 30th anniversary of these retreats.

A donation will be collected to cover our costs upon registration. We will have an anniversary cake and a display of posters showing all the programs we have had over the last 30 years.

An interesting day has been planned. In the morning our speaker will be Margie Bornhoft from Tyler. The Bornhoft

Reminder! Bethany's annual Chicken Dinner is going to be held on Sunday, September 25, so mark this date on your calendar.

We now keep the people of the area in our prayers, as they work through the damages from the storms in the area.

Have a great summertime.

If you are willing, God can use you, at any age.

family visited Ethiopia over Christmas and Margie will share with us their experiences in this country so different from ours. She will show pictures and tell about the country and the family they visited while there. In the afternoon we are in contact with a story teller you may remember from some years ago – Sue Morton of Cottonwood. If because of work she cannot come we have another story teller in mind. We are also planning of other activities such as devotions, singing, and a visit with our conference liaison person.

Noon plans are a potluck luncheon so bring a dish to pass. Beverages and dishes will be provided. So plan to join us for a great day.

BETHANY-ELIM, IVANHOE

BETHANY-ELIM SERVICE AUCTION

BETHANY-ELIM'S SERVICE AUCTION is coming up on Sunday, September 11, following Rally Day....start planning what you want to auction off and check the church for suggestions and ideas that will be posted ...be creative and let's top last year's auction, if possible! The more that participate the better time we will have....be watching for more announcements on the auction.

GRACE, LAKE BENTON

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS FOR JULY

USHERS: Dale Petersen, Claire Pritchett,
Garrett Petersen, La Don Prosch

ALTAR GUILD: Deloris Johansen
and Darlene Meyer

GRACIOUS WORDS

DARREN NELSON

Upcoming events for August are Te Tonka Ha Days August 14th, we will be having church services at Grace Lutheran at 8:30am then 9:30am at the Hole in the Mountain Park. WTOP is closing in on our Well Project with a little bit more to go if you feel moved to donate it would be great appreciated.

There has been plenty of destruction in the area with the tornados and winds the first Friday in July. Though thankfully no one was injured many homes, businesses, farms and crops were destroyed or badly damaged. A lot of clean-up has been completed or is still on going, it may take years to rebuild homes, businesses and farms. Material things can be replaced in time but people cannot so let us be thankful that we have our health. Please remember in your thoughts and prayers everyone affected by the storms here locally and nationally. It would be nice if we would stop by talk, listen and be there for our neighbors and members during these tough times. As the work is completed the memories are still there so please don't forget and just stop and say "hi."

PEACE, RUTHTON

NOTES AND DATES

Tues, Aug 2 - 9:30 am – St. Matthew Circle meets at the home of Barbara Petersen

Tues, Aug 2 – 2 pm – St. Mark Circle meets at the home of Doretta Vinson

Wed, Aug 10 – PLCW members attend the Arco Retreat

Wed, Aug 10 – 8 pm – Church Council Meeting

Mon, Aug 22 – 9 am – Quilting Day

PRAYER CONCERNS

BETHANY (ARCO):

Pray for Ruth Rasmussen, Luella Madsen, Elsie Barber, Tom Henriksen, Gladys Meleen (mother of Jewel Noble) and Harley Johnson (brother of Joan Lundberg)

BETHANY-ELIM (IVANHOE):

Pray for Arlinda Bednarek and the family of Jane Reinertson. Pray for the Kris & Dustin Richmond family and the family of Larry Scholten. Pray for Rhoda Larson, Mavis Nielsen, Mary Ann Koopman, Dave Lawrence, Dennis Amundson, Ken Swanson, Brenda Sheik, Gabriel

Johnson (Grandson of Norma Jean Johnson); Becky Paluch, Leigh Jerzak; Kelsey & Robin Hoffman; Michael Kropp; 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).

DATES:

Wed, Aug 3, 12 Noon – GLCW. Potluck in Fellowship Room. "Over 80's Party," members and Methodist Church Ladies.

Program: "Excuses" Devotions: Romelle Pritchett

Wed, Aug 10 -- Bible Study. Hostess: Judy Thomssen

Wed, Aug 17 -- Block Day

Wed, Aug 24 -- Do Day

CONTINUED ON FOLLOWING PAGE

GRACE (LAKE BENTON):

Pray for Dorothy Henningsen, Norma Burdick, Kelly Krantz (granddaughter of Wanda & Eldy Nordmeyer); Joyce McColn (sister of Carl Burk); Rev. Gary Kubly (MN Senator); Paula Jacobson (Daughter of Wayne & Annette Fehrman); Earl Klitzke; Leann Wadsworth; and Chet Borresen

PEACE (RUTHTON):

Pray for Herb Vinson, Carolyn Holck, Eldonna Peterson, Jane Baumgard, Edna Haraldsen, Lavonne Fuhrmann, Annalease Hofner, and Cliff Kittelson.

ST. PAUL (MINNEOTA):

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

TYLER NURSING HOME:

Marjorie Meyer, Grace Lutheran; Cliff Kittleson, Carolyn Holck, Eldonna Peterson, Harvey Christensen- Peace 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 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, Stephanie Christoffels, and Paul Gregor

DIVINE PROVIDENCE NURSING HOME (IVANHOE):

Mabel Dressen, Bethany Lutheran
Elsie Barber, Bethany Lutheran
Dagmar Blegen, Bethany Lutheran