



February 2010

CrossWinds

Newsletter of Winds of the Prairie Ministry

FIRST WORD

Pastor Julie A. K. Anderson

Prayer

Communication is something we all deal with everyday. With the numerous means available from snail to electronic mail, talk to text, newsletter to note, we still manage to miss something. One form of communication that hasn't changed is prayer.

Conversation with one's loving parent

Prayer is simply, yet profoundly, human communication with God. It is God's invitation, through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, to keep lines of communication open between creature and creator.

(www.elca.org/What-We-Believe/New-or-Returning-to-Church/Dig-Deeper/Prayer)

Our prayers are invited by God to allow for our participation in the ongoing creative process as the stewards of the creation. It allows us to express our needs, thanksgivings and hopes emptying us to receive abundant blessings. We pray in different ways and for different reasons:

- Personal prayer is a means to have a one on one talk with God. Whether silent or spoken our minds and hearts are opened to seek God's guidance. Our Lutheran understanding is that God will hear our deepest fears and confessions as an warm, loving Father. We should check in daily with the Father by designating a time each day with a friendly reminder such as a note on your mirror, setting your watch alarm to ring, when you do a daily task or see a designated sign. The prayer can be as simple as the proclamation of the angels to the shepherds. "Glory to God in the highest and peace to His people on earth!"
- Corporate prayer is when we are gathered with others whether in worship or for other reasons. There is something about giving life to the words of prayer with our voice and hearing the prayers of others. It opens us to the needs and cares of the body and plants in each of us the seeds which the Holy Spirit then nurtures to grow our vocation as Christian. When we pray the Lord's Prayer we give new life to the promises given to us by our Lord and Savior. When we pray in Jesus' name we claim his promise to be with us now.

There are two opportunities for practicing prayer as a community in addition to our personal prayer.

Prayer Chain is a way to pray for special needs of health and healing along with an occasional celebration and thanksgiving. You volunteer to be on a list that when a prayer request comes in you will receive a phone call to pray for a particular person and need. You are asked to say a prayer immediately and then contact the next person on the chain. Please then include that person in your daily prayers. The power of prayer is that we surround that the person(s) with care so they can focus on healing and the peace that the burden of illness is being shared. Contact the prayer chain chair or pastor to get on the list.

Prayer Vigil is a chance to see what a focused time of prayer can do. During Lent, Pastor Julie will be bringing the list around for volunteering for a 30 minute slot from 9 pm on Maundy Thursday(April 1) to 5:30 pm on Holy Saturday(April 3). In this 45 hour period we continue the praying that Jesus begins in the Garden of Gethseme until we beginning the celebration of the new light at the Easter Vigil. A list of suggestions on what to pray for will be included and you will be surprised how quickly 30 minutes of prayer goes by. This will be our third year of prayer vigil and I am convinced it has helped our congregations and ministry to be strengthened as an example of listening to God's Calling to be the concerned, caring presence of Christ on the prairie.

May we all pray continuously as a means of communicating with our Creator and Savior.

FEBRUARY PREACHING SCHEDULE

Saturday, February 6

Bethany – Vicar Harvestine

Sunday, February 7

Grace and Bethany-Elim – Pastor Anderson

St. Paul – Pastor Steven Quist

Peace and Bethany – Vicar Harvestine

Saturday, February 13

Peace – Pastor Anderson

Sunday, February 14

Grace and Bethany-Elim – Pastor Anderson

St. Paul -- Pastor Steven Quist

Peace and Bethany – Vicar Harvestine

Wednesday, February 17--Ash Wednesday

Grace and Bethany-Elim

St. Paul

Peace and Bethany

Saturday, February 20

Bethany-Elim – Pastor Rasmusson

Sunday, February 21

Grace and Bethany-Elim – Pastor Anderson

St. Paul – Pastor Rasmusson

Peace and Bethany – Vicar Harvestine

Wednesday, February 24—Lenten Service

Grace and Bethany-Elim

St. Paul

Peace and Bethany

Saturday, February 27

Grace – Pastor Anderson

St. Paul – Pastor Rasmusson

Sunday, February 28

Grace and Bethany-Elim – Vicar Harvestine

St. Paul – Pastor Anderson

Peace and Bethany – Pastor Rasmusson

LENTEN WORSHIP SCHEDULE THE SAINTS SHARE THE GOOD NEWS

	7:00 p.m.	5:30 p.m.	7:00 p.m.	7:00 pm	7:00 p.m.
	Minneota	Bethany-Elim	Bethany	Grace	Peace
Feb 17 Ash Wed Dr. Martin Luther	Pastor Thomas Kolden	Pastor Stephen Rasmusson		Pastor Julie Anderson	Vicar Jackie Harvestine
24-Feb	<i>My Favorite Saints – Lay Leaders</i>	<i>St Patrick</i>		<i>John and Charles Wesley</i>	<i>Harriet Tubman and Sojourner Truth</i>
3-Mar	<i>Harriet Tubman and Sojourner Truth</i>	<i>Bishop Oscar Romero</i>		<i>St Patrick</i>	<i>John and Charles Wesley</i>
10-Mar	<i>John and Charles Wesley</i>	<i>Harriet Tubman and Sojourner Truth</i>		<i>Bishop Oscar Romero</i>	<i>My Favorite Saints</i>
17-Mar	<i>St Patrick</i>	<i>John and Charles Wesley</i>		<i>My Favorite Saints</i>	<i>Bishop Oscar Romero</i>
24-Mar	<i>Bishop Oscar Romero</i>	<i>My Favorite Saints</i>		<i>Harriet Tubman and Sojourner Truth</i>	<i>St Patrick</i>

Our Lenten Series this year will focus on the witness of some key figures in the history of the church. Using the lives of some of the key persons whose commemorations fall on days during the Lenten season, we will examine our own commitments to sharing the Good News of Salvation through Jesus. Some of our congregations host a Lenten supper either prior to or following worship. Please check your bulletins for your congregation's schedule.

OFFICE HOURS & CALENDARS

With five locations, the pastors are scheduling office hours at each church the rest of the year in an attempt to be more visible and available in all our communities. We have created at www.google.com/accounts online calendars for each church and the ministry. Check below to note who to contact about gaining access to the online calendars.

Winds of the Prairie Ministry office hours for Deb is Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9 am to 12 pm. [Calendar- belutheran@frontiernet.net](mailto:Calendar-belutheran@frontiernet.net)

Bethany: Vicar Jackie at Tuesdays 9--11:30-except the third Tuesday for Prairie Conference meeting. [Calendar- rasmus@frontiernet.net](mailto:Calendar-rasmus@frontiernet.net)

Bethany-Elim: Pastor Steve. [Calendar- beparsonage@frontiernet.net](mailto:Calendar-beparsonage@frontiernet.net) .

Grace: Monday from 9 to 11:30 usually Pastor Julie. [Calendar- glc@itctel.com](mailto:Calendar-gl@itctel.com)

Peace: Thursday from 9 to 12. [Calendar- philipja@woodstocktel.net](mailto:Calendar-philipja@woodstocktel.net)

St Paul: First and Third Thursday from 10 to noon followed by Minneota Manor Service at 2:30 on the third Thursday.

Please remember this is the ideal but emergencies, vacations, and all those events life can place in our way will affect the timing, but the pastors will do their best to maintain this commitment. One way to assure meeting is to call and schedule an appointment to meet.

HAITI EARTHQUAKE RELIEF



Until February 14 each congregation will accept donations for the Haiti Earthquake Relief Fund for Lutheran Disaster Response. Make check out to your congregation or place cash in the envelopes provided and note "Haiti". We are looking into how we can incorporate the matching funds that Thrivent has pledged of \$1 for each \$2 given. If you would like to explore opportunities to give or serve go to www.elca.org and search 'disaster' and www.thrivent.com/helpinghaiti for more information. Thank you for your heartfelt support of our neighbors in Haiti.

SATURDAY NIGHT LIGHT WORSHIP



We continue to offer worship on Saturday evenings for those who are in need of an alternative to Sunday morning worship. Services are at 5:30 pm with Holy Communion and rotate among the five churches on the following schedule:

First Saturday of the Month at Bethany Lutheran in Arco on February 6.
Second Saturday of the Month at Peace Lutheran in Ruthton on February 13.
Third Saturday of the Month at Bethany-Elim Lutheran in Ivanhoe on February 20.
Fourth Saturday of the Month at Grace in Lake Benton on February 27.
Last Saturday of the Month at St Paul Lutheran in Minneota on February 27.

Invite and bring your friends and neighbors as we gather to praise our Lord and Savior.

LUTHERAN MEN IN MISSION MEN'S RETREAT

The 2010 Lutheran Men in Mission Retreat will be held Friday and Saturday, March 5-6, at Green Lake Bible Camp in Spicer, Minnesota. This year's theme is "*The Hands of Real Men Pray.*" Jeff Seimon, former Viking linebacker, will be speaking to us both Friday night and Saturday. worship, singing, and small group sessions will fill our weekend.

This will be a great activity for men of all ages. We have scholarships available for men age 21 and under to come free of charge. The retreat begins with registration at 4:30 p.m. and dinner at 6 p.m. on Friday, March 5, and concludes at 3 p.m. on Saturday, March 6. Cost is \$100 for the full retreat, housing and three meals. Commuter fee is \$80, Saturday only is \$70 with two meals, and Friday night only is \$65 including dinner. Sign up early and receive 10% off if your registration is postmarked by February 8th. or sign up with a group of four or more men from your church and also receive the 10% discount.

If you are interested in registering or would like to receive more information, contact Pastor Steve.

LETTERS FROM DAD

THE BIG QUESTION?

If God were to take you home today... what would your wife and children hold in their hands tomorrow that would let them know that they were the treasures of your life?

THE RIGHT ANSWER... Letters from Dad

You are invited on a journey... a journey to leave a legacy of Faith, Hope and Love through the lost art of letter writing. Our Heavenly father left us a book of love letters called the Bible. We invite you to leave your book of love letters called... Letters from Dad.

Join us on the first Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at Grace Lutheran as we continue this spirit filled program.

VIA DE CRISTO: GLORIA DE LUTHERAN



Redwood Falls, MN
Men's Weekend: March 4-7
Women's Weekend: March 11-14

Via de Cristo is based on the fundamentals of Christianity, concentrating on the person and teachings of Jesus Christ. The focus is not on Via de Cristo itself, but on the local church. The objective of the movement is to inspire, challenge and equip individuals for Christian action in their homes, churches and communities.

Via de Cristo is intended for people from every walk of life. It's for church leaders and lay people who live strong and active lives in Christ as well as those who need to be renewed and strengthened in their relationship with Christ and the people around them. Keep an open mind and heart in making your decision to attend Via de Cristo. Like you, many attendees wondered if they should go. Once they did go, many have wondered why they waited so long. Now they want others to receive this wonderful gift from God. Please understand that each person's experiences are unique. Find more information and applications at www.mnviadecristo.org or contact Pastor Julie Anderson (507) 215-2388.

SHETEK FUN FOR EVERYONE!

The 2010 Shetek Lutheran Ministries Camp brochure is available. There is a special camp available for everyone. Early bird deadline is April 1, 2010, which allows for considerable savings. If you need a camp brochure, please call 507-763-3567.

ANNOUNCEMENT: CHORAL GROUP



A choral group is being established that would encompass several western Minnesota and eastern South Dakota communities. You are invited to become part of a potentially top quality chorus, one that is open to all ages and will not be affiliated with any particular church, school or community.

We plan to sing challenging pieces; therefore, commitment to rehearsals will be a top priority. No auditions are necessary, only that you love to sing and are willing to make a serious commitment to the chorus.

Current plans are to have a first concert around May 1. Rehearsals will concentrate into the six-week period preceding a performance and not year 'round.

Gatherings will be at *The Local* in Hendricks until the group is organized. To become musically focused we plan to gather for singing on Thursday Feb 4 and Thursday March 4 at 7 PM. Nancy Sandro, an experienced musician has agreed to be the director.

Please contact one of the members of the steering committee for further information or car-pooling to rehearsals:

Nancy Aune, Hendricks, 507-275-3543, jaune@itctel.com

Beverly Johnson, Astoria, 605-832-3441, mbjohnso@itctel.co,

Nancy Sandro, Hendricks, 605- 479-3438

Roberta Trooien, Hendricks, 605-832-2651, robertat@itctel.com

Donna Kurth, Ivanhoe, 507-694-1662, dmkurth@frontiernet.net

FIRST WEDNESDAY FOR VIBRANT FAITH @ HOME



Oops, Pastor Steve and Julie forgot that they would be out of town on the first Wednesday of February. So here is the plan for February 3, 2010, plan on

being together as a family on February. **Note:** If you are from a small family of 1 or 2 you may gather with others but try to keep groups to 5 to 7 people.

- 1) Turn off all electronics except the answering machine for you will not answer the phone between 5 to 9 pm.
- 2) Cook and eat dinner together. Have a family favorite or try something new, with at least 2 people in the kitchen at all times.
- 3) After dinner clear table and wash dishes as a team.
 - a) Play a game together, board or cards.
 - b) If you are not gamers read a story together, may I suggest the Bible such as Genesis 1:1 to 2:4, Jonah, or Ruth. Talk about what you each hear or note.
 - c) Take the newspaper and read about to discuss a local, regional, national and/or global issue.
- 4) Before you depart for bedtime gather in a circle and pray for each other, sharing your joys and concerns for those near and far. End with the Lord's Prayer. Depart blessed by good fellowship.

Let us, the pastors, know how it went and what ideas you have for future months.

NOTES FROM THE INTERN



"And Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.'" Matthew 28:18-20

The "Missional Church". It's a phrase much touted at Luther Seminary. One might suppose being missional is a new idea, perhaps something created by ELCA leadership or a response to the apparent success of emerging, non-denominational churches.

The truth is, from the beginning we have been a missional church. According to St. Matthew, Jesus' parting words to his disciples quoted above were their "marching orders", that is, how they were to work as Christians in the world. You'll note that the first thing they were to do is go and make disciples. And this directive is also given to us.

Don't we have missionaries for this kind of work? Isn't that what evangelism committees are for? Relegating the work of evangelism to a few has caused the church to fall short of its intended mission. To be an evangelist means to tell the "good news", to share the saving, life-transforming message of Jesus Christ with everyone who has not heard it. There was a deliberate attempt by those who created the ELCA to lift up the evangelical mission of the church in making the first word of our denomination "Evangelical".

Throughout Lent we will have a chance to reflect on evangelism as practiced by some historical figures such as St. Patrick, Martin Luther and Bishop Oscar Romero. We will hear how they responded to the Great Commission, how over the centuries Jesus' words to go and make disciples was heard. As a parish, we will also have an opportunity to be part of a hands-on training session led by Larry Strenge, Director for Evangelical Mission of the SW Synod office, in how we can begin thinking more missionally in our own communities. Mark your calendars on March 20th for this event.

Apprehension can accompany new ways of doing things. For those of us timid about sharing our faith, we can be comforted by the last part of the Commission passage: "And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age". We are not alone when we share the message of Jesus. We have a partner in the Holy Spirit. We can accomplish great things.

Peace and blessings to you,
Vicar Jackie Harvestine

WHOLENESS WHEEL UPDATE



The sevenfold gifts of the Holy Spirit are a guide for each of our lives. Let's take a look at them through the areas of the Wholeness Wheel with this month's focus on Prophecy which is the forth-telling of God's

Word and desire for His people. It is not the fore-telling of what will happen but gives people a warning and an opportunity to repent.

Spiritually when we read of God's Word constantly we are aware of God's direction and we hear the Spirit's guidance. Pick a Psalm to read everyday this month and listen for God's guidance.

Physically we must be a place where we can hear or see God's involvement in our life. Make it a practice to take a time for silence and sitting still each day to listen for God.

Emotionally often an emotion is a way for the Spirit to communicate with us. Be more conscious of your emotions and reactions this month, giving them names and looking for their source.

Socially we can only be responsible for our own understandings and reactions. When we are prophesying we are delivering God's Word, not ours, so we speak them in love without fear for these words could save someone's life. Work to share with others what you see and feel by taking responsibility for yourself and not sounding like you are pointing out to others their shortcomings.

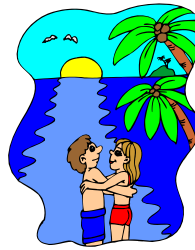
Intellectually is there something you want to learn more about? Perhaps it is the Spirit telling you to check it out.

Vocationally explore the gifts you have been given by the Spirit. Is there a gift you are not using? If so why not open it up and see what happens.

Financially are you feeling a pull to support a particular mission or ministry? Check it out and see if your time, treasure or talents are needed and act on it.

Each of us has places in life where we have opportunity to declare Gods' Word and purpose at times we deliver the message or are the recipient. Listen as people of hope and faith.

RELATIONSHIPS AS A MARK OF DISCIPLESHIP



The acronym WATERS is to remember the marks of discipleship that come in our Baptism.

Relationship is experiencing who our neighbor is both near and far. In the Church the 3-R's are; Relationship, Relationship,

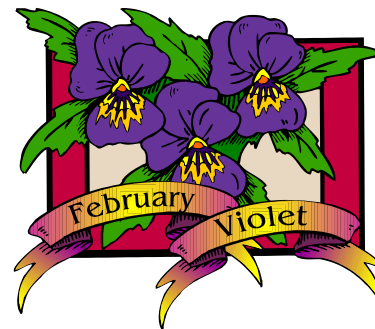
Relationship

The Christian faith is one of a body, a community of believers united around the Word and mission of Jesus Christ. We are related in our baptism to each other and live out our days relating to one another. Our relationship with Jesus becomes our primary source of love, support and strength.

Sharing the Good News is a matter of nurturing a relationship with someone in daily life and living as someone who is concerned about the next person as much or more than themselves. This example creates curiosity to know more and when you are in relationship with a person they will ask so you can share.

As much as our world values the individual we are all wired to be in relationship with others. What better place to find others who will accept us for who we are and to be free to be who God created us than in the Church, the body of Christ today.

Relationships are not always a beach, but are work and at times painful. Pain means we care enough to hurt with the hurting and share the burden of our neighbor and is lessened as the burden is shared. In the end the relationship is stronger when the wounds heal and deeper because we have traveled together.



BETHANY NEWS

By Ilene Sorensen

When you read this we will have had our annual meeting. I hope you were there and voiced your opinion. That is what makes a church grow and prosper.

At our council meeting, we decided the Lenten service soup supper offerings would go to the Sunday school, Shetek, family event at Bethany, food shelf, and Cosa Hogar. The soup supper and fellowship begins at 6:00 with worship at 7:00. We hope to see you there.

If anyone is interested in the Lutheran magazine, please talk to Marie Henriksen. She will be doing the ordering.

We know 2010 will hold many challenges for us. We ask that you attend and support Bethany and WOTP as we face the upcoming year. Together we will be able to handle the exciting unknown future.

See you in church.

VBS FUNDRAISER FEBRUARY 28

By Nancy Krog

Bethany-Elim will be hosting a VBS fundraiser on February 28 after worship. The dates for VBS this year at Bethany-Elim is June 14 – 17, 2010.

The Sunday School families will be serving hot ham and cheese sandwiches, calico beans, chips and bars after church on February 28, please join us. A donation sign-up for food and money will be posted on the bulletin board. A free will offering will be collected. Families are encouraged to register your child for VBS. Anyone willing to “sponsor a camper” will be given that opportunity.

Sunday School kids will be singing VBS songs during church. Kids, please wear your BLUE VBS t-shirts! A representative from Shetek Lutheran Ministries will share camp information with the congregation as well. A noisy offering will be collected to support our missionary Heidi Epple, who is teaching God’s children in Botswana, Africa.

In case of inclement weather, the VBS Fundraiser AND Grandparents and Grapes will take place on March 7.

“GRANDPARENTS AND GRAPES” AT BETHANY-ELIM

By Nancy Krog

On February 28 the 1st through 3rd graders will gather with their grandparents during the Sunday School hour. We will enjoy some food that starts with the letter “G” (grapes, granola bars and grape juice), share some family stories, work on a family tree together, find out what bedtime prayer grandparents said when they were small, and more!

This is a very informal gathering, 1st – 3rd graders, their parents, grand parents and great-grandparents are invited to this special event on February 28!

FOOD SHELF YEARLY REPORT

By Muriel Koopman

The Ivanhoe-Hendricks-Arco Area Foodshelf has had a busy year. We are located in the basement of the Community Center in Ivanhoe. We are open every Thursday from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

In 2009 the foodshelf was used 150 times with 349 people. We want to say a big “THANK YOU” to the Green Leaf 4-H club and the Marble Alta Vista 4-H club and the ladies from the foodshelf for doing the food and serving the Thanksgiving dinner. We served 325 people.

We gave out boxes of food on December 11th. We did 74 of them for a total of 144 people.

We gave out toys on December 23rd to 49 families, 159 kids.

We have a generous lady who gives dinners to people who are homebound, alone, or just need a dinner on Christmas Eve day. We did 21 of them.

We are dependent on donations to keep the foodshelf going. We are so lucky to get generous donations from individuals, schools, businesses, organizations and churches. We could not do this without your support.

The foodshelf is run by volunteers. They are always ready to step in and help with what needs to be done. Thanks to our men who are a big help-we couldn’t do these projects without your help.

We want to say “THANK YOU” to everyone who has helped in any way with the foodshelf in 2009.

FAMILY FAITH

By Nancy Krog

As I type the title of this article, “Family Faith”, it means something a bit more in-depth today. I feel as though I’ve touched Family Faith, saw it with my own eyes, felt it deep into my heart, and heard it in my mind. Many of you know that my Grandma Isfeld passed away on December 30th. She was quite a ring leader in her day and kept her family on task and prioritized at all times and was a great woman of faith. She was 90 years old and lived a remarkable life. When she became ill and transferred from the nursing home to the hospital on December 19th, time seemed to stop and race forward all at the same time. Good ole’ Minnesota winter showed up and my mom camped out at the hospital all through Christmas during the blizzard. My aunt, Joan, from Oregon, was able to make it home as soon as the Sioux Falls airport opened.

During this roller coaster ride, our children were anticipating upcoming Christmas celebrations. And in perspective, I believe my Grandma was anticipating heaven, she knew it was coming, she was going to meet her Lord and hold my Grandpa’s hand again! I believe dying naturally at 90 is different than dying at a young age in an unexpected accident. But when death is expected, certain things are talked about more openly. And my family likes to talk. I observed my mom and Joan care for their mother in her last days. They shared comforting scripture with Grandma and with each other.

A verse that was important to both my Grandma and Grandpa Isfeld is from Philippians 4:6-9.
“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is love, whatever is admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me – put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.”

This was a passage that my Grandpa shared with our family before he had a surgical procedure completed long ago. And it’s a passage that my family keeps leaning on through any bumps in the road. But when my mom and I were reading it to Grandma, while she

was in Hospice care, it takes on a tremendous new meaning for me. I hope that you can refer to this verse when necessary.

My Grandparents always enjoyed the benediction, “As you go on your way”. Our Sunday School kids will be singing this soon as I think it proves to be a great reminder of how God watches over us and walks with us – each and every day. Here are the words:

As you go on your way may Christ go with you.

May he go before you to show you the way;

May he go behind you to encourage you;

Beside you to befriend you;

Above you to watch over;

Within you to give you peace.

I have babbled on enough. That’s the Family Faith I’m talking about. I’ve observed this amazing faith of my grandparents, I’ve felt it from my family as we held Grandma’s hand here on earth until Jesus came to bring her home. Please read the verses from Philippians and recite “As you go on your way” and share it with your family and friends around you and I hope that it brings you peace, inspiration and comfort from our Lord.

SPECIAL THANKS FROM FAMILY OF MARY ELIZABETH ISFELD

Our church family has been a wonderful blessing to our mom, grandma, and great-grandma. She has lived in nursing homes the last 7 ½ years and unable to attend church at Bethany-Elim for many of those years. However, she felt the loyal love and support of its members. There have been countless visits by Pastor Steve and Pastor Julie. The church women have stopped with well wishes and goodies. The Prayer Chain has been a blessing. The Sunday School children have sent cards. Mom enjoyed reading the church newsletter and keeping in touch with the activities of WOTP. Now, at the time of her funeral, we again see the support of our church. Thank you to Pastor Steve for his message and guiding us in making the funeral a celebration of her life. Thank you to Mavis Nielsen and the church women for serving a wonderful meal. Thank you to Linn Whipple and Kristy Gifford for their gift of music. We have felt the love and support of our entire congregation. Mary Elizabeth Isfeld’s entire family thanks you.

GRACE NOTES

February...instead of thinking of it as the middle of winter, let's think of it as the "month of Love." What better way to celebrate the month of love, than to have brunch with those that love you! The men of Grace will once again serve the ladies for a Valentines Day Fundraiser Brunch, Sunday Feb.14th after church. After a long, cold, snowy winter, we hope that you will join us for a nice hot meal and warming conversation.

It has been hard to get anywhere these past few months, including our Winter Sledding Event, so if you have a need for a visit or to get out yourself, please call the church office or a member of the council. We will assist you any way we can. There is a sign up sheet at church for the updated prayer chain. If you would like to participate, but cannot get to church to sign up, you can still give the church a call to get your name on the list too.

The Prairie Conference meeting is in Marshall on Feb 21st. We are able to send up to 6 delegates. If you would like to be a part of what goes on in the synod, this is the place to start. There will be a carpool.

February is also the time we welcome our new committee and council members. Thank you to all who are willing to do God's work, no matter in what capacity! Let's start the year off with a re-newed freshness for our old mission statement; To Love and Support Each Other as We grow in Faith.

In God's Love,
Roxanne Nielsen - Council President

GRACE LUTHERAN DATES

Ushers for February: John Lichtsinn, Knute Lund, Steve Lynn, Lowell Nelsen

Altar Guild for February: Nancy Johnson

Acolytes for February: February 7-Scott Hunter; February 14-Brandon Hefti; February 17-Kate Bump; February 21-Amber Nielsen; February 24-Cody Miller; February 28-Brandon Hefti

GLCW

Wednesday, February 3, 1:30pm in the Fellowship Room. Program is "Bread and Life".

Hostesses: Garnet Petersen, Romelle Pritchett, and Darlene Willert.

PEACE LUTHERAN NOTES & DATES

Monday, February 1, 5:30 p.m. – St. John Circle at the church

Tuesday, February 2 – Time TBA – St. Mark & St. Matthew Circles

Wednesday, February 10, 2 p.m. – PLCW

Monday, February 22, 9 a.m. – Quilting Day

ST. PAUL'S NEWS

By Sue Buysse

We happy to report that we were able to decorate our sanctuary for Christmas and get it undecorated for the Christmas season this year. Last year it did not happen so we felt that this feat was an accomplishment. ☺ Looking ahead into the year, we have set our dates for our Pie and Ice Cream Social for July 25th with will kick off our Vacation Bible School. On October 24th we will prepare plenty of Chili for our Chili Supper.

Each first Sunday of the month we will rejuvenate our fellowship time following worship. We ask that members sign-up to take a turn providing treats during this visiting time.

It was a blessing to see Scott Johnson who was home on leave from the military. We wish him well as he heads back to complete his tour of duty. Our thoughts are with his family as they await his arrival back home later on.

We wish strength and healing to Mary Buysse who is recovering from heart surgery. The church misses all the little things and (big things) she does for others and the church. God's healing to you Mary.

Our thoughts and prayers are extended to Jori Magnuson, seven-month old daughter of Cory and Missy Magnuson. Jori is a patient at Sanford Children's Hospital in Sioux Falls and undergoing testing. Jori is a sister to Hunter and granddaughter of Jim and Christy Brewers. May the Lord hold this family in His hands and strengthen them with His loving spirit.

PASTOR'S REPORT FOR TO DECEMBER 19, TO JANUARY 17, 2010

Worship	Education	Meetings	Pastoral Acts	Visits
5- Sundays Worships @ 5 congregations 4- Nursing Home 5-Saturday Night 3-Christmas Eve	8- Bible Study 1-TFA 2- Book Studies	4- Council/Meeting 1-WELCA 1-WXY 1-Caroling 1-Synod 0-LCC	3-Funeral 2-Baptism 3-Counseling 0-Wedding 0-Affirmatin of Baptism	28- Home 1-Hospital

PRAYER CONCERNS

Bethany (Arco): Pray for the family of Geneva Rasmussen. Pray for Luella Madsen, Kendall Lundberg, Elsie Barber, and Joel Hopkin (Geneva Rasmussen's grandson).

Bethany-Elim (Ivanhoe): Pray for the family of Mary Elizabeth Isfeld. Pray for Dave Lawrence, Ken Swanson, Greg VanOverbeke, Dawn Rund, Emily Clarke, Brenda Sheik, Lloyd Nielson, Jackson Nelson (son of Ryan & Kate Nelson); Kristi (Dahl) Morelan, and Leann (Dahl) Wadsworth; Dareld Benz (brother of Mavis Nielsen); Nancy Resmen (sister-in-law of Bernadine Olsen); Linda Vlaminck (Sister-in-Law of Dave & Marlene Lawrence); Mary Grace Nelson (daughter of Ryan & Kate Nelson); Mindy Linscheid (Sister-in-Law of Julie Nelson); and Ron Nielson (Lloyd Nielson's son).

Grace (Lake Benton): Pray for Joe Harris Sr., Lorraine Krog, Mary Paschke, Ernie Bannick, Joyce Knutson, Annette Fehrman, Joyce Nielsen, Ann Kruse, Wesley Paschke, Karen Fredricks, Norma Burdick, Rosina Ritter, Leann Wadsworth, Evelyn Rudebusch, Jacob Johnson, and Chet Borresen

Peace (Ruthton): Pray for the families of Larry Koenig and Dorene Nielsen. Pray for Lavonne Fuhrmann, Joyce Anderson, Cliff Kittelson, Orlo Kruse, and Chris Petersen (Kuwait).

St. Paul (Minneota): Pray for Jori Ann Magnuson, Mary Buysse, Reese Kompelien, Doris Richards 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 Chris Petersen, Scott Johnson, Anthony Nielsen, Jon Dougherty, Tony Knutson, 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, Corey Gregor, and Paul Gregor

Tyler Nursing Home:

Joyce Knutson, Grace Lutheran
 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:

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

Veteran's Home, Luverne:

Evelyn Rudebusch, Grace Lutheran



Youth Pages

Training for Affirmation

February is a time of transition for TFA. Weather permitting the following topics will be covered.

February 3: **3 Kings, 1 Kingdom**
Snack: Emily Swanson/Emily Clarke

February 10: **Review of Exodus to 11 Kings/Preview of Lent:**
Snacks: Josh Skorczewski/Colton Lawson
****Parents and Mentors** join us at 6pm for a look at our **Relationships**.

During Lent TFA students will attend and assist with midweek Lenten services and may choose from several activities to build an understanding of the many relationships that are in their life.



WXY Road Trip March 5-6 8th to 12th Graders

We will be going to Gustavus Adolphus College in St Peter, MN for a time of fun, learning, service and exploration. For \$25 you will receive:

Transportation to and from:

- Accommodations in the Hostel House: Bring sleeping bag, pillow and towel
- Meals at the Marketplace, one of the top college foodservices: Supper, Breakfast and Lunch
- Use of some of the unique facilities at GA along with a campus tour, a service event and other surprises.

The trip is limited to the first 16 youth and 4 adults who get a \$10 non-refundable deposit to one of the pastors by February 25. Your check or money in an envelope with your name and contact information will be your registration.

LYO Board Elections

A new LYO Board will be elected at the Sr. High Youth Gathering. This is an amazing opportunity for youth to serve their church, synod and community while growing in faith and leadership skills. Please encourage youth from your congregation to run for this board. It is a rewarding learning and faith building experience.

The LYO Board is responsible for planning and leading the Jr. and Sr. High Youth Gatherings and representing the voice of youth on a synod level. The LYO is a leadership team that requires leadership skills, maturity, a significant investment of time, and a desire to grow in and share one's faith. Board members receive training to grow in their skills and accomplish their assigned tasks.

Youth from your congregations in grades 9-11 are eligible to run for thirteen one-year LYO board terms. The 13 elected youth will choose their own officers during LYO training. Serving on the LYO board involves a time commitment of attending LYO training and/or Synod Assembly, 2 weekend meeting/retreats, and leading the Jr. and Sr. High Gathering. Dates for these commitments are printed on the LYO application form.

For more information visit the Southwestern Minnesota Synod website at www.swmnelca.org and search for the senior high registration packet or contact Jessica Epple or Pastor Steve Rasmusson.

Small Group Leaders Senior High Gathering

Small groups are a central part of the Sr. High Youth Gathering, and are instrumental in promoting and cultivating friendships between youth from different congregational groups, thereby helping youth to dig deeper into the entire gathering experience.

Are you a 10th through 12th grade youth who is gifted in leading a small group? We are looking for youth who display an aptitude for leadership and conversation. Past experience in leading a small group is helpful but not required.

Small groups will be made up of approximately 7 youth from different congregations (both male and female), in the same grade.

We ask that each small group leader come to a required training. This training will take place on Sunday, February 28th from 2-5pm at Bethel Lutheran Church in Willmar.

This is a wonderful opportunity to serve at the Sr. High Youth Gathering and use the gifts God has given you. If you have any questions about small group leaders, training, etc, please contact Pastor Steve Rasmusson 507-829-9164 or rasmus@frontiernet.net



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|--------------|--------------------|---------------|
| ANGELS | HIGH MOUNTAIN | RIGHTEOUSNESS |
| BAPTISM | HOLY CITY | RIVER |
| BELOVED SON | HOLY SPIRIT | SATAN |
| BREAD | HUNGRY | SINLESS |
| CAST DOWN | IMMERSION | SON OF GOD |
| DESCENDING | JESUS | STONES |
| DEVIL | JOHN THE BAPTIST | TEMPTATION |
| DOVE | JORDAN | VOICE |
| FASTING | KINGDOMS | WATER |
| FORTY DAYS | LAMB OF GOD | WILDERNESS |
| FORTY NIGHTS | MESSIAH | WORSHIP |
| HEAVENS | PINNACLE OF TEMPLE | |

TITEAMONTP
Jesus warned them to watch and pray lest they fall into _____. Matt. 26:41

ADJSU
The man who betrayed Jesus with a kiss. Mark 14:43

ASEPEL
The disciples fell _____ twice while Jesus prayed. Matt. 26:43

AMJSE
Peter, _____ and John went with Jesus. Mark 14:33

OWDSR
Peter struck the high priest's servant with a _____. Mark 14:47



SOUTHWESTERN MINNESOTA SYNOD SENIOR HIGH YOUTH GATHERING MARCH 12-13, 2010 COUNTRY INN & SUITES, MANKATO MN

The Southwest Minnesota Senior High Gathering theme this year is “Are you Hungry?” focusing on Matthew 25:40. “The King will reply, ‘I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.’”

This event is sponsored and planned by the SW MN Synod Lutheran Youth Organization (LYO) and will be held March 12-13, 2010 at the County Inn and Suites in Mankato MN. **Please note that this year, the gathering is just Friday evening and Saturday.** We are hoping that this lesser time commitment for youth will allow more to attend and participate in the worship and fellowship of the gathering.

We have an excellent program planned for us:

- Rachel Kurtz will be our speaker and musician. Rachel is a singer, songwriter and speaker who grew up in rural Minnesota. She has been involved with youth ministry for the past 9 years. She loves to encourage students with her stories and also see and affirm their gifts. Rachel sings in a variety of venues, from coffee shops to colleges, youth weekends to churches and the last three National ELCA Youth Gatherings.
- Nightlife will include an excellent variety of options for your youth to choose from.
- Intentional Small Groups led by trained youth.
- Service projects and breakout sessions.
- The Spirit Garage, a place for meditation and prayer, will be an integral part of our time together.
- The gathering will of course include mass gatherings, lively worship, dancing, singing, faith and relationship building.

Synod wide gathering registration opens February 8, 2010. Regular registration closes February 22, 2010. Late registration will begin February 23rd and will go through March 1, 2010. Registrations will be taken in the order received. If you register participants after the February 23rd deadline, you will be charged a \$10 late fee per person.

Registration Information

COST: \$75 per person (includes room, all programming, a gathering t-shirt, breakfast, and a lunch) A \$50 per person NON-REFUNDABLE deposit is due with your registration.

DEADLINES: Regular registration opens February 8, 2010 and closes February 22, 2010.

Late registration will take place from February 23 – March 1. If you register participants after the February 22nd deadline, you will be assessed a \$10 late fee per late registrant.

Absolutely no late registrations can be received after March 1, 2010.

GROUPS: Groups must register with one adult (**21 yrs. or older – for liability reasons**) for every 7 youth.

Example: 16 youth need 3 adults. If you register 5 or fewer youth, the accompanying adult may be of either gender. If you register more than 5 youth (including youth of both genders) your adults must be of both genders.

ROOMS: Rooms are assigned on the basis of 4 people to a room. Persons from different churches will be housed together in order to reduce gathering costs. If you are uncomfortable sharing beds, please bring a sleeping bag and pillow.

If you would like to have your congregation room with a specific congregation you need to register those congregations together in one envelope with one primary contact person.