



Winds of the Prairie Ministry

January 2010

CrossWinds

Newsletter of Winds of the Prairie

FIRST WORD

Pastor Stephen Rasmusson

January in Minnesota – we run all summer to get ready for winter and we run all winter to keep warm! It is a month of resolutions, blizzards, cleaning, budgets, spring planning, seed catalogs (and seed salesmen), getting equipment ready for spring work...

And Annual meetings! Our church does its business as a citizen of the world and as a citizen of the kingdom of God.

We Lutherans have long held a doctrine of two kingdoms:

On the one hand (what Luther calls the *Kingdom Of The Right Hand Of God*) we have the kingdom of salvation, in which God rules through grace and the power of forgiveness and new life to create peoples and nations fit for heaven. This is the realm of the church triumphant, the church without blemish, made so by the saving power of the cross of Jesus and our faith in His Work. It is for this kingdom that we pray in our Lord's prayer, "Thy Kingdom Come."

On the other hand (what Luther calls the *Kingdom Of The Left Hand Of God*) we have God's rule in the world. God's work of divine providence fills the fields with grains through the preservation of creation, through weather and the work of farming, where government seeks to bring order in a rebellious world, where family begins and ends the circle of life. It is for this kingdom that we pray that God's "will be done."

The church in this world stands in a unique place in God's reign through these two kingdoms.

We are called together in the world, and as such are in the Kingdom of the Left Hand of God. As congregations we are required to be accountable to our government as a 501.c.3 non-profit organization. We as pastors and leaders are accountable to the laws of the state for reporting of dangerous situations in families and the community. We have to create budgets and maintain properties. We serve the community and the state as enforcers of moral laws. We are called to show acts of responsible love to all God's creation. We are "servants of the Left Hand of God."

But this is not all we are. We are called first to be servants of the reign of God in the Kingdom of the Right Hand of God. As such, *our primary function is to tell the story of Jesus*, of the salvation of God throughout the ages and in eternity. God saves others through our sharing of the Word of salvation.

We gather in annual meetings to plan to do ministry for the coming year as residents of God's two kingdoms. We struggle together at these meetings to discern our "marching orders" for the year from the King of Kings. We need your voice to help us hear God's will. We pray the King of Kings to join us, to teach us to pray together, to speak from our hearts of faith to one another, to struggle with the things we ought to do and the things we can do, to learn what God has in store for us as we move under his loving, redeeming reign.

Join with your congregation this year for your annual meeting. See and hear what God is up to among us.

JANUARY 2010 PREACHING SCHEDULE

Saturday, January 2nd

Bethany – Pastor Anderson

Sunday, January 3rd

Grace and Bethany Elim – Pastor Anderson

St Paul – Pastor Rasmusson

Peace and Bethany – Vicar Harvestine

Saturday, January 9th

Peace - Pastor Anderson

Sunday, January 10th (Annual Meeting St. Paul)

Grace and Bethany Elim – Vicar Harvestine

St Paul – Pastor Rasmusson

Peace and Bethany – Pastor Anderson

Saturday, January 16th

Bethany Elim - Pastor Rasmusson

Sunday, January 17th (Annual Meeting Peace)

Grace and Bethany Elim – Vicar Harvestine

St Paul and Bethany – Pastor Anderson

Peace– Pastor Rasmusson

Saturday, January 23rd

Grace – Pastor Rasmusson

Sunday, January 24th (Annual Meeting Bethany)

Grace and Bethany Elim – Vicar Harvestine

St Paul – Pastor Anderson

Peace and Bethany – Pastor Rasmusson

Saturday, January 30th

St Paul – Pastor Rasmusson

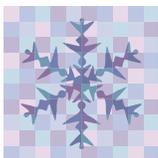
Sunday, January 31st (Annual Meeting Grace)

Grace– Pastor Rasmusson

St Paul and Bethany Elim – Vicar Harvestine

Peace and Bethany – Supply

TRAINING FOR AFFIRMATION



TFA is back for January. December was fun with the midweek Advent services and the Baptism Retreat with the Tyler churches.

This month there will be an emphasis on the Ten Commandments. Then at the end of the month we pick up the Old Testament story with the Conquest of the Promised Land. Our WXY youth continue to serve as acolytes for our worship.

OFFICE HOURS & CALENDARS

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 also set 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.

WOTP office hours for Deb are Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9 am to 12 pm.

Calendar - belutheran@frontiernet.net

Bethany: Vicar Jackie at Tuesdays 9-11:30 - except the third Tuesday for Prairie Conference meeting.

Calendar - rasmus@frontiernet.net

Bethany-Elim: Pastor Steve. Calendar - beparsonage@frontiernet.net .

Grace: Monday from 9 to 11:30 usually Pastor Julie. Calendar - glc@itctel.com

Peace: Thursday from 9 to 12. 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.

SATURDAY NIGHT 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:

Bethany Lutheran in Arco on January 3.

Peace Lutheran in Ruthton on January 10.

Bethany-Elim Lutheran in Ivanhoe on January 17.

Hole-in-the-Mountain Chalet in Lake Benton on January 23 following the Grace Lutheran Family event.

St Paul Lutheran in Minneota on January 30.

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

A SUPERVISING PASTOR'S REFLECTIONS ON THE INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

We are blessed to be in partnership with our seminaries of the Western Mission Cluster of the ELCA through the internship program. Vicar Harvestine's presence among us this year as a third year graduate student at Luther theological continues to bless our parish in many ways. She continues her learning and service among us through the end of July.

Our parish council voted in December to continue this partnership to train pastors for rural ministry. This means that I will be interviewing students at Luther Seminary for ministry training in our parish during the first part of February. In these interviews there is a chance for me to get to know the gifts and growth areas of the candidates. It also is a time for students to learn more about the unique ministry we are offering to our communities. The placement of an intern is not assured annually. The interview process matches the particular calling of a Master of Divinity student with the opportunities for ministry learning of a particular internship placement.

Please pray for the pastoral ministry candidates and for your lead pastor in the discernment process. We will find out who will be our new Vicar in the first half of April, and he or she will begin ministry on the fifteenth of August.

NOTES FROM THE INTERN

"Wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage'...they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage." Matthew 2:1-2, 9-11

The Wise Men, believed to be Zoroastrian priests, were so taken with the star we now know as the Star of Bethlehem, that they set out to follow it to its final destination. These men were Gentiles, inexplicably drawn to the Christ Child by this celestial vector.

The arrival of the Wise Men is noted each year on January 6th. In our church calendar we refer to this day as The Epiphany of our Lord. "Epiphany" means to be made known. The true identity of our Lord was discovered by the foreign visitors and eventually made manifest to the rest of the world. The star served as a compass, leading them toward the baby who would become the Savior of the world.

It is that time of year when we take stock of our parish in the form of annual meetings. In anticipation of these events, much work is required in preparing reports and budget proposals. Evaluating where last year has taken us informs our movements into the future but what is the compass that guides our overall course? Are we still guided by God made manifest and *his* wisdom and truth? Or are we sometimes tempted toward shortsighted despair when the numbers don't crunch the way we might hope?

I see much "star-led" activity in this parish. There is genuine caring, concern and reaching out toward one another in times of both distress and joy. There is holy energy in our youth which gives hope for today *and* tomorrow. There is a hunger for the Word witnessed in the ongoing Bible studies and women's groups. Support staff and musicians supply a critical framework of communication and musical ministry without which worship would be sorely lacking.

I also see God manifested in the visionary thinking which took a leap of faith in creating a position for an intern as part of the ministry of Winds of the Prairie. On the part of the parish, I believe it has allowed a fuller ministry to happen in this place. For my part, it has been and continues to be a rich experience which will forever shape my leadership in ministry. As the Christ child was abundantly gifted by the Wise Men, so too has this parish blessed John and I with gifts aplenty. In this season, we particularly want to thank you for your cards and gifts which remind us all of those first gifts.

As we move into the new year and God's future as it takes shape here on the prairie, may we all walk through our days guided not by the wisdom of the world but by the star which points to the One in whom all things are possible.

Blessings to you all! - Vicar Jackie

THE WORLD IS RUN BY THOSE WHO SHOW UP:

The Decision-Making Process in our Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

When decisions are made by the ELCA in national assembly that affect us all, questions are bound to arise about what gives “those people” the right to make decisions for us. In order to understand the answer it is important to understand the process. Robert’s Rules of Order apply in all these situations.

1. Social Statements: In the past twenty years of the ELCA numerous social statements have been passed at the National Churchwide Assemblies. These statements are written by a select group of Lutheran Christians representing all concerns of the church surrounding a particular issue. A working study document is presented to the congregations and members of the church for study and comment (sometimes more than once, as in the case of the recent sexuality statement). The individual and congregational responses to these study documents are then read and integrated into the proposed statement, which is then presented to the congregations, conference assemblies, synod assemblies and the churchwide Assembly for action.

2. Resolutions: various resolutions affecting the ministry of the church beyond the congregation may be items for consideration at the congregational, conference, synod and biannual Churchwide assemblies. A congregation may forward a resolution for consideration to the resolutions committees of the conference or the synod. A conference may vote to forward a resolution to the Synod Assembly. The resolutions committees join similar resolutions from others into one, maintaining the intent of the resolutions. These are then brought to the floor of the assemblies for action.

3. Budgets: The tasks of the budget committee of a congregation, conference, synod and a national expression of the are to see to it that the dollars are proposed to be spent in a manner that reflect the

mission and ministry of the church. Budgets are voted on by the representatives to the various organizations.

Our input in this representative process begins with participation on our annual meetings and duly called special meetings of the congregation. It continues with the six persons called to represent each congregation at the Prairie Conference Assembly (to be held this year at St Stephen Lutheran in Marshall at 2 p.m. on February 21st). The conference assembly nominates individuals to represent us to the Churchwide Assemblies. We are represented at the Synod Assembly by two individuals, male and female. The Synod elects delegates to the Churchwide from those nominated from the conferences and from at large from the church members of the Synod.

Our representation at congregational, conference, and synodical annual meetings is essential to the life of our church. The world is run by those who show up.

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

Caroline Bunjer and Jeramie Blegen affirmed their faith on December 13, 2009 at Bethany Lutheran Church. We celebrate this life passage as the community of faith and welcome these confirmed in faith members.

FIRST WEDNESDAY FOR VIBRANT FAITH



Meal, activities for children ages 3 to 90+, worship, games, learning and whatever else makes for vibrant faith will be offered monthly beginning on the first Wednesday of February 2010. The plan is to begin at Grace and Bethany-Elim on February 6 with dinner, games, learning and worship from 6 to 7:30. We are in need of helpers so please contact Pastor Julie (507-215-2388) to become part of this exciting new event.

FAMILY MATTERS: EPIPHANY 2010



The season of Epiphany is a time to experience how God reveals his plan to redeem humanity through Jesus Christ. How is it the Jesus in his life and ministry shows the Father's heart for the family of God? The color of the season is green for growth and new life.

For this season we are focusing on how as the family of God and within both our personal and church families we live out our faith and calling as God's children and siblings of Jesus.

January 10 – (Baptism of Our Lord) It is at his Baptism that Jesus begins his public ministry as God claims him from above. As the family of God we must learn **Family Communication** for it is with these people we learn about faith through faithful communication.

January 17 – **Balancing our stations** – Too busy for family? Look at the average person's calendar and you will see more than three people should be reasonably allowed to accomplish in a week. How we balance and prioritize our time reflects our relationships with family and God.

January 24 – **Family in Worship** is one of those times during the week that we are together, gathered around the common event of praising and thanking our loving, living God. For most people we need to be fed at least every 7 days with God's Word and experience it affect through the family of God around us.

January 31 – **Empty Nest/Gone to Soon** – Our responsibility in the many relationships we have is to be present in the moment with people. Putting off until tomorrow soon turns into an absence before we know it. How do we live for today know that tomorrow will bring about change and loss?

February 7 – **Living Life and Teaching Death** is a summary of our Lutheran understanding of Baptism. When we understand what life and death mean we are better able to see God's will at work in our own lives for the fear is replaced by faith.

February 14 – **Reflecting the Glory of God's Love** implies that there is something which we can

model. Love is a verb, not a noun, and is therefore alive and active for it is the great gift that God has given us. It is love that binds us together and allows for us to share in each others lives. As we see the glory of God at Jesus' transfiguration it is but a glimpse of the wonder to come.

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 beginning with Leadership.

Spiritually the leader is one who listens for the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Physically a leader has to appear as the one who is willing to be in front of people and the one who is the representative of the whole. Therefore, one must live a life that reflects the community of faith.

Emotionally a leader has to be willing to listen carefully, ask questions of clarification and identify their emotional reactions to a situation so they can help their people to find their passion for ministry. A leader helps a person turn emotion into action.

Socially a leader represents the organization out in public and is often its best advertisement and source of information for others they come in contact with. A leader must be willing and able to answer questions about the faith community for those who are investigating joining.

Intellectually a leader needs to think things through from a variety of viewpoints in anticipation of what and who each decision will affect now and in the future.

Vocationally leadership is a calling that is service oriented. The leader earns respect by being willing to do the same things that they ask of others to do.

Financially a leader is to model wise stewardship and management of their own finances and those of the organization.

Each of us has places in life where we have opportunity to lead and at other times to be a follower for the model of Jesus was to lead by serving.

SERVICE AS A MARK OF DISCIPLESHIP



The acronym WATERS is to remember the marks of discipleship that come in our Baptism. **Service** is doing for others as you see the world through their eyes and needs.

It is in serving that we experience the many blessings that God has given us already. It is in working with others to build, create and renew that we see new life all around us.

Service is humbling for it gets us into the very heart of peoples lives and needs. Every time people tried to exalt and elevate Jesus he would go back and serve others. He found that he must set the example of service for humanity to understand true greatness.

You can be of service by helping in your own neighborhood, community, church and world. Whether you go near or far it becomes the people you meet and the relationships that are built that last and affect you for a lifetime. The ELCA catch phrase is God's Work, Our Hands, so when you serve you are giving glory to God in the most meaningful and personal ways just like Jesus. When called to serve remember who are the disciple, student, and learn all you can.

WAFTING WINDS

Donna Kurth, WOTP President

Another year.....yes, WOTP Ministry is entering our 6th year of growth where we have committed ourselves to be united in our mission as Christ's disciples. We have done so by working together, strengthening one another as we work in partnership while developing specific ministry opportunities. Our accomplishments are many but much remains for us to do. We are thankful for a dedicated and exceptionally talented pastoral staff of Pr. Steve and Pr. Julie. With excitement, we became involved with the Internship Program that brought Vicar Jackie to us. Through this opportunity, we share in the teaching and development phase of the preparation for her to be **called** by a congregation as their pastor.

You noticed I mentioned '**called** to be pastor'. Do we consider our pastors as an employee, that he/she is hired? Perhaps this becomes the struggle when finances are brought to the front for discussion. We **call** our pastors, **ministry is a calling**. The work of the ministry goes with our pastors at all times. It is ours, the lay member responsibility, to recognize that this calling culminates on Sunday mornings when we hear the sermon at worship. All week through visits, in meetings, counseling, teaching, sharing comfort with those who are ill, attending community gatherings, participating in church related concerns that are local and Synodical, their families and personal concerns, all pastoral and administrative duties, name only a partial listing of their obligations. Through and by all these duties, they carry on the **call we issued them**. If we could better understand their call, perhaps our responsibility to the work of the Kingdom would be more easily visualized and applied. Do you agree?

So what is the responsibility of the lay? It is ours in ministry as Winds of the Prairie. This ministry offers opportunities to lead, follow or support one another on council, committees, ad-hoc designations, teaching, visiting shut-in, caring for folks in need of support, and on and on the list goes.....endless. Is your name on the list for some of these responsibilities with WOTP?

What title do we give these duties as members of the Kingdom? Evangelism. It will be highlighted in 2010 with new insights, new options for outreach and true responsibilities to share in celebration of our 6th year as a ministry. Watch for these events and opportunities and participate in them.

Thanks and appreciation goes out to those who diligently worked these past years for the success of WOTP. In addition, thanks to those who will step up to roles of mission partnership for the future of WOTP Ministry.

Thanks be to God!

BETHANY ANNUAL REPORTS

Bethany Lutheran's 2009 Annual Reports are due to Tami Harris no later than January 10, 2010. Reports may be e-mailed to dtihar@llwb.coop or placed in Tami's church mailbox.

BETHANY WELCA THANK YOU

The Bethany Cookie Walk was a success!! We thank all who contributed cookies, time, and energy. We especially thank those who bought cookies and who joined us the morning of December 12 for coffee & fellowship.

BETHANY NEWS

By Ilene Sorensen

Just a reminder that our annual meeting is on January 24, 2010. We hope that we have a great turnout. The nominating committee will be calling so get involved and say yes to the many important duties in the church.

Anyone in the congregation that wants the Lutheran magazine is to give a check to Marie Henriksen for \$11.75. She will be doing a group order so that we get the reduced rate.

On December 13th we welcomed Caroline Bunjer and Jeramie Blegen as members to Bethany. We are excited to have them as they are involved in making Bethany grow and reach out to others.

See you in church in 2010.

FAMILY FAITH

By Nancy Krog

2010...seriously? I think I just learned about Y2K yesterday and was expecting our first child in 2000. As we begin the year 2010, our firstborn turns 10 years old this month and the "little" sisters, sure seem BIG! I know that time flies and each year as I hang up the new calendar in the kitchen I have to pinch myself. Where does the time go? My Grandpa Richmond once told me that the "golden years" do not reflect the fun had during retirement, but the years that he and Grandma were raising their young family on the farm, working hard and trying to make a living. I think he raises a good point. We all know that time flies. I hope I can remind myself to cherish this time and soak up the "golden years" of raising our family. So if the snow stays or we add a few more inches in January, spend time with your family and go outside and enjoy the gift of living in Minnesota with snow! It's TIME for some winter fun...with the family...as our Heavenly Father looks on.

Winter Fun

Today's Reading: Ecclesiastes 3:1-8.

"There is a...time to laugh."

Faith Walk:

Take a "winter fun walk" and look for ways to be silly and create laughter. Stomp through the highest snow piles you can find. Roll down a hill. Throw snow in the air and twirl around as it lands on your head. Have fun and laugh! Thank God for giving you a time to laugh.

Faith Talk:

- What other ways can you have "winter fun"?
- Why is laughter good for a person? A family?
- Read all eight verses of the Bible selection. What are some of the "times" you have in your family life?
- Remember some of the happy, sad, difficult, and warm times your family has had. What are your favorite family times? Thank Jesus for the happy times and for His help during difficult times.
- How can you use your time to glorify God?

Follow-Up Activities:

- Plan a winter fun outing. Some suggested activities: sledding, ice skating, skiing, making snow sculptures, or having a snowball fight.
- Make a list of "family fun" activities you would like to do in the upcoming year.
- Plan a time to do something, as a family, to help someone in need. For example, call your church for the name of a shut-in who needs a ride to get to a haircut or to buy groceries. Offer to help.
- Plan a time to do something, as a family, for your church. For example, offer to clean a neglected corner of God's house.
- Have a family meeting to evaluate how you use your time. Are you over-involved in extra activities? Are you neglecting areas of your life that are important? Do you place a priority on making time to attend worship as a family? Does everyone have time to work and relax, be alone and with one another and friends? Based on your evaluation, adjust your schedules and commitments or keep them the same.

Our Response to God's Grace:

Dear Father in Heaven, You are the creator of all time. Thank you for the gift of time, for both good times and difficult times. Teach us to use our time wisely. For Jesus' sake. Amen.

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

GRACE NEWS

I hope that all had a blessed Christmas and safe New Year's! Now that another year is upon us, I challenge one-and-all to really let God speak to you, and open your hearts to the leading of His will! Who knows what God could accomplish if only we listen and act.

We will be having our annual meeting the 31st of January. I hope that all of our members will remain after the service for this important meeting. This is your opportunity to hear of the summary of a years worth of God's works through us and for us. This is also your opportunity to elect who will represent you, the church body, on the council to take care of the business of running the church building and representing the church family.

I would also like to thank all those that have done soooo much for the good of the church. There are many who should be mentioned by name (especially those that are now retiring from their duties), but rather than leave anyone out, let it suffice to say that your work has not gone unnoticed, just too often un-thanked!!

God's Blessings,
Roxanne

WINTER EVENT AT GRACE

January 23

Hole in the Mountain

❄️ **Sledding**

❄️ **Snow man Building**

❄️ **Board Games**

Lunch will be served before the Saturday night service at the Chalet in Lake Benton's Hole in the Mountain Park! Open to all congregations and the community.



GRACE LUTHERAN NOTES & DATES

January Ushers: Bud Knutson, Glyde Knutson, Steve Kjergaard, Glenn Krog

January Altar Guild: Judy Thomssen

Acolytes: January 3rd-Amber Nielsen,

10th-Cody Miller

17th-Brandon Hefti

24th-Derek Haugen

31st-Emily Christensen

No GLCW in January

Wednesday, January 13, 1:30pm – Bible Study

Sunday, January 17 -- Grace Lutheran Church Annual Meeting

PEACE NOTES & DATES

Monday, January 4, 5:30pm -- St. John Circle meets at the Church.

Tuesday, January 5, 9am -- St. Matthew Circle meets at the home of Shirley Knutson, Pipestone.

Tuesday, January 5, 2pm -- St. Mark Circle meets at the home of Valerie Petersen.

Wednesday, January 13, 2 pm -- PLCW regular meeting

Sunday, January 17 - Congregational Annual Meeting immediately following the Morning Worship Service

Monday, January 25 - 9 am -- Quilting Day

January Communion Helpers: Sandra Bakker, Joyce Anderson

January Acolytes:

3 - Donovan Breszinski

10 - Michelle Kuhlman

17 - Kara Burch

24 - Anna Madsen

ST. PAUL'S NEWS

On December 20th, St. Paul's Lutheran held their Christmas Program. This program involved youth and adults from the congregation. We want to thank Missy and Jory Magnusson, Bette Johnson, Marion Stone, Mike Josephson, Vicar Jackie and Hannah and Sam Buysse for participating in the Christmas Story representation. Also thank you to those who prepared the service. It really gets you in the Christmas spirit when you hear the accounts of the first Christmas. Following service we had a "Happy Birthday Baby Jesus" celebration with cupcakes and heritage goodies.

We are preparing for our Annual Meeting on January 11, 2010. So, please make sure all reports are turned in for the Annual Report. Contact President DuWayne Johnson if you have any questions.

As we begin a new year, we want to look back over 2009 and thank those members who give so freely of their time and talents. Through both financial contributions and donations of time, the people of St. Paul's Lutheran continue to work together to make our church a welcoming place to worship our Savior, Lord Jesus Christ. Many 2010 bring peace throughout the world and in our hearts.

PRAYER CONCERNS

Pray for Pastor Diane Odermann.

Bethany (Arco): Pray for Elsie Barber, Geneva Rasmussen, and Joel Hopkin (Geneva Rasmussen's grandson).

Bethany-Elim (Ivanhoe): Pray for Mary Elizabeth Isfeld, 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 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 Lavonne Fuhrmann, Joyce Anderson, Cliff Kittelson, Larry Koenig, Orlo Kruse, and Chris Petersen (Kuwait).

St. Paul (Minneota): Pray for 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:

Mary Elizabeth Isfeld, Bethany-Elim Lutheran
Ellen Hauschild, Bethany-Elim Lutheran
Harvey Noble, Bethany Lutheran
Hilda Herschberger, Bethany-Elim Lutheran

Veteran's Home, Luverne:

Evelyn Rudebusch, Grace Lutheran

WINDS OF THE PRAIRIE COUNCIL MINUTES

December 9, 2009 - Grace Lutheran/Lake Benton/5 pm

The meeting was called to order at 5:05 pm with Pr. Steve offering a prayer. A quorum was declared with the following members present: Eric, Gayle, Donna, Dave, Karen Richmond, Karen Lichtsinn, Phil, Carole, Randy. Pastors Present: Steve, Julie

Motion by Karen R., second by Eric to accept additions to agenda, motion passed unanimously.

Secretary's Report: motion by Karen R., second by Karen L. to accept the minutes as presented. Passed unanimously and placed in file.

Treasurer Report: presented by Karen L with motion by Karen R, second by Carole to accept. Motion passed unanimously and will be placed on file for audit.

2010 Budget was reviewed and elected to be passed on to congregations for their review. Treasurer to present a concise report to be included in the Pastor's Report at the Annual Meetings. Motion to accept the budget by Phil, second by Gayle. Motion was passed unanimously.

Pastor's Report presented by Steve: An overview of the Personnel Committee was presented. A list of tasks and responsibilities for each Pastor was listed. Internship for 2010-2011 is beginning with application.

At annual meetings, Pastor Steve has two resolutions to present; one on clergy and marriage for each WOTP member congregation and the second one is on hospitality.

Pastor Steve reported the youth group regarding ice-skating and TFA student's upcoming events. Soon an area youth event will take place in the county.

After the first of the year, we will be meeting with representatives of Christ Lutheran Church in Hendricks, following up on their request of inquiry for membership with Winds of the Prairie.

For use of the van, there is a two-week notice required when it can be used The driver must meet the proper guidelines and be covered by insurance policy.

The church secretaries are updating 2010 Event Calendar. We have a Goggle Calendar site for WOTP.

The chair called for reflection on WOTP review of mission goals from evaluation that was conducted earlier this year. We acknowledge the two areas brought to our attention: young women and isolated members, has or will be dealt with in 2010. February 20th there will be a council retreat at Bethany-Elim in the morning to start the implementation of the Evangelism Emphasis. From this educational encounter, we will prepare for a committee of WOTP as well as the individual churches. It is suggested the councils appoint a member of the Evangelism Committee for WOTP by February 20 as well as 4-6 members of each congregation that will be trained for outreach.

Marriage and funeral policies were reviewed. These are posted in each church and reflect the change for counseling reimbursement for non-members.

Election procedures were discussed. WOTP council membership is for two years, permitting 2 consecutive terms. The congregational representative is **elected** at the annual meeting and the local council **appoints** the council rep. Bethany and St. Paul's need to elect a congregational representative. Bethany-Elim, Peace and Grace need to appoint a council representative. At the annual meeting, we need to affirm a member of the WXY committee from each congregation. Current members were listed.

Assembly Representatives also need to be elected. Each congregation may send 6 delegates to the Prairie Conference, February 21, 2010 at St. Stephens. The SWMN Synod Assembly will be April 17-18, 2010 in Redwood Falls and each congregation may send 2 delegates, 1 male/1 female.

WOTP Agreement was reviewed. At the time of approval of the 2010 WOTP budget by each congregation, it will be affirming their continuation with WOTP Ministry for another year.

A motion was made by Eric to file an application for participation in the Internship Program for 2010-2011, seconded by Gayle. Motion passed unanimously. The necessary letter and attachments will be submitted to the Bishop and Seminary by December 15, 2009.

Meeting was adjourned with the Lord’s Prayer at 6:45 pm. We thank Carole and Karen who provided us with refreshments during the meeting.

Next meeting will be February 10, 2010 at Bethany-Elim at 7 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Dave Gislason

PASTOR’S REPORT FOR TO NOVEMBER 17, 2009 TO DECEMBER 18, 2009

Worship	Education	Meetings	Pastoral Acts	Visits
4- Sundays Worships @ 5 congregations	13- Bible Study	9- Council	0-Funeral	34- Home
4- Nursing Home	2-TFA	1-WELCA	0-Baptism	3-Hospital
4-Saturday Night		1-WXY	0-Counseling	
3-Advent Services @ 4 Churches		2-Synod	0-Wedding	
4-Thanksgiving Services		1-LCC	2-Affirmatin of Baptism	
2-Memorial Services				

BETHANY-ELIM SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

By Nancy Krog

Thanks to all who attended the Sunday School Stocking Stuffer fundraiser meal on Sunday, December 6th. The food was filling, fellowship was inviting, and the Christmas Stocking was STUFFED with money! Thanks for your constant support of our Sunday School Program.

The Christmas Program entitled, “Special Delivery” was a hit! The delivery guys, in their brown handsome shirts, had such fun with that noisy bicycle horn! We hope the Shepherds have recovered from having the “blues”. The Angels were finally able to choose which song they should sing in celebration of Jesus’ birth. Thank goodness the delivery guys delivered directions to Bethlehem or the wisemen would have missed the big event. All the children did an amazing job telling the story of the Christ Child and what a SPECIAL DELIVERY it is to receive God’s love and grace.

Thanks to Bernie Aronson for passing out treats to all the children on Sunday. Thank you for attending the potluck and making the Christmas festivities last a bit longer. There is nothing sweeter than children telling the Christmas story...I just want to hear it over and over again!

There will be no Sunday School on December 27 and January 3. We will resume Sunday School on January 10, 2010. Kids will be singing in church on January 24...so mark your calendars!