



CrossWinds

NEWSLETTER OF WINDS OF THE PRAIRIE

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

DECEMBER 2012

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FIRST WORD

PASTOR STEPHEN RASMUSSEN

"BEHOLD, I MAKE ALL THINGS NEW!" REVELATION TO JOHN, 21:5

2011 was an interesting year:

- Harold Camping, a former civil engineer Harold Camping of Oakland, who runs Family Radio, has studied the Bible for almost 70 years. Lifelong study of the Bible does not guarantee wisdom however, as the date he predicted for the Second Coming of Jesus came and went on May 21st.
- In the tech world, Kindle and e-books, Android releases and Blackberry outages, wifi hotspots and 4g technology exists alongside poverty across the world.
- The book telling the story of a little boy's vision of heaven ([Heaven is for Real](#)) was number 2 only to a book about the life of Steve Jobs, founder of Apple Industries, who died on October 5th, 2011.
- Kim Kardashian filed for divorce from Kris Humphries - after just 72 days of marriage.
- Kim Jong Il died on December 18th, leaving a power struggle in North Korea which threatens the stability of the world.
- After over 8 years of war and military operations in Iraq, the last convoy left for Kuwait from a US base in Iraq under cover of darkness on the 18th of December.
- The Religion Newswriters Association named Osama Bin Laden's death by US Navy Seals on special ops as the top story of the year.

Making sense of a world that moves so rapidly into an uncharted future ought to leave any sane Christian person hunkered down and praying! And that's just the beginning. But all these items of the "News" are actually past. Real "News" would talk about the

One of our TFA students asked us a challenging question. "How come there aren't prophets around anymore, like in Bible times?" The question deserves an answer. Another way to ask the question might be, "Is God doing anything new?"

There is an unfamiliar newness about every day, a challenge to every moment, a tension about the future that demands a response in the present. Some respond with anxiety. Others respond with hope. Jesus says "Behold, I make all things new." He is the source of our hope.

We are in the presence of prophets today. A prophet looks at the world with the eyes of faith sees the events of the world and asks, "What is God doing here? What's really new? Where's Jesus. Prophets point out the goodness of God in the land of the living (Psalm 27:13). They are people who look to the future with hope, For God has promised newness in God's time.

We invite you to join us this year in looking at the world in a new way, trusting in the promised presence of God every day, and living in Christ, who makes all things new.

NOTES FROM THE INTERN

VICAR BAILEY LANDA

“Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. 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 your minds in Christ Jesus.”

Philippians 4:4-7

Well, we have made it another month through the winter season! The holidays have passed, the decorations have been packed up for another year, and the entertaining has slowed way down. Usually by this time, I am in the dull drums of winter, all I can see are the gray skies, lack of sunlight in general, and the cold temperatures. Also living in the times, where all you hear on the news are reports on the grim economy and still high unemployment. It is hard to look at all these things and find enjoyment with all that is around us.

So how in the heart of winter, in the glum of the news, do we find happiness and joy? “Rejoice in the world always; I will say it again, rejoice!” Philippians 4:4 Thank you Paul for reminding us of this! It is so easy to get caught up in the negative of everything around us, it for the most part becomes the easiest thing to do. But what if we really listened to what Paul had written to the Philippians, and really rejoiced in everything that was around us? What if we saw the joy in the world, acknowledged that there is darkness, but continue to search for the light? But this does not need to be what if statements. They are actually promises that have been told to us, the promise of all things are made new through Christ.

THANK YOU!

The Ivanhoe-Hendricks-Arco Area Foodshelf would like to thank Mike Josephson for all the garden stuff he gave us. Many families enjoyed the garden produce. It was very nice of you to give us those things.

Muriel Koopman

COOKIE WALK FOLLOW-UP

The WELCA unit at Bethany Lutheran wants to thank all the contributors, both bakers and buyers, for their part in the success of their annual cookie walk. The weather was beautiful and many turned out for the morning. After buying their cookies many enjoyed a morning of good fellowship over coffee and cookies. A good profit was made and will be used to replace some of our kitchen equipment as well as the possibility of a different range for the basement. Thanks again

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.

PASTOR'S REPORT FOR NOVEMBER 2011

Worship	Education	Meetings	Pastoral Acts	Visits
20 - Sundays Worships Total	11 - Bible/Book Study	5 - Council/Meeting	0 - Funeral	18 - Home
6 - Nursing Home	1 - Education	2 - WELCA	0 - Baptism	2 - Hospital
3 - Saturday Night	4 - TFA	3 - Synod	6 - Counseling	1 - Public Events
3 - Community Services		1 - Worship Plan	1 - Wedding	
		2 - Mutual Ministry/Personnel		

JANUARY PREACHING SCHEDULE

<i>Worship Times Change</i>		Peace (8:30)	Bethany-Elm (8:30)	Grace (10:30)	Bethany (8:30)	St. Paul (10:30)
Sun, Jan 1	<i>Holy Communion</i>	Rasmusson	Landa	Landa	Anderson	Anderson
Sat, Jan 7	<i>Holy Communion</i>		Rasmusson			
Sun, Jan 8	<i>Baptism of Our Lord</i>	Rasmusson	Anderson	Anderson	Landa	Landa
Sat, Jan 14	<i>Holy Communion</i>	Anderson				
Sun, Jan 15	<i>Holy Communion</i>	Landa	Rasmusson	Landa	Anderson	Anderson
Sat, Jan 21	<i>Holy Communion</i>				Landa	
Sun, Jan 22	<i>Service of the Word</i>	Anderson	Landa	Landa	Rasmusson	Rasmusson
Sat, Jan 28	<i>Holy Communion</i>			Anderson		
Sun, Jan 29	<i>Mission Sunday</i>	Anderson	Rasmusson	Rasmusson	Landa	Landa

Congregational annual meetings will be held as indicated by bold-italic text.

HOW CAN YOU SHOW YOUR LOVE?

Want to do something special for your spouse and show how much you care? Attend a Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekend and focus on just the two of you. Engaging presentations by both lay and clergy leaders give you tools and information while exercises and conversations with your spouse in the privacy of your hotel room revitalize romance, deepen communication, and nourish the spirituality in your marriage.

The Spring Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekends in Minnesota are February 10-12 (think Valentines!) in Brooklyn Center, March 23-25 in Duluth and May 4-6 in Walker. Please register several weeks in advance. For more information, contact Dick & Judy Dehnel at 952-432-3105, Pete & Phyllis McMahon at 763-561-1575, or visit www.Godlovesmarriage.org.



DATABASE

DATABASE UPDATE

The Winds of the Prairie Ministry Council authorized the purchase of a database service at their December meeting. This means that we will be updating our congregational records as they are input into the database.

Each congregation will have a separate list for member information, attendance recording and giving records.

To assure that the correct information is being recorded and that any updates are taken care of the hope is to check with each household about the information we currently have. One of the most important things is how you would like to be designated in the database. The following definitions will give you a guide to determining your status.

- **Active Member:** according to most church constitutions if you have contributed something in time or money and communed in your home congregations at least once a year, you are an active member. Homebound and nursing home residents are considered active because they are served home communion and send in their contribution.
- **Inactive Member:** if you have not communed or contributed in the past year you may be placed on an inactive list. This is one of the reasons we record communion and giving records. As a courtesy you continue to receive the newsletter and communications from the congregation. You are no longer counted for the membership roster for Winds of the Prairie Ministry.

There are those who are no longer in the area due to career and educational obligations. If you are still listed on the membership roster of a congregation we feel responsible for your spiritual needs. When distance does not allow us to see you regularly and attend to those spiritual needs we invite you to join a congregation close to your home and become an **Associate Member** which helps you to maintain your relationship with your home congregation while having an adopted home where you can be actively nurtured and grow in the faith and discipleship of the Triune God. We would ask that you remember your congregational family of origin by sending us a letter or visiting once a year at least to let us know what you are doing and some financial support to continue the ministry today and for the future. Remember – God’s church does not end at the doors of your home congregation!

There is a difference between membership and discipleship. We are all called to be disciples or students of the Word. A disciple is one who is participating in the Word and Sacraments with the heart of a servant and a desire to spread the good news. Membership is associated with a particular body, in this case a congregation, where you are considered to be a part of that group called the body, the church. Each congregation embodies Christ through its mission and ministry both near and far. Membership creates a sense of responsibility to the body by supporting it with our time, talents and treasures in return for having a place of worship, fellowship and spiritual support.

The choice is yours as to what status you will be. Please remember though that when we all work together as a body whose parts called members, create the whole which adds breadth and depth to all lives. When a member is missing we all feel the loss and yearn for the return to feel complete again. The invitation is there to become an active part of the body once again and we’ll talk about that all soon.



BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

SUNDAY TEXTS FOR STUDY

Date	Old Testament	Psalm	New Testament	Gospel	Theme
January 1, 2012	Number 6:22-27	8	Galatians 4:4-7	Luke 2:21-40	Name of Our Lord
January 8, 2012	Genesis 1:1-5	29	Acts 19:1-7	Mark 1:4-11	Baptism of Our Lord
January 15, 2012 Bethany Favorites Hymns	1 Samuel 3:1-10 [11-20]	139:1-6, 13-18	1 Corinthians 6:12-20	John 1:43-51	Second Sunday after Epiphany
January 22, 2012 Bethany-Elim Favorites Hymn	Jonah 3:1-5, 10	62:5-12	1 Corinthians 7:29-31	Mark 1:14-20	Third Sunday after Epiphany
January 29, 2012 Grace Favorites Hymns	Deuteronomy 18:15-20	111	1 Corinthians 8:1-13	Mark 1:21-28	Fourth Sunday after Epiphany/Healing Service
February 5, 2012 Peace Favorites Hymns	Isaiah 40:21-31	147:1-11, 20c	1 Corinthians 9:16-23	Mark 1:29-39	Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

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

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

Wednesday morning Text Study at 8:30 am at Grace Lutheran in Lake Benton includes a reading and discussion of the upcoming readings for the Sunday worship.

Bible Study on Second and Fourth Tuesday at 10 am will begin by focusing on the readings of the season that review for us the faithfulness of God's plan for the upcoming weeks.



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.

Numeral scores are presented as:

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

<u>Questions</u>	<u>Score: 0-4</u>
<u>Service</u>	
1. I like working behind the scenes to ensure projects are successful.	
2. People tell me that without my willingness to do the unnoticed jobs, their work would be more difficult.	
3. When I turn out the lights, take tables down, work in the kitchen or put chairs away, I feel that I have served the Lord.	
<u>Total service</u>	
<u>Skilled Craft</u>	
1. I enjoy working with my hands in a trade or skill that required considerable experience to perfect.	
2. I am good at building, repairing, or restoring things and find satisfaction in doing so.	
3. My knowledge of building, maintenance or repair has been a special value to the church and others.	
<u>Total for skilled craft</u>	
<u>Teaching</u>	
1. My great joy is to communicate biblical truth in such a way that it becomes real and understood by others.	
2. I want to express my faith by assisting others to discover the truths contained in the Bible.	
3. Students have told me that I can take the most difficult idea or concept and make it understandable.	
<u>Total for teaching</u>	

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

Service (Helps): the gift that enables a believer to work gladly behind the scenes in order that God's work is fulfilled. Biblical References: Luke 23:50-54, Romans 16:1-16, Philippians 2:19-23.

Tasks: Computer Programmer/Data Entry, Newsletter Collation, P.A./Sound System Technician, Tape Recording Worship Services, Child Care, Building/Grounds Upkeep, Kitchen Cleaning Team, Providing Transportation

Skilled Craft: the gift that enables a believer to create, build, maintain or repair items used within the church. Biblical References: Exodus 30:1-6, Exodus 31:3-5, Ezekiel 27:4-11.

Tasks: Building Maintenance/Upkeep, Electrical/Masonry/Plumbing/Roofing, Mechanical Repair/Maintenance, Audio/Visual Operator and Repair, Computer Maintenance, Web-Page Developer

Teaching: the gift that enables a believer to communicate a personal understanding of the Bible and faith in such a way that it becomes clear and understood by others. Biblical References: I Corinthians 12:28, Matthew 5:1-12, Acts 18:24-48.

Tasks: Adult Bible Class Teacher, Sunday School Teacher, Teen Bible Class Teacher, Vacation Bible School Teacher, Conference/Seminar Leader

Next month's topics are Wisdom and Writing. All questions from the Spiritual Gifts Assessment at elca.org.

JANUARY TO APRIL 2012: MISSION EMPHASIS: YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY



Shetek Lutheran Ministries is owned and operated on a nonprofit basis by congregations in S.W. Minnesota and S.E. South Dakota of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. The camp serves its congregations and other groups who enter its gates year round as a center for people to grow and share in God's love for all people.



LUTHERAN CAMPUS MINISTRY OF MINNESOTA A MINISTRY TO YOUNG ADULTS ON CAMPUSES

Campus Ministry is both faithful to a rich theological tradition and driven by the challenges of the contemporary university. Drawing on the Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions, Campus Ministry bears witness to God's amazing grace within the context of higher education. Sensitive to the pastoral needs of those on campus and engaged in the intellectual discourse of the university, Campus Ministry strives to communicate the Gospel in fresh ways.

Through worship, study, fellowship, and service, members of the academic community taste the fullness of God's grace. As expansive as Christ's love, Campus Ministry reaches out to all who teach and learn, inviting them to experience the challenge of following Jesus on the Way. Our Campus Ministries include Pastor Juanita Harberts at Southwest Minnesota State University.



WOMEN'S CHALLENGE

You may have heard that three women from Africa won the Nobel Peace Prize for 2011. I have been coming upon different articles about these women who for 20 years have worked to bring peace to parts of Africa which have known nothing but civil war for as long as anyone can remember. They were separated and estranged from families, lived with death threats and time of doubt. What did they do? They prayed the devil back to hell by believing one person can make a difference and change people's minds. When one person believes it becomes contagious and others join and become a force to even stop wars.

In the "Gather" publication for women this fall I read an article that challenged the Women of ELCA (WELCA) congregations to imagine how to work together to continue the important work of the church. If you are a woman and a member of an ELCA congregation you are a WELCA member. There are many resources available to you for study and mission for when women get together they make things happen.

The history of women in the Lutheran church has been one of marvelous accomplishment. They have raised the

money needed to build churches, schools, hospitals, orphanage, and missions. They have often surrendered their vote but not their voice so that they can support these important missions for the sake of the church and communities. They have served faithfully as hostesses and caretakers of the traditions of the local church community.

With the influx of women into the workplace our model of gathering is in need of change. Our challenge is to find a way to continue the important mission work and to pass on the traditions. This is done best by mentoring. Is there any reason why the different generations of women can't sit down and talk about how to learn from each other to pass on the traditions while allowing the younger generations to make it their own? The more experienced generations have had some of the same challenges that the younger generations are now dealing with and can be supportive. Women do best when they are working with and supporting of each other. If three women can bring peace to a continent, we can work together as well. Like them, through prayer and conversation, we listen to each other and sense the moving of the Spirit to strengthen our ministry together.

FAMILY FAITH

NANCY KROG

When passing by a church one day, Kelly and I saw a sign on the front lawn that said, “**If Home Is A School...What Do You Teach?**” That’s a powerful statement! Hmmm, what am I teaching? I know in my head what I WANT to teach, but am I providing a daily example? Am I demonstrating or preaching? Think about what you want to teach in your home. Review ways that you can teach God’s word to your children or the people around you. Assess how you can show God’s love to your kids and their friends. Declare that you and your household will serve the Lord! Enjoy the family devotion below.

THEME: As God’s children we have the power to bless others and spread God’s love.

TODAY’S READING: Joshua 24:15

Choose this day whom you will serve...but as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.

To get started, walk through your home as a family and provide a blessing to each room. Walk into each room dark and turn on the light. Ring a bell after each blessing.

GATHER OUTSIDE THE FRONT DOOR OF THE HOME: Blessed be this doorway. May all who come to it be treated with respect and kindness. May all your comings and goings be under the seal of God’s loving care.

LIVING ROOM: Blessed be this living room. May you truly live within it as people of peace. May prayer and playfulness never be strangers within its walls.

KITCHEN: Blessed be this kitchen. Blessed be the herbs and spices, and the pots and pans used to prepare meals.

BATHROOM: May health and healing abide here.

BEDROOMS: Blessed be these bedrooms. May you find rest, refreshment, and renewal within these walls.

LIVING ROOM: Lord our God, may your divine name be always holy within this home. May your kingdom come in this home as all people here love and respect one another. May laughter, hope, faith, playfulness and prayer, compassion and love be perpetual guests in this home. May God’s holy blessing rest upon us all in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

(By Faithful Families, Kristine Goodrich & Joesetta Walsh)

TRAINING FOR AFFIRMATION

Our Christian development program for those moving towards affirming their faith is a three year program of Christian Education that focus on the knowledge of the Bible and Lutheran Theology, develops moral characteristics that direct Christian living and deepen trust in an ever present Loving God.

Our sixth graders study Old Testament history, and will focus this month on the time of the Kings of Israel. Our older students study the Small Catechism and the New Testament. This month we will look at the story of Jesus’ passion death and resurrection, culminating with the giving of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost.

WINDS EXTREME YOUTH TRIPS FOR SUMMER

We have set the dates for two trips going out this summer for WXY members. We will have more information on the Eagle Butte trip by next month. Ask Vicar Bailey about the Women’s Canoe Trip, and Pastor Steve about the men’s.

Eagle Butte Servant Trip – To be determined – For youth fourteen years and older.

Guy’s Boundary Waters – Voyager North Outfitters, Ely. July 26-31.

Gal’s Boundary Waters - Wilderness Canoe Base July 12-18.

BETHANY, ARCO

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS FOR JANUARY

USHERS: Wayne and Dar Schreurs

ALTAR GUILD: Marie Henriksen

BETHANY NEWS

GAYLE RASMUSSEN

DATES

Jan. 4 - 9 am -- Women's Bible Study (in

Jan. 12 - 1:30 pm -- WELCA

Jan. 25 - 9 am -- Women's Bible Study

Our year at Bethany has come to an end. The council has been working on the budget and planning for the coming year.

A reminder that our annual meeting will be held following church services on Sunday, January 15. We will have a pot luck dinner that day, as well.

Services will be held in the fellowship hall beginning January 1, 2012, until Palm Sunday.

Thank you to all members of Bethany for a great year at our church. We look forward to a new year at Bethany. With God's help, we can have a memorable year. we ask for guidance from God.

BETHANY-ELIM, IVANHOE

BETHANY-ELIM SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

NANCY KROG

The Christmas program on December 11 was fabulous! Our children did an amazing job telling the Christmas story! Thanks to all of our Sunday School children for your hard work during practice, your bright and sunny singing voices, your willingness to play piano, your creativity in the program, and for being special children of God!

Thanks to Bernie Aronson and the church council for providing "goodie bags" to all the children after church.

Sunday School will resume on January 8. Mark your calendars for a FAMILY EVENT during the Sunday School hour on January 29. There will be no Sunday School on February 5, due to our annual meeting.

Thanks to our prayer pals who are keeping our youth in their daily thoughts and prayers.

GRACE, LAKE BENTON

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS FOR JANUARY

USHERS: Gary Williams, Dennis Willert,
Bob Worth, John Worth, Don Weets

ALTAR GUILD: Judy Thomssen

GRACIOUS WORDS

KAREN LICHTSINN

Starting off a new year can be exciting; a time for a fresh outlook. That outlook could include losing weight, exercising more or even starting or finishing a project. As we close out 2011, the councils are all preparing for the annual meetings, to highlight our mission and evangelism during the past year. Next we progress with the 2012 budgets for the next year. This provides an opportunity for each of congregation to think forward, and plan for the future.....not just for 2012 but beyond. A friend recently reminded me to “dream big”, which is a great outlook as we plan for the future. The church councils will be challenged to do both short-term and long-term planning, which can seem rather daunting. But really it is a matter

ACOLYTES- 1st-Brandon Hefti; 8th-Steven Czech;
15th-John Sutherland; 22nd-Blaine Hefti;
29th-Adam Czech

of allowing ourselves to “dream big”. We were actually “big dreamers” when we formulated the idea of the WOTP. Dreams were at the forefront of planning a ministry that was somewhat uncertain and a bit risky. Yet we took that chance, and today we are a vibrant and growing ministry, with all 5 churches working together. Let’s “dream big” this year as we plan our activities and think about our mission for Christ. How can we as the WOTP influence new and exciting outcomes for Christ; as individuals, as a council and as a church. Don’t be afraid to share your “dreams” and pray about them. A light cannot shine from under a bushel basket....let that light out! Dream big in 2012 and beyond!

PEACE, RUTHTON

NOTES AND DATES

St. Matthew Circle will not be meeting January or February.

Tuesday, Jan 3, 2pm – St. Mark Circle meets at the home of Doretta Vinson

Wednesday, Jan 4, 7pm – Church Council

Sunday, Jan 8-- Congregational Annual Meeting will be immediately following the Morning Worship Service

Monday, Jan 9, 5:30pm – St. John Circle meets at the church

Wednesday, Jan 11, 2pm – PLCW

Monday, Jan 23, 9am – Quilting Day

ST PAUL, MINNEOTA

ST. PAUL'S NEWS

MICHAEL JOSEPHSON

As we look back on the last month or so here at St. Paul's, the light of Christ is definitely shining. For all who have ears, let them hear; for all who have eyes, let them see.

It all began at our chili supper, which was the most successful yet (praise the Lord). A member from another WOTP church delivered a much needed modern TV (a special thanks goes out to you, praise the Lord). You see, our old one was not compatible with today's technology, in essence tying one hand behind our Pastor's back, especially our young Vicar Bailey. During conversation at the last joint council meeting, our need was identified and filled, with delivery planned during the chili supper.

In fact, the chili supper went over so well, we had a surplus large enough to feed all the confirmands (and staff) at Hope Lutheran on Dec. 14th. Again, special thanks to all who donated and participated, praise the Lord. It must have been good as almost all of the kids kept coming back for more, again and again. What a wonderful way to promote a sense of unity between churches with our two young teenagers, a mentor (not so young, not so old), and pastor (depending) participating on a regular basis.

At this same council meeting, an anonymous donor came forward and offered to pay for a new back door here at St. Paul's, (praise the Lord), which was badly needed. The old door had run its course, and unless physically encouraged to do so, would not separate that which should stay outside from that which should stay inside-like, heat in the winter and a/c in the summer. Not to mention leaves, dirt, dust and maybe occasionally small furry things escaping

the heat of summer or the cold of winter. Do you get the drift? Oh wait, that happened last year-if the last person leaving forgot to "lift and shut" the door with force. Who would have thought so much "good" would come out of a joint council meeting? Our new shiny steel door (insulated, painted, complete with window) was installed in mid-December, praise the Lord. Get this: it shuts completely, with authority, and quite easily. It now seals out the elements!

Our donor confesses to being blessed by God, not with an abundance financially, but with meager means. You see, the blessing is God's doing, Jesus fulfilling His own promise in sending the Holy Spirit to reveal the lessons, the mysteries, and the knowledge of His Word. At the same time instilling a desire deep in our soul that only He can satisfy. And His Word goes out to do His will and does not return empty. We see this through regular reading and studying of scripture, seeing the Word in action through others and hearing the Word spoken in church and daily conversation. This is how we are strengthened by the Holy Spirit to overcome the desires of this world, and live for the Kingdom to come. This leads to sharing of talents beyond measure, seeing a need and meeting it, praising God and being a blessing to others. Amen.

As a challenge to all who read this, how many similarities from the last four to six weeks of scripture readings can you identify? Please share your findings with Vicar Bailey.

Thank You and God Bless,
Michael Josephson

PRAYER CONCERNS

BETHANY (ARCO):

Pray for Ardis Henriksen, Dagmar Blegen, Elsie Barber, and Harley Johnson (brother of Joan Lundberg)

BETHANY-ELIM (IVANHOE):

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

GRACE (LAKE BENTON):

Pray for Bud Knutson, Steve Johnson, Deloris Johansen, Norma Burdick, Robert Boll; Joyce McColn (sister of Carl Burk); Rev. Gary Kubly (MN Senator); Paula Jacobson (Daughter of Wayne & Annette Fehrman); Earl Klitzke; and Chet Borresen

PEACE (RUTHTON):

Pray for Bonita Fuhrmann, Marian Rupp, Herb Vinson, Carolyn Holck, Edna Haraldsen, Lavonne Fuhrmann, 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, Harvey Christensen- Peace Lutheran

HENDRICKS NURSING HOME:

Ila Rasmussen, Bethany Lutheran

DIVINE PROVIDENCE NURSING HOME (IVANHOE):

Mabel Dressen, Bethany Lutheran

Elsie Barber, Bethany Lutheran

Dagmar Blegen, Bethany Lutheran

MILITARY:

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