



CrossWinds

NEWSLETTER OF WINDS OF THE PRAIRIE

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

JULY 2011

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FIRST WORD: ON THIRTY YEARS

PASTOR STEVE RASMUSSEN

Matthew 10:40-42 *"Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. ⁴¹Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet's reward; and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous; ⁴²and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple — truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward."*

THIRTY YEARS IS:

- Ten years less than the Israelites wandered the wilderness.
- The age of a Kohite priest when he began his service in the temple – (Numbers 4:1-4)
- The age at which Jesus began his ministry (Luke 3:23)
- Three years less than the age of Jesus at His Crucifixion.
- The time from when the Lord was raised until the first Gospel was written.
- The number of years chronicled by Luke in his Acts of the Apostles.

Wow – I never made the connection that I started my ordained ministry at the same age as Jesus and all of the priests of the Old Testament. And he was a carpenter too!

In thirty years of walking with God in the midst of God's people I have been honored to find His presence in many surprising and encouraging ways:

- In the birth of Paula's and my children – both during holy week!
- In the person of Wayne Adams and his wife Barb, who were witnesses of hope to me during our first years in ministry at Holden Parish in Wisconsin. Wayne had lived as a quadriplegic since the first month of their marriage, and his deep faith strengthened mine and still does.
- In Hulda Heidelberg, and many other women elders, whose faithful ministry continues to amaze and encourage mine.
- In the creative power of the Spirit working in the lives of young Christians as they deepen their faith in service to others.
- In the vibrancy of the faith in rural community.
- In the continual care of God throughout tragedy and times of despair.

Yet I have found many other areas in which change has happened in the past thirty years, and not all for the better. Our culture has moved us to desire excellence in others, and not in ourselves. Our parents can become more concerned about how their children reflect on them (in sports, academics, clubs, organizations and so on) than in how their children's needs for the caring adult presence of parents are met. We have become more wanting, and less needful --- for our physical needs are met, but our desires are endless. We are more self-centered, and less self-reliant. We remember a perfect past, and fear an unformed future.

When I look to the future I see plenty of opportunity for God's ministry. And I expect, that as in the past, God's grace will do amazing things through unsuspecting subjects – using people who are yet untapped to create wondrous new works in His world. CONTINUED ON FOLLOWING PAGE

P.S. A heartfelt thank you to all who planned and attended the celebration of my 30th Anniversary of Ordination at Diamond Lake! I was pleasantly surprised, honored, and warmed by your gifts of love and support.

NOTES FROM THE INTERN

VICAR JACKIE BRAUN

AND THE ONE WHO WAS SEATED ON THE THRONE SAID, "SEE, I AM MAKING ALL THINGS NEW." ALSO HE SAID, "WRITE THIS, FOR THESE WORDS ARE TRUSTWORTHY AND TRUE." THEN HE SAID TO ME, "IT IS DONE! I AM THE ALPHA AND THE OMEGA, THE BEGINNING AND THE END. TO THE THIRSTY I WILL GIVE WATER AS A GIFT FROM THE SPRING OF THE WATER OF LIFE.

REVELATION 21:4-6

My internship has been filled with experiences and relationships never imagined. Never did I expect that I would not only enjoy but come to deeply appreciate rural living in rural communities, while sharing in rural ministry and learning of the challenges faced by rural communities. My husband was pleasantly surprised after 20 years of marriage; we could finally have an intelligent conversation about agricultural practices. I did not anticipate my husband and children whole heartedly embracing the changes they faced, participating in the internship experience. I did not imagine that while we shared in conversations, in fellowship often gathered around a table with delicious food, while I received honest and inviting hospitality, while we studied scriptures together, that my faith in Christ would be deepened in ways that I never anticipated. I didn't expect to be filled with a certain hope for God's church, hope for the changing face of the ELCA and for the changing canvas of our rural communities. Nor did I imagine leaving after a year filled with the certain hope that even though we live in a changing world, the Promise of Christ never changes. I did not anticipate that I would be the recipient of your imagination and of your certain hope in our future, faithfully working to strengthen me as a pastoral candidate, helping me to tell God's story, as I prepare to serve the broader church as an ELCA pastor.

Where does this hope come from? It comes from Christ through you--- through the stories you have shared,

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through the worship together, through the sharing of Holy Communion, through the gracious forgiveness given when mistakes were made, through sharing your confession of faith in Christ, by spending time completing reviews and having caring conversation. Hope comes through imagining Christ's transforming work in us, and living into this hope day after day in a world which seems to refuse to change in some ways and yet transforms itself at racing speed in other ways. Mysteriously, God chooses us, creatures haunted by sin, to speak the promise of Christ, that we are forgiven. Eternally, we participate in the transformation and the re-creation of God's Kingdom. You have invested not only in me but the body of Christ, helping to shape me as a preacher and a pastor.

You have embraced me enthusiastically and affirmed my call to ministry in ways never imagined, expected or anticipated. Soon you will send me off into a changing world, believing it too needs to hear an unchanging and eternal message. You will send me off to follow a calling placed in my heart many years ago, believing that I can and will somehow proclaim Christ to a world that desperately needs to hear the Good News.

In sharing your hope and faith with me, you deepened and strengthened not only my faith, but my understanding of what it means to be called to the office of ministry, and to serve as a pastor in a changing world. Through Christ, we have been united together and in faith, we each are strengthened to go out into a world, proclaiming the Promise of Christ, which is unchanging and unending. I give thanks to God for you, for your imagination and for your faith in the life of our communities and world but especially for investing in the life of this student and her family.

Thanks be to God!

Together in Christ, Vicar Jackie Braun

PASTOR'S REPORT FOR MAY 2011

Worship	Education	Meetings	Pastoral Acts	Visits
23 - Sundays Worships Total	12 - Bible/Book Study	7- Council/Meeting	8 - Counseling	32 - Home
5 - Nursing Home	1 - TFA	3 - WELCA		4 - Hospital
4 - Saturday Night	4 - VBS	1 - WXY		4 - Public Events
		3 - Synod		
		1 - Ministium		
		1 - Worship Plan		

JUNE PREACHING SCHEDULE

		Bethany (8:30)	Grace (8:30)	Peace (10:30)	St. Paul (8:30)	Bethany-Elim (10:30)
Sun, July 03	<i>Holy Communion</i>	Anderson	Rasmusson	Rasmusson	Braun	Braun
Sun, July 10	<i>Service of the Word</i>	Anderson	Braun	Braun	Rasmusson	Rasmusson
Sun, July 17	<i>Holy Communion</i>	Rasmusson	Christoffels	Christoffels	Anderson	Anderson
Sun, July 24	<i>Service of the Word</i>	Anderson	Rasmusson	Rasmusson	Braun	Braun
Sun, July 31	<i>Service of the Word</i>	Braun	Anderson	Anderson	Rasmusson	Rasmusson

FAREWELL TO VICAR BRAUN

A farewell gathering for Vicar Braun and her family will be held on Wednesday, July 27th. Her last services will be: July 10th at Grace and Peace, July 24th at St. Paul and Bethany-Elim and July 31st at Bethany. We thank her for her services and pray God's blessings follow her and her family in the years to come.

PARISH WORSHIP AND PICNIC

SUNDAY AUGUST 7TH
AT LAKE STAY PARK, ARCO

Hey – This Will Be Great! Bring your lawn chair and a dish to share to the park on Lake Stay, just outside Arco. We will host worship on the north side of the park. Each congregation is to provide three assistants for the worship to serve as ushers, communion assistants and readers and to help with set-up and take down. For more information or to volunteer to help, call Pastor Steve at 507-829-9164.

SAVE THE DATES! 125TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

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



WORSHIP ON WEDNESDAY AT DIAMOND LAKE

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

❖ Date	Topic	Texts	Church/Committee
July 6, 2011		Concerning Reconciliation Matthew 5:21-32	St Paul
July 13, 2011		Commitment Matthew 5:27-32	Grace
July 20, 2011		Community Matthew 5:33-48	Pastors
July 27, 2011	Intern Farewell	Giving Matthew 6:1-4	Intern Committee
August 3, 2011		Prayer Matthew 6:5-15	Bethany
August 10, 2011		Perspective Matthew 6:16-23	WXY
August 17, 2011	Intern Welcome	Caretaking Matthew 6:24-34	Intern Committee
August 24, 2011		Golden Rule Matthew 7:1-12	Bethany-Elim
August 31, 2011	Dessert Potluck	Doers of the Word Matthew 7:13-28	Peace



SUMMER SESSIONS ON HOLY BAPTISM AND COMMUNION INSTRUCTIONS

JULY 16- 9 TO 4 PM



It has come to our attention that there are persons who are interested in receiving instruction for participating in Holy Baptism and Communion. If this describes you at any age consider join us. We'll meet at Bethany on July 16 from 9 to 12 for Holy Baptism instruction and after lunch at 1 pm to 4 pm for instruction in the Lord's Supper. Contact Pastor Julie (507-215-2388 or pastorjuliea@frontiernet.net) and let her know your intent to attend by June 15.



2011 Ruthton Gospel Fest

JULY 4TH
AT THE RUTHTON COMMUNITY CENTER

Mark Your Calendars!
Save the Date!

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.



SUMMER STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

SUNDAY TEXT STUDY ON WEDNESDAY: Beginning Sunday June 26 we start a semi continuous reading of the Old Testament so why not use this as an opportunity to study and prepare for Sunday worship. Bring your Bible, whatever you have, and your portable supper on **Wednesday June 22 and following at 5:30 pm to the hall at Diamond Lake Chapel** to read and talk about the readings for the upcoming Sunday. Ask those who have participated in such study and they will tell you that it helps your get much more out of worship and the sermons. Come as you can for it is an open invitation and each week is a new set of readings.

Date	Old Testament	Psalms	New Testament	Gospel	Theme
July 6	Genesis 25:19-34	119:105-112	Romans 8:1-11	Matthew 13:1-9;18-23	Sowers of Holy Seed
July 13	Genesis 28:10-19a	139:1-12;23-24	Romans 8:12-25	Matthew 13:24-30;36-43	Good & Evil
July 20	Genesis 29:15-28	105:1-11, 45b	Romans 8:26-39	Matthew 13:31-33;44-52	Family Affairs
July 27	Genesis 32:22-31	17:1-7; 15	Romans 9:1-5	Matthew 14:13-21	Healing from Hunger
August 3	Genesis 37:1-4; 12-28	105:1-6; 16-22; 45b	Romans 10:5-15	Matthew 14:22-33	Silent Heart
August 10	Genesis 45:1-15	133	Romans 11:1-2a; 29-32	Matthew 15:10-28	Answered Prayer
August 17	Exodus 1:8-2:10	124	Romans 12:1-8	Matthew 16:13-20	Gift of Faith
August 24	Exodus 3:1-15	105:1-6;23-26;45b	Romans 12:9-21	Matthew 16:21-28	Call to Suffering
August 31	Exodus 12:1-14	149	Romans 13:8-14	Matthew 18:15-20	Love One Another

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 throughout the summer.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AT WINDS OF THE PRAIRIE MINISTRY

Now is the time to begin planning for the 2011-2012 year for education for all the disciples of Winds of the Prairie Ministry. There is more to Christian Education than Sunday School and Confirmation for a disciple is a learner as well as a teacher. Our basic tools are the Bible and Catechism that work together to help us understand each other.

For our youth, the objective is to introduce them to the stories of the Bible, the sacraments and confessional documents. The pattern we are using to introduce our youth to the tools of faith are:

- Third Graders receive Bibles which they use in Sunday School and TFA.
- Fourth Graders learn about worship and train to assist as acolytes in worship.
- Fifth Graders receive instruction in the sacrament of Holy Communion with their parents accompanying them.
- Sixth Graders review the Old Testament with its stories of God's faithfulness and humanity's disregard for God's will.
- Seventh and Eighth Graders study the New Testament and the Catechism with how we as Lutherans understand God's will.
- Ninth Graders review the Bible, Catechism and Lutheran identity. They then reflect on their understanding of faith with the pastors and congregational councils. Upon approval of pastors and councils they are choose to participate in the Affirmation of Baptism before the other disciples of their home congregation who have lead them in their faith walk.

Opportunities for those who have affirmed their baptism are as varied as the interest, ages and lives of the disciples. It becomes a time to continue to learn from life and see God's hand at work. We are invited to continue to read, discuss and share how the stories and promises of the Bible continue to be played out in the lives of today's disciples as the Spirit gives us new life and breath. The Bible invites us each time we read it to enter deeper and more broadly into the continuing story of God's faithfulness to His people with our words and actions.

Our world makes demands on us all for time, talents and treasures. Where and what you spend these on shows the world your priorities and how you are living out your calling as disciples of Christ. Wherever you look in the Bible there are people in relationship and it is the working out of the relationship through discussion, sharing and struggling that one comes to see God's hand at work. So my challenge to you is that you engage with others in hearing and sharing God's Word. I'm going to show you how your excuse is your strength:

- "I've never done Bible Study." Well then you have a new, untapped resource of experiences to share and your own unique life story to add to the discussion.
- "I've done Bible Study forever." Then you have a vast field of knowledge to share, but you have not read the Bible when you are experiencing life at this time. Each new experience gives you a new reference for hearing the stories of God's people.
- "I don't have time." You don't have time to subscribe to an electronic devotion to read for a minute when you read your daily mail? You don't sit down for meals where you could read a short devotion such as *Daily Bread*, *Christ in Our Home* or a variety of others with the members of your household? There are a variety of opportunities each day to read from God's Word.
- "I don't know how." That is why we meet together and see what happens as we read together or use a variety of resources that are available such as the *Lutheran Study Bible*, or *Serendipity Bible* to assist us in discussion.

Have I got you curious or stirred up? Well come and join together with others at any of our existing studies or tell one of the pastors and we'll see how we can best facilitate forming for you a study group. Please be open to the power of the Holy Spirit when God's Word about His Son, the Word Incarnate, enters our mind and life through the stories of God's people.

WINDS OF THE PRAIRIE COUNCIL MINUTES

JUNE 14, 2011

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ron and Lynette Madsen, Phil Anderson, Karen Richmond, Diane Evers, Ivan Kuhlman, Sherry Rost, Dave Gislason.

PASTORS PRESENT: Pastor Steve Rasmusson, Pastor Julie Anderson and Vicar Jackie Braun

President Karen Richmond called the meeting to order. Pastor Julie Anderson led devotions.

The churches reported on their happenings. Bethany will be having their chicken dinner in September, but the date is still up in the air. Their offerings have been low.

Peace stated that their finances are good.

Grace will be celebrating their 125th Anniversary on September 17th and 18th. On Saturday they will have a potluck and on Sunday the Bishop will speak and there will be a meal. They also had 63 attending their Vacation Bible School. Their finances are behind quite a bit.

Bethany-Elim had 84 attending their Vacation Bible School and had help from the Shetek counselors. They are also hurting financially.

St. Paul's has not set a date yet for their ice cream social. They are financially hurting, also. Their Vacation Bible School went well, also.

The Secretary's Report was presented. A motion was made by Ron, seconded by Ivan to accept the Secretary's Report. The motion passed unanimously.

A handout was distributed with the committee reports. The Personnel Committee report was submitted by Mary Midden, the Mutual Ministry Committee report was submitted by Donna Kurth, and the Internship Report was submitted by Christy Brewers.

The Pastors' Report was presented by Pastor Julie and featured information about a healing service, the drop box, an education summit that will be held at Bethany and an educators network.

Pastor Steve reported on the Personnel Committee and dealt with the Associate Pastor's responsibilities, such as expectations, education – mentor training and marriage encounter, youth/family ministry – youth retreats,

pastoral care – home communion and evangelism, and pastoral staff – improving communications and contact committee members.

The Lead Pastor's responsibilities deal with expectations – spiritual retreats, education – men's study (new and existing), youth/family ministry – develop a venture crew for youths, pastoral care, active evangelism – develop preaching for community outreach, trustees/administration – develop a data base, general pastoral duties – supervision of the Intern and relationships with the greater community.

The Internship Committee will be adding two new members to the committee – a single person and a youth.

Continuing Education for the pastors will be dealing with world hunger.

Summer Evangelical Outreach will be delivering devotionals to members who haven't been to church lately.

WXY Report – two trips are planned – a Crow Wing River Run and the trip to Eagle Butte. A car wash will be held at Grace on June 18th, 2011.

The Treasurers Report was presented. Thirty-eight percent of the budget has been expended. There is also a \$10,000 CD that will be maturing. Options might be a money market account or a Mission Investment Fund. A committee will be formed to look into options. It is believed that the State Bank of Taunton has the best rates in the area for CD's. Dave will check with the Taunton bank on the rate for a money market account. A decision should be made by July 25, 2011. A motion was made by Ivan, seconded by Sherry to accept the Treasurer's Report. The motion passed unanimously.

CONTINUED ON FOLLOWING PAGE

OLD BUSINESS

Pastor Steve's 30th Anniversary Ordination Celebration will be held June 22nd. Pastor Julie will be gone so Vicar Jackie will be leading the service. The theme is "We are called".

The men's group will sing and there will be a skit by Karen. People should be there by 6:15 pm and bring lawn chairs.

A discussion on the cell phones was tabled until the August meeting.

The Digging the Well project is halfway completed. It is a whole-community water system. We would like to have it completed by the end of July. There was a discussion of the next project.

NEW BUSINESS

Mission Focus Goals will be local one time, then worldwide the next.

The Lutheran Disaster Response was discussed as the next mission, which would run from July 31st until October 31st. A motion was made by Diane, seconded by Phil to have Lutheran Disaster Response as our next mission. Motion passed unanimously.

A presentation on the Dave Ramsey Financial Peace classes was viewed. There would be a \$200 initiation fee and the classes would be open to anyone in the community. Subject was tabled until the next meeting.

Assignments will be to talk to our local councils regarding the Dave Ramsey classes and the next mission.

The next meeting will be held on August 9th at Grace.

Ivan made a motion, seconded by Lynette to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

THE 2011 WELCA CONVENTION REPORT

Women of the ELCA held another successful convention this spring with just over 300 women in attendance. The convention was held at Granite Falls Lutheran and the women of that congregation did a wonderful job hosting the event. Both the worship offerings and in-kind offerings were an indication that women give freely to their mission projects. The worship offering of \$11,728.59 was evenly divided between Churchwide and the Lutheran Disaster Fund for Haiti relief. As always women responded overwhelmingly to the in-kind offering. Just over \$14,000 was donated towards the mosquito net project. In addition 2941 health/personal care kits were contributed.

Two great speakers filled our coffers as well. In the morning Pastor April Larson, First Lutheran Church, Duluth was our presenter. Dr. Larson was the first women Bishop of the ELCA, serving the LaCrosse Synod, and the second woman Bishop in the world. She visited with us about

music in our worship and how women in the Bible were the people who sang their thanks to God. She also talked about her son, Bob, who was killed in the earthquake in Haiti. Dr. Larson also served as song leader for us at the convention. In the afternoon the speaker was John Knife Sterner who helped us understand what it means to be a native American. John is a member of the Lakota tribe at Pine Ridge in South Dakota and today is on the staff at SMSU in the Art Department. All of us came away with a better understanding of what it means to be a native American. Also meeting with us was Beth Wrenn, from North Carolina who is the churchwide president of Women of the ELCA. She brought greetings from our sisters in Christ and shared with us the work being done at churchwide.

Next year's convention will be held June 15-16 at Faith Lutheran Church, Spicer and Green Lake Bible Camp.



WHOLENESS WHEEL

Now that you have made your goals for the year in the disciplines of the Wholeness Wheel this will help you to focus and direct your life. Goals give a reference to measure whether opportunities will help or hinder you in your mission and vocation. Each week in worship your gift of goals, placed in the **ARC, the Annual Review/Renewal Covenant/Container**, on the altar will be a weekly reminder that God helps us to live a life that is whole and full. Continue to pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit each day and look forward to what is awaiting you in the future.

MARKS OF DISCIPLESHIP: WATERS OF BAPTISM

Another list that you can use for the gift which relate more to how express ourselves as baptized disciples are the WATERS:

Worship: Participate in some form of weekly gathering around Word and Sacrament.

Advocacy: Select an issue of justice or peace for which to pray and be aware.

Teaching: Interact with Scripture in a group study or through daily devotions.

Evangelism: Explore and tell my own stories of God's work in my life.

Relationship in Service: Work with my neighbors to help them experience God's love through deeds of kindness and love.

FAMILY FAITH

NANCY KROG

GRAINS OF SAND

TODAY'S READING: Genesis 22:1-19

I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore.
Genesis 22:17a

FAITH WALK:

Take a long walk along a sandy lake shore or find a sandbox to visit. Pick up a handful of sand and let it run through your fingers. Try counting the grains of sand you can hold in your hand. Is it possible?

FAITH TALK:

- How many grains of sand are there in the world?
- Why did God promise Abraham that he would be the father of a nation?
- Who are Abraham's descendants? Hint: Read Romans 4:16
- What blessing do those who are children of Abraham receive? Read Romans 4:7-8
- Reread the whole Bible passage. How does this passage remind us of Jesus?

OTHER ACTIVITIES:

- If you know the song "Father Abraham", sing it together and do the actions.
- Place a cup of sand on your home altar (or kitchen table) as a reminder that we are children of Abraham.
- Lie down outside on a starry night and count the stars. Abraham's children are as numerous as the stars.
- Cut stars from construction paper and decorate them with glitter.

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S GRACE:

Dear Father,

Thank you for giving me the gift of faith in Jesus, my Savior, so I may be a child of Abraham – Your child. In Your Son's name we pray. Amen.

BETHANY, ARCO

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS FOR JULY

USHERS: Gayle and Ruth Rasmussen

ALTAR GUILD: Ilene Sorensen

BETHANY NEWS

GAYLE RASMUSSEN

We have had a very successful VBS, thanks to a community effort of Ivanhoe and Arco. Thank you to all who made it a meaningful experience for the students.

Stewardship.....what is it? We always think of the financial aspect, and Bethany is always in need of your financial support. But we are also in need of all types of talents to make our church fill its mission work, from lecturing, serving communion, serving food, and attending services

and so on. We now have a challenge. If the students can give a few days to attend VBS, we should be able to give a few days to the church. You will receive more than you give.

There are lots of special times in the planning and coming up this summer. Check into these and attend, if possible. God has given us this summer for us to enjoy.

BETHANY-ELIM, IVANHOE

BETHANY-ELIM WELCA

The Bethany-Elim WELCA will have "Ladies' Day Out" on Thursday, July 14. Meet at the Corner Café in downtown Ivanhoe at 11:15 a.m. for lunch.

VBS: HEROES OF FAITH AT BETHANY-ELIM

NANCY KROG

"Heroes of Faith" was the theme for Vacation Bible School led by Shetek Lutheran Ministries June 13 - 16. We had 84 students and 17 student volunteers who gathered through the week to strengthen their faith and learn how Jesus is our ultimate superhero!



Our first year of Bethany and Bethany-Elim joining forces with Sts. Peter and Paul and St. John Cantius was a major success!

The kids enjoyed singing, creating crafts, fun outdoor games and crazy skits put on by the student volunteers and Shetek counselors. The kids walked to the nursing home on Wednesday and shared some favorite songs with the residents. On Thursday night, we packed the church for our Celebration Program. The kids shared their songs and skits and we had a perfect evening for our hotdog picnic.

This successful week happened because of the graciousness of our congregation and community and we say THANK YOU! Thanks to Kevin & Nichelle Buffington and Dale and Karen Richmond, our host families, for providing lodging for our Shetek counselors all week, to the people who provided meals for the Shetek staff, to those who donated money to make this happen, to Bethany and Bethany-Elim WELCA groups for donating money to provide snacks during the week, to the student & adult volunteers who shared their time, and all the energetic children of God who participated in VBS...THANK YOU! A special thank you to the Bethany and Bethany-Elim WELCA groups for donating "seeds of faith" packets to all of our campers!

SPECIAL NOTE: The VBS children will be singing during the VBS Review at Diamond Lake on June 29th. Wear your blue VBS t-shirts and we'll see you there!

GRACE, LAKE BENTON

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS FOR JULY

USHERS: Eldy Nordmeyer, Larry Neuberger,
Arlyn Petersen, Lloyd Petersen

ALTAR GUILD: Faye Meyer

GRACE LUTHERAN SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

PAT JOHNSON

Well, another VBS has come and gone. We had a wonderful and exciting week, June 6-10, spending our week in "Hometown Nazareth". 63 children from Grace, Peace of Ruthton, the Lake Benton Methodist Church, local children, and grandchildren of our church members attended.

Our suppers provided much energy for everyone. Thank you to all that donated food and those helping to prepare and serve were: Carol Dahl, Darlene Meyer, and Jeanette Nelsen. It tasted great and was deeply appreciated.

We opened and closed each night with Celebration led by Pastor Steve and music led by Michelle Kuhlman. The 8 tribes met for Huddletime twice a night. Tribe leaders were: Tanya Berkenpas, Mindy Johnson, Kim Hefti, Tracey Kuhlman, Janell DeVries, Edel Hudson, Michelle Nelson, & Courtney Mulder with helpers Nancy Johnson, Stephanie Kuhlman and Alexis Nelson. Then it was on to Games - led by Tonia Czech and helpers, Steven Czech and Brandon Hefti, Mary's House - with Mary(Betty Klitzke) and

CALENDAR:

Wed, July 6 – GLCW, a visit to Marshall--watch for details (times, rides). Devotions: Darlene Willert. Hostesses: Judy Thomssen, Mary Paschke, and Wanda Nordmeyer.

Wed, July 13 – Bible Study group with Deloris Johansen as hostess.

Wed, July 20 – Block Day

Wed, July 27 – Do-Day

Eunice(Carol Sorensen) Mary's visiting neighbor who wasn't so sure Jesus was such a special person, or the Marketplace with 4 shops held for 2 nights each. On Monday and Tuesday, our shops were: Synagogue School (Pastor Steve),Scribe Shop(Kathy Johnson assisted by Linda Sutherland), Carpentry Shop(Chandra Prosch & Julienne Prosch), and Olive Oil Shop(Pastor Julie & Vicar Jackie). Wednesday and Thursday shops were: Farmer's Field(Kathy Johnson & Linda Sutherland), Bead Shop(Chandra Prosch & Julienne Prosch), Rock Quarry(Pastor Julie and Vicar Jackie), and Barnyard animals. We were visited by Poncho(the miniature horse), Bugsie(the bunny), Pastor Steve's assorted little chickens, and 2 baby lambs from Darren, Lowell & Jeanette Nelsen. Thank you for all your willingness and dedication to put our VBS on.

Our offerings for the week were food and staple donations for our local food shelf. They appreciated it very much.

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Thank you to Darren & Jeanette Nelsen, Jerid Johnson, Mike & Tonia Czech for extra help with the setup/decorations and Julienne & LaDon Prosch, Jerid Johnson, Wayne Fehrman, and Linda Sutherland for the take down. Thank you to Roger Rudebusch for recording

PEACE, RUTHTON

NOTES AND DATES:

Tuesday, July 5

9:30 a.m. – St. Matthew Circle meets at the home of Shirley Knutson

2:00 p.m. – St. Mark Circle meets at the home of Joyce Anderson

Monday, July 11

9:00 a.m. – Quilting Day

PRAYER CONCERNS

BETHANY (ARCO):

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

BETHANY-ELIM (IVANHOE):

Pray for Mary Ann Koopman, Mavis Nielsen, Dave Lawrence, Dennis Amundson, Ken Swanson, Brenda Sheik, Larry Scholten, Gabriel Johnson (Grandson of Norma Jean Johnson); Becky Paluch, Leigh Jerzak; Kelsey & Robin Hoffman; Michael Kropp; Jackson Nelson (son of Ryan & Kate Nelson); Kristi Morelan, and Leann Wadsworth; Dareld Benz (brother of Mavis Nielsen); Nancy Resmen (sister-in-law of Bernadine Olsen); Linda Vlaminc (Sister-in-Law of Dave & Marlene Lawrence); and Mary Grace Nelson (daughter of Ryan & Kate Nelson).

GRACE (LAKE BENTON):

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

PEACE (RUTHTON):

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

our program on Friday night and those that attended the program. Thank you to service group #2 for serving the delicious lunch after the program.

Thank you to everyone that helped make this week possible. It takes all of us coming together to make it so successful.

Wednesday, July 13

2:00 p.m. – PLCW

5:00 p.m. – St. John Circle meets at the church

Monday, July 25

9:00 a.m. – Quilting Day

ST. PAUL (MINNEOTA):

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

MILITARY:

Pray for the leaders of this nation and all the nations of the world that all may seek peace. Pray for those family and friends of the members of WOTP who serve in the military or reserve forces, especially Lucas Oerter, Scott Johnson, 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

TYLER NURSING HOME:

Marjorie Meyer, Grace Lutheran; Cliff Kittleson, Carolyn Holck, Eldonna Peterson, Harvey Christensen- Peace Lutheran

DIVINE PROVIDENCE NURSING HOME (IVANHOE):

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