



# Cross Winds

Winds of the Prairie Ministries

Bethany • Bethany-Elim • Grace • Peace • St Paul

JUNE 2010  
NEWSLETTER

## FIRST WORD

Pastor Julie A. K. Anderson

### A Ministry with a Mission for Life:

In three years Jesus was sent on a mission, which began with his baptism and ended with his death and resurrection. He was sent by God to the world of humanity to share the Good News, the Gospel. This news was that God loved humanity so much that he supplied the means in the person of Jesus, God's Son, to bring us back into righteousness. Jesus showed us the Father's love through his example of service and ministry, to others as a matter of love.

We, as the baptized people of God, are sent out to continue the mission of Jesus as members of the living body of Christ called the Church. In our words and actions we are to share that God loves this world and humanity. **How we do this is our ministry.** The Vibrant Faith organization supplies us with 4 frames through which to respond to our faith in Jesus Christ:

**6 Places** for shaping faith are children & youth, homes, congregations, community, culture and creation

**5 Principles** for living and passing on faith that we'll explore more in the future

**4 Keys** for practicing faith:

1. Caring Conversations express interest in the other.
2. Devotions are practicing the presence of God through the Word.
3. *Service* is the calling to care and love others as we are loved.
4. Rituals and traditions are the patterns for the communication of the meaning of life.

**3 Characteristics** for Christians are to be **Authentic, Available, and Affirming.**

The word ministry is derived from the Latin word for "servant", so ministry is how we serve as one of the 4 keys of practicing what we believe. There is a way in which each of us is called into the mission of the Church through service. Some examples we can all agree on might be:

- Teaching the Bible to adults or children so they may hear God's Word.
- Assisting with worship by reading the texts, preparing communion and ushering.
- Helping serve a meal for an event, or funeral at the church.

But have you ever considered other ministries such as:

- Helping your disabled or elderly neighbor to care for their home and lawn so they can remain in their home in safety.
- Sitting and listening to a person share their problems and concerns without saying a word especially if they have the opposite understanding of everything you have.

In this season after Pentecost we, like the disciples, are sent out into the world to share the gospel as the mission of the church. The readings tell us of the ways in which God and Jesus have faithfully served humanity in spite of humanity's desire to do it themselves, to strive to earn God's love. Just because we can't make the lame walk or blind see as Jesus did doesn't mean grocery shopping for a sick neighbor isn't ministry.

If we are to strive for anything it is to outdo each other in service to others. That means at time you are the one receiving the service and at other times giving the service. Think about what you do already and what you like to do so much it is fun, not work? This is often the service that God has given you to do for it is unique to you.

We see the power of each little service when we gather as the Church. Look further in the newsletter for the ELCA Ministry of the Month. During this season we will highlight ministries that your offerings of money and prayers serve as the mission support because we work together through the expression of the

Church called the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

## JUNE PREACHING SCHEDULE

June 5 @ Bethany—Pastor Steve  
June 6 @ St. Paul's—Pastor Steve  
June 6 @ Peace—Pastor Julie  
June 6 @ Bethany—Pastor Julie  
June 6 @ Grace—Vicar Jackie  
June 6 @ Bethany-Elim—Vicar Jackie  
June 12 @ Peace—Pastor Steve  
June 13 @ St. Paul's—Pastor Steve  
June 13 @ Peace—Pastor Julie  
June 13 @ Bethany—Pastor Julie  
June 13 @ Grace—Vicar Jackie  
June 13 @ Bethany-Elim—Vicar Jackie  
June 19 @ Bethany-Elim—Vicar Jackie  
June 20 @ St. Paul's—Pastor Julie  
June 20 @ Peace—Vicar Jackie  
June 20 @ Bethany—Vicar Jackie  
June 20 @ Grace—Pastor Steve  
June 20 @ Bethany-Elim—Pastor Julie  
June 27 @ St. Paul's—Vicar Jackie  
June 27 @ Peace—Pastor Steve  
June 27 @ Bethany—Pastor Steve  
June 27 @ Grace—Pastor Julie  
June 27 @ Bethany-Elim—Pastor Julie

## SATURDAY NIGHT LIGHT WORSHIP

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



First Saturday of the Month at Bethany Lutheran in Arco on June 6.  
Second Saturday of the Month at Peace Lutheran in Ruthton on June 12.  
Third Saturday of the Month at Bethany-Elim Lutheran in Ivanhoe on June 19.  
Beginning June 23 we meet on Wednesdays at Diamond Lake Chapel at 7 pm. Saturday night worship will begin in September after Labor Day.

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

## SENIORS' RECOGNITION



Congratulations to our High School Seniors of Winds of the Prairie Ministry:  
Bethany: Cole Lundberg, Brittany Majusiak, and Clint Barber  
Bethany-Elim: Nicole Facile, Josh Nelson, Christopher Gregor  
Grace: Zachary Bump and Jennifer Gunnink  
Peace: Brittany Christensen, Katie Madsen, Amanda Staeffler, Ashley Verly, Jordyn Vogt

## TRAINING FOR AFFIRMATION FOR THE SUMMER

During the summer TFA students will be completing their worship notes. It has been an exciting year of learning as we look ahead to next year and the many opportunities to live and learn about our faith continue.



This summer an experiment of a concentrated week of the instruction needed for Affirmation of Baptism by those under 18 years of age is being offered. August 9 to 12 are the days with class to run from 8:30 to 3:30 at a location determined by the make up of the class. This class will cover Old Testament, 10 Commandments and Holy Baptism. Please contact Pastor Julie [507-215-2388 or [pastorjuliea@frontiernet.net](mailto:pastorjuliea@frontiernet.net)] for more information and to express interest by July 1.

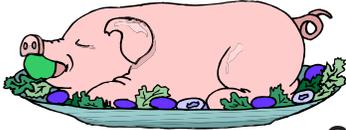
## FIRST COMMUNION



The following students celebrated their First Communion on May 23. We welcome them to the Lord's Table from now on.

Elizabeth Breszinski & Stephanie Kuhlman  
Steven Czech & John Sutherland  
Katelynn Jorgensen  
Kathy Richmond

## JULY BBQ STUDY



What could be better than a reason to gather, eat and study before the Wednesday Worship at Diamond Lake? A **Social Statement on Genetics draft** is out and awaiting our study and input as an expression of our faith for the world. The field of genetics makes new discoveries and develops new technologies that will affect all of us. This social statement is intended to set ethical boundaries for those who work in the field and use the technology developed. Feedback is due in early Fall so this is a great time to read and study together to offer our input. Copies can be obtained at [www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org) or ask one of the pastors and they will get you one to read before hand.

## SHETEK SENIOR ADULT RETREAT: AUGUST 27-29, 2010

WHAT AN AWESOME WEEKEND!!! That is the statement heard after being part of the Sr. Adult Retreat. Come join us for an amazing time of fellowship, fun, crafts, worship, and more at Shetek Lutheran Ministries. Stay in our wonderful Lakota Retreat Center while being lead by an outstanding couple named Cy and Betty Jo Solberg. Each year this retreat grows and grows so you'll want to be sure to register as soon as you can. The next retreat will be. It is a Friday to Sunday stay with some of the best meals you may ever eat. To register call 507-763-3567 or visit [www.shetek.org](http://www.shetek.org).

## 64<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL SHETEK WOMEN'S RETREAT

Brochures are at each congregation for the Shetek Women's Retreat on September 17 & 18, 2010. The theme is "Rejoice" with keynote

speaker Jerry Dahmen on "I Love Life: The 6 Spiritual Principles for Successful Living". A great day of fun, food and fellowship for \$30 at our wonderful Shetek Lutheran Ministries Camp on Lake Shetek.

## PLAY BALL!! WINDS AT THE PARK



Join the expedition to Sioux Falls to see the Pheasants play baseball against the Fort Worth Cats from a suite almost behind homeplate.

The game begins at 2:05 pm and is Disney Day with the appearance of Disney Princesses for Family Fun in the SUNday. For \$30 you get to sit in the suite and outside, partake of a Slider Buffet and have transportation. Your payment to Winds of the Prairie Ministry Office is your reservation, so send quickly for we have room for only 25 and need numbers by June 20. The suite is handicap accessible by an elevator so there is no reason we can't have a full suite and a fun day.

## SUMMER FUN

Don't you think it is time to get ready for summer? Well, here are some dates to put on the calendar:

- June 20-26 – Eagle Butte Servant Trip for Habitat for Humanity
- June 23<sup>rd</sup> – Diamond Lake worships begin on Wednesdays at 7pm. VBS review and Potluck for kickoff. Statement studies at 5:30 begin on June 30<sup>th</sup>.
- June 27- Pheasants Baseball Game
- July 4 – Gospel Fest in Ruthton
- July 18-21 –Journey of Affirmation Bicycle and Servant Trip
- July 29<sup>th</sup> – Farewell Potluck for Vicar Jackie and John, this year's intern and her husband.
- August 14-15 – Family campout and Bluegrass Gospel Worship on the Mountain – Hole in the Mountain Park, Lake Benton
- August 15 – New intern arrives
- August 18 – New intern Welcome

September 1 – Last Summer Worship at Diamond Lake

September 12 – Rally Sunday and Box-elder Bug Days (New worship times --watch to see if your congregation's time changes or stays the same this year)

## SUMMER VISITING

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With the warm weather and the changes in our schedules the pastors are looking forward to having more opportunities to make connections with the disciples of Winds of the Prairie Ministry. So don't be surprised if you get a call or the pastor shows up at your home when in the neighborhood. Don't worry about making or doing anything special, just be yourself and show us how you are living in your baptismal promise. We won't plan on being fancy, so please don't you plan on being fancy.

## NOTE ON IVANHOE BIBLE STUDY

From Vicar Jackie

Regarding the Bible Study that meets at the CCNI Building in Ivanhoe: Per group consensus, we are shifting the Tuesday, July 6<sup>th</sup> Bible Study time to Tuesday, June 29. The group will not meet for the rest of July. Watch for further information on when this group will re-gather.

## WXY CAMPFIRE NIGHT

By Nancy Krog

**All WOTP** current 6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> graders are invited to a campfire night on Tuesday, June 15. We will leave from the Bethany-Elim parking lot at 6:15 p.m. to enjoy a campfire & fun at Arco's Lake Stay Park. Shetek Lutheran Ministries staff will lead a devotion and campfire songs and kids can roast hot dogs and smores over the campfire. No charge. All food will be provided. Please bring your own pop. Kids



can be picked up at Bethany-Elim church after campfire. Please RSVP to Nancy Krog by **JUNE 11**, call 507-487-5722 or email [knkrog@frontier.com](mailto:knkrog@frontier.com) if you plan to attend. Hope to see you there!

## VICAR JACKIE'S PREACHING DATES

Please note that the last time Vicar Jackie Harvestine will be preaching in each of our churches is as follows:

St. Paul's—Sunday, June 27<sup>th</sup>

Peace & Bethany—Sunday, July 11<sup>th</sup>

Grace & Bethany-Elim—Sunday, July 25<sup>th</sup>

## WOTP COUNCIL

By Karen Richmond, President

Our WOTP Council meets every other month. So, with no May meeting, we have no minutes to relay this time. For our next meeting, we will gather on Tuesday, June 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 in Arco. One of items on the agenda will be to receive the Ministry Team Review Report and work on Mission Development for the coming ministry year. We will also work on plans for the summer worship service on Wednesday evening, June 30<sup>th</sup> at Diamond Lake. WOTP Council members have volunteered to help plan that service.

We are encouraging all church members to give thought to the Wholeness Wheels. Goal setting is important, on an individual basis, for each of our churches, and as a united WOTP Parish as well. We are thankful for the wonderful leadership of our pastors. We feel fortunate to walk the faith journey with Pastor Steve, Pastor Julie, and Vicar Jackie.

## 2010 SYNOD ASSEMBLY UPDATE

This year at the Synod Assembly, members could take part in several hands-on service projects. Together, there were some amazing results including; 300 Red Cross Comfort Kits, 1200 Seed Packet Stapling, 4200 Relay for

Life Luminary Bags, a Habitat for Humanity Storage Shed, Women of the ELCA Quilting, Women of the ELCA Knitting Hats, and Women of the ELCA Prayer Shawls.

## FAMILY FAITH

By Nancy Krog

A group from WOTP attended the Vibrant Faith conference in Springfield, MN, in May. I would like to review a few major points that were covered during the conference.

The main focus was not rocket science, it was about meaningful relationships with your family and your church family. One of the ways to have a successful and strong “passing of faith” is to utilize the 4 KEY areas. I will summarize the four keys to nurture faith. CARING CONVERSATIONS; these conversations express an interest in others, their hurts, joys, concerns and dreams. These caring conversations can happen around the kitchen table, in the car or at bedtime. DEVOTIONS; this is time to connect with God and His word. Family devotions can be as easy as a bedtime prayer, using the daily devotionals we received from church, or praying for our fellow congregation members. SERVICE; this is a way to serve our neighbors. Our children and youth are influenced by what they see in the lives around them and the service done by their parents and family members. RITUALS AND TRADITIONS; these are our routines we follow daily, on special occasions or the way we greet one another, this is a great way to communicate the good news of Jesus.

See, no rocket science there. I can say in my family, we demonstrate “some” of the 4 keys “some” of the time. But it makes me want to try to nurture our faith more. After processing this information, it makes sense to me why my Grandma always read the Christmas story on Christmas Eve BEFORE we could open presents. What a great RITUAL and DEVOTION to celebrate Jesus’s birth. When we gather with extended family we usually sing the “Johnny Appleseed” song as a table grace, another DEVOTION and RITUAL. Living in southwest Minnesota most of us are compelled to drop off a hotdish or bars when a neighbor has had surgery, lost a loved one, or welcomed home a new baby, this is a great example of SERVICE. I wish we had more CARING CONVERSATIONS around our kitchen table and I’m going to work at that. There is usually

The assembly also received two offerings. The ELCA World Hunger offering totaled \$7,699.37. The general offering was \$22,845. Thanks so much to all who gave and to those who participated in the service projects!

a captive audience and an opportunity to ask about the best part of our children’s day and the toughest part and perhaps say a prayer for that child at bedtime to celebrate the “good stuff” and ask for guidance on the “tough parts”.

## NOTES FROM THE INTERN

*“Bear one another’s burdens, and in this way you fulfill the law of Christ.” Galatians 6:2*

June is a time for celebrations. Graduations, weddings and anniversaries fill up our calendars. Plans for college and military service occupy the minds of young people and their parents. We honor these times with ceremony and ritual. We mark the transition from student to graduate, single to married, living at home to moving out. On May 23<sup>rd</sup> we lifted up students who were participating in their first Holy Communion and who were graduating from high school. This process is not unique to America. Around the world in a variety of forms rites of passage are honored and celebrated.

There are other transitions which do not fit into neatly prescribed categories and for which we don’t have so many words. The ending of a marriage is a difficult and painful transition. Leaving one’s independent lifestyle for a group facility is also filled with many emotions. “Celebration” is not a word that comes to mind in either of these cases.

Recently, a young couple in my extended family, eagerly anticipating their first child, received the heart-wrenching news the pregnancy had gone awry and their beautiful, perfectly-formed son was stillborn at 22 weeks. We had been surrounding them in prayer since the first word of concern and later supported them in verbal and written ways. (They live several states away.) These are not easy conversations to have but St. Paul exhorts us to “bear one another’s burdens” so our imperfect words and our presence are ways we can do this. It was gratifying to hear they named their son and had a graveside service for him. Honoring his all too brief time on earth, was a way to mark this transition with

sacredness and to acknowledge rather than deny this painful time.

Do you carry an unshared burden, an unspoken grief? Please consider contacting one of the pastors or a trusted friend to share your story and begin the healing process, even if it is from long ago. Creating a ritual may be an appropriate and helpful action. If someone honors you with such a

story, remember the words of Galatians: “Bear one another’s burdens” and listen with a deep and caring heart. We are created to be in community, to support one another through the celebrations and the heartaches, the laughter and the tears. God bless all such Christian sharing. Peace and Blessings - Vicar Jackie Harvestine

## JUNE- ELCA MINISTRY OF THE MONTH



### Responding to the Word

#### *Serving our Neighbors Around the Corner and Around the World*

The ELCA, through its missionaries, companion churches, and partner agencies, works every day to proclaim the love of God and make the world a better place to live. While we are the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, our hands reach out in partnerships across the globe.

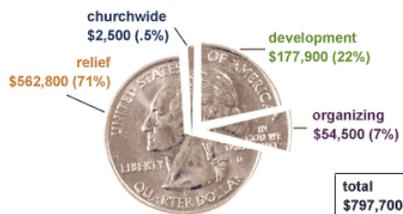
**ELCA World Hunger responds to Christ’s call to “Go and do likewise”** (Luke 10:37), serving with compassion people who are most vulnerable, paying focused attention to the full participation of women and the needs of children. **ELCA World Hunger** responds to hunger and poverty in the United States and around the world by addressing root causes. Through a comprehensive program of [relief](#), [development](#), [education](#), and [advocacy](#), people are connected to the resources they need to lift themselves out of poverty. Between 70-75 percent of ELCA World Hunger funds are spent internationally, and 20-25 percent are spent domestically.

Together, in Christ’s name, **we experience the transforming power of connection**. As individuals, congregations, and synods, our humble offerings and actions are gathered, blessed, and multiplied. Together, we are ELCA World Hunger.

The international work of ELCA World Hunger is carried out through ELCA [companion relationships](#) as well as through trusted partners like [Lutheran World Relief \(LWR\)](#) and [The Lutheran World Federation \(LWF\)](#). Because of these long-held connections to partners around the world, ELCA World Hunger efforts are efficient and effective.

The domestic work of ELCA World Hunger is carried out primarily through the [Domestic Hunger Grants Program](#) (relief, development, and community organizing projects) and Education and Advocacy Grants.

### **2009 Grant Totals for Domestic Hunger**



See more at:

[www.elca.org/Our-Faith-In-Action/Stories-of-Faith-in-Action](http://www.elca.org/Our-Faith-In-Action/Stories-of-Faith-in-Action)

## PASTOR’S REPORT FOR TO APRIL 22, 2010 TO MAY 19, 2010

Worship	Education	Meetings	Pastoral Acts	Visits
4- Sundays Worships @ 5 congregations	12- Bible/Book Study 4-TFA	7- Council/Meeting 1-WELCA 0-WXY	2–Funeral 0-Baptism 6-Counseling	17- Home 3-Hospital

4- Nursing Home 4-Saturday Night	1-Letters/Dad	2-Synod 1-LCC 1-Worship Plan	0-Wedding 0-Affirmatin of Baptism	
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## BETHANY NEWS

By Gayle Rasmussen

We have been busy at Bethany through the Easter season, celebrating the renewed life of Jesus.

At our Saturday evening services we have started a family program before service, inviting all to attend. At our May service (May 1) we celebrated an old fashioned May Day making and delivering May baskets. Sure was a fun time for us and the people who received them.

Congratulations to Clint Barber, Cole Lundberg, and Brittany Majusiak, Bethany's Graduates. We wish them a great future.

A preview of our coming events—some interesting things are coming. Saturday evening June 1 service will be preceded with a bike rodeo for anyone learning safe ways to ride your bicycle, followed with a cookout of tacos and hot dogs. The upcoming Wednesday service at Diamond Lake seem to be look quite interesting.

Kids—VBS will be June 14-18 at Bethany-Elim, with Shetek Ministries presenting the program. Ask about transportation to Bethany-Elim if you need a ride.

Have a happy Memorial Day—remember our service men and women and thank them for their commitment.

God go with you.

## BETHANY HELPERS FOR JUNE

Ushers: Gayle, Ruth, & Ila Rasmussen  
Altar Guild: Tami Harris

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL AT B-E <sup>6</sup>

By Nancy Krog

“Let There Be Light” is the theme for our VBS week slated for June 14 – 17, 2010. VBS will be from 2 – 6 p.m. Monday through Thursday. We are pumped to see what Shetek staff has planned for us.

We will celebrate our week of VBS with a finale for all members of WOTP to attend. The VBS Celebration Program will be Thursday, June 17 at 6 p.m. VBS kids will be showing off their new songs, crafts, and friendships during the program. A potluck is planned after the program, beverages and paper products provided, so bring a dish to pass and soak up some fellowship and an evening of fun at Bethany-Elim on June 17<sup>th</sup>.

Thanks to Kevin and Nichelle Buffington for offering their camper to host our Shetek staff...the counselors will love it!

If anyone is interested in helping provide food to our Shetek Staff, there is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board at church or call Nancy.

## GRACE LUTHERAN NEWS

By Darren Nelsen, Council President

I would like to start with thanking Roxanne Nielsen for helping me transition to my new position. She has been a huge help and filled in when I was busy farming. Again, thank you.

Let's start with something everyone can agree on—you ask what might that be? Politics! No, just kidding. It's our Youth. Everyone agrees that our youth are our future. So why is it that in our finances we spend more on heating fuel than on our children each year? There's some food for thought and something to think about.

We started something the other night. J.R. and I are heading up our 2011 Youth Movement. If you have questions, just ask.

May God Bless You, til next time

## GRACE LUTHERAN NOTES & DATES

Ushers for June: Matt Prosch, Roger Rudebusch, Martin Ritter, Jay Stuefen  
Altar Guild: Carole Larsen  
GLCW: No meeting in June due to Bible School  
Bible Study: June 9. Mary Paschke is Hostess.

## GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN <sup>7</sup>

By Garnet Petersen

GLCW hosted a guest salad luncheon on May 5<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to Darlene and Romelle for the enjoyable program on aprons, to Diane for the music, and to Kara for the decorations and being the chairman for the luncheon. Thank you to her committee for all the delicious salads. Our guests were from First English and Danebod of Tyler and Bethany of Arco. Sharing stories about aprons was lots of fun. Thanks everyone for all the hard work. Thank you to the Lee Bressler family for the donation of the glass trays and to Jim and Barb Herschberger for the donation of the silver trays. Thanks to Service Group 4 for serving the Jack Burk funeral and Service Group 1 for serving the Rosina Ritter funeral. There is no meeting in June. Our next meeting is July 7<sup>th</sup>.

## ATTENTION MEMBERS OF GRACE:

Heimer & Vera Swanson, previous very active members of English Lutheran (Grace), are observing a 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Cards may reach them at Heimer & Vera Swanson, 125 E Park Street, Apt. 218, Owatonna, MN 55060.

Heimer was the vo-ag teacher in the Lake Benton School in the 1950's.

## SPECIAL MUSIC AT PEACE LUTHERAN

During the summer months, we would like to have individuals volunteer to do special music for morning worship services. There is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board in the Narthex. Give this some thought, if you would happen to have some family or friends visiting that could do it, be sure to sign them up.

## SUMMER COFFEE AT PEACE LUTHERAN

At our May PLCW meeting it was decided that we should continue having coffee fellowship on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays. A Circle will serve on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday and volunteers will serve the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday. The St. Matthew Circle will begin on June 13.

## PEACE LUTHERAN CALENDAR

Tuesday, June 1 , 9am -- St. Matthew Circle meets at the home of Shirley Knutson.  
Wednesday, June 2, 2pm -- St. Mark Circle meets at the home of Doretta Vinson. (Note change of date)  
Monday, June 7, 5:30pm -- St. John Circle meets at the church.  
Wednesday, June 9, 2pm -- PLCW  
Monday, June 14 , 9am -- Quilting Day  
Monday, June 28, 9am – Quilting Day  
*QUILTING DAYS* --Just so there is no confusion, there will be 2 quilting days in June to make up for snow days.

## ST. PAUL'S NEWS

Mark your calendars everyone... The Annual St.Paul's Ice Cream and Pie Social will be Sunday, July 25<sup>th</sup>. We look forward to servicing all our friends and family. On May 16<sup>th</sup> we celebrated some special birthdays during and after church services. Irene Johnson and Clara DeRoode both turned 90 and the congregation sang "Happy Birthday" in

church, followed by fellowship. Congratulations to Irene and Clara. You both look great!

Just a reminder that the council is still accepting donations and/or suggestions for a memorial piece to be placed in the church in Jori Ann Magnuson's memory. Please see any council member. Also we would like to thank Kendall Lundberg (AV Man) for coordinating the audio/video system for Jori's funeral. Also thank you to the many others who helped during the funeral.

Thanks to Stephanie (Gregor) and Tony who led worship for us on Mother's Day. We will see you again later in the summer. Also a note that Cathy Josephson has arrived back safely in Iceland after visiting her father Frank earlier last month.



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## HEIDI'S HAPPENINGS

By Heidi Epple - Gaborone, Botswana

Computers are great when they work, but when they don't—ljajaja. (It's hard to translate "ljajaja" into English, but I think you can get the idea. The dictionary says, "expresses surprise, distress, sympathy or commiseration.") I can see you are all smiling and recalling past experiences. On April 10 I sent out an e-mail saying that I was having computer trouble, but things were now sorted out. I thought I was telling you the truth, but it actually took ten more days to finally get it sorted out. I can't tell you how tired I am of computers.

I have added "home schooling" to my other normal daily activities. When I felt this was coming my direction, I said to God, "If this is from You, You are going to have to enable me as this is way out of my ability." I thought I was already busy enough with what was on my plate, and I have no idea how to teach nor what to teach. I was going into this with fear and trembling.

My little friend Bokang has made this new venture a real delight. He is learning to count, the alphabet,

how to write and draw and colour. A good part of what we do are his speech therapy exercises to teach him to speak, chew, close his mouth, blow, drink with a straw, etc. He has taken off on putting puzzles together and other memory and matching things. I have been blown away by how fast he has caught on to things that I thought would be difficult for him. His speech therapist has been amazed at his abilities as well. Bokang makes "teaching" easy as he is excited to learn and makes everything into a fun experience. He tries very hard to please his teacher.

Last year Bokang was going to a special needs class in a nearby village. They were not staffed to be able to give individualized attention to the students. And by the time he got home from school and had something to eat, it was 5 p.m. and not the time of day for either of us to focus in on his speech therapy. So last year he regressed greatly in what he was able to do. When we began again in January with his therapy, he was very discouraged that he was not able to do what he could do before. But he has made great progress and caught up quickly and then has gone forward. I think he thrives on a little TLC and one-on-one attention.

There have been times when I've had an idea of what I thought would be good to get him to assist in teaching. But God knows what Bokang really needs. One day after a session with his speech therapist, I was wondering how we were going to manage the assignment that his therapist gave us. As we were on our way to collect my post, I was praying and asking God to direct my path and to help me find something that would help us. What I found was something very different than what I had in my mind, but it turned out to be just what Bokang needed. In a matter of a few minutes we were the owners of three different sized horns and a recorder. They are on strings so he wears them around his neck and goes around the yard blowing like crazy. He is very happy and content being in my yard along just blowing on his horns. So even when we are not officially sitting at the kitchen table doing school, he is around the yard doing school without realizing he is still doing school. He is quick to show everyone that comes what he can do. The horns are teaching him how to blow using his mouth as well as closing his mouth. And with the four different sizes/shapes, his mouth is learning to close and form around each one.

Bokang's problem is that he likes to smile too much. This hinders him from learning to close his mouth. Unfortunately most of us don't have this

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problem. Another problem that he has is that he enjoys life so much that everything is fun and exciting and makes him laugh, which isn't conducive to closing his mouth either.

Because he doesn't speak much, he has not liked singing, but recently he has started to sing a couple of songs. It is so sweet to hear him singing his two favourite songs: It is true, true, true, I love Jesus and Ee, Ee, My God is Good-O. After trying hard to learn something new and he finally manages, he will break out singing Ee, Ee, My God is Good-O. His God is very, very good-o.

Bokang and his older sister Katlego have had some major upheavals in their home. The lady that has been taking care of them for many years is no longer with them. Their grandfather is looking after them, but he works in Gaborone. He is sometimes on call so is not able to come to stay with them here in Kumakwane as he needs to be close to work so he needs to sleep at his house in Gaborone. Over the past couple of months Bokang and Katlego have appeared at my door late at night needing a place to stay as they are afraid to stay at home alone. I can't blame them. It has caused my life to change dramatically—getting Katlego off to school in the morning, getting them something to eat in the evenings after I have just finished my dishes and cleaned up the kitchen for the day, teaching Bokang how to bathe and brush his teeth, making sure their clothes are clean, etc. We have not yet been able to come up with a good solution to their situation. They really don't have any older relatives that can look after them as their mother and grandmother have both passed away and it seems that they don't have any older aunts either. Would you please pray with us regarding their home situation. It is messier and more complicated than I can put down on paper, but I believe God has a very special plan for these two children.

So my days are full. My mornings include Bokang and his therapy and schooling, as well as preparing food for the children to have when they arrive after school and a daily Bible story. In the afternoons the children start arriving between 2 and 3. They get something to eat and then are free to play with a wide variety of things. At 5:30 we have a Bible story and prayer time before they leave for the day. I believe that we need to learn to function like a family. So the children take turns with sweeping the floors, washing the plates and spoons, and organizing the books, puzzles, games, toys, etc.

“Church” has not been as well attended as it was at first, but we are continuing. We have had one mother come twice. Both times the message for the day spoke right to her situation. Unfortunately she has moved away. We have had guest speakers that have been a real blessing. We have had some very special God moments. Unfortunately only few have been a part of these times. But we press on. We believe God for great things. He has begun a good work and He will bring it to completion.

Thank you for praying for Mma Pula. She is softening greatly. She has had quite a number of big problems lately, which has given me many opportunities to pray with her and share Scripture. This week another big something developed. She was quite distressed, but her grandchildren that live with her were the ones that reminded her that God is here and able to help her. Please keep praying that she will take that step and go from darkness into the living Light.

Thank you so very much for your continued support and for praying for me and the children—especially when I have been out of contact for such a long time.

*Thank you so much for all your cards, e-mails, support and prayers. I've heard that a noisy offering was taken and that Grandpa and Grandma were to go with a lot of change. Thank you so much for being a part of what God is doing here in Botswana. I trust He is also meeting all of your needs.*

## PRAYER CONCERNS

**Bethany (Arco):** Pray for the family of Earl Andersen. Pray for Kendall Lundberg, Luella Madsen, Elsie Barber, and Carol Marin (Beth Daniels' Sister).

**Bethany-Elim (Ivanhoe):** Pray for Dave Lawrence, Ken Swanson, Greg VanOverbeke, Dawn Rund, Emily Clarke, Brenda Sheik, Michael Kropp (Ken Swanson's son-in-law); 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); Mary Grace Nelson (daughter of Ryan & Kate Nelson); and Mindy Linscheid (Sister-in-Law of Julie Nelson).

**Grace (Lake Benton):** Pray for Larry Neuberger, Darrell Paulson, Joe Harris Sr., Earl Klitzke, Wesley Paschke,

Linda Borresen (Sister of Gerry Rochel), Paula Jacobson (daughter of Wayne & Annette Fehrman), Leann Wadsworth, and Chet Borresen

**Peace (Ruthton):** Pray for Audrey Ranheim, Lavonne Fuhrmann and Cliff Kittelson.

**St. Paul (Minneota):** Pray for Lyall Gislason, Reese Kompellen, Doris Richards, Clara DeRoode, 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 Lucas Oerter, Scott Johnson, Anthony Nielsen, 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, Scott Lundberg, Aaron Darrel Lundberg, 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  
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:**

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

### **Veteran's Home, Luverne:**

Evelyn Rudebusch, Grace Lutheran