



CrossWinds

# NEWSLETTER OF WINDS OF THE PRAIRIE

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

JUNE 2011

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## FIRST WORD: GIFTS ARE FOR GIVING

PASTOR JULIE A. K. ANDERSON

On June 12 we celebrate the third of our festivals for the Church year, Pentecost. Originally Pentecost was a Jewish grain harvest festival (Shavuot) that marked the fiftieth day after Passover. Luke, in the Book of Acts, portrays the Holy Spirit being poured out upon the disciples as purifying fire before the gathered and astonished people from the known world assembled in Jerusalem for the festival. The disciples were filled with the Spirit, empowered to witness to Jesus the Christ's resurrection powerfully that very day. The Spirit still empowers our witness. When we are baptized the WATERS of Baptism are poured upon us as the physical sign of cleansing us from our sin and are meant to become a part of our life for they guide us in the expression of faith as:

**Worship-** hearing God's Word, sharing the Lord's Supper as a family within the family of God most often by participate in the public rites.

**Advocacy-** an awareness of issues and concerns that result in Justice and Peace in the world.

**Teaching-** daily/weekly learning privately and in groups to create a pattern of engagement with the Word.

**Evangelism-** proclaiming what God does for all people in Jesus Christ through witnessing.

**Relationship in Service** –is following Jesus example of service to the neighbor both near and far.

These baptismal waters are special; they contain the Holy Spirit by virtue of the Words of promise spoken over the waters and heard by the witnesses. Just as our baptism becomes our birthday into the church, Pentecost is the birthday of the Church when we celebrate the gifts given to the disciples and to us to aid in sharing the Gospel. These gifts give us guidance in what God would have us do.

God has given each Christian two important gifts by virtue of our baptism. The first is faith in Jesus Christ and his work of redemption, and thus forgiveness of sin along with new life and eternal life.

The second is the ability to use our created gifts to the glory of God. We are all created with special gifts. Because of God's Spirit these are able to be used for unifying the body of Christ and building God's Kingdom. These natural abilities can then be called spiritual gifts, changed from natural gifts by the Spirit received through baptism. Which of these gifts do you think you might possess?

ADMINISTRATION	FAITH	LEADERSHIP	PASTORING	WISDOM
ARTISTRY	GIVING	MERCY	(SHEPHERDING)	WRITING
DISCERNMENT	HOSPITALITY	MUSIC: VOCAL	SERVICE (HELPING)	
EVANGELISM	INTERCESSION	MUSIC:	SKILLED CRAFT	
EXHORTATION	KNOWLEDGE	INSTRUMENTAL	TEACHING	

To help you determine your spiritual gifts I suggest you complete the spiritual gifts assessment developed by ELCA Evangelical Outreach and Congregational Mission to see if you have more or different gifts than you thought you had with either the hard copy which can be found at each church or the online version

<http://archive.elca.org/evangelizingchurch/assessments/spiritgifts.html>). CONTINUED ON FOLLOWING PAGE

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE Further information is available about the gifts once you complete the survey and it will assist you in opening and using your gifts.

Pentecost, as the birthday of the church, is a celebration that reminds us that, because of the Spirit's presence, we now have new opportunities to open and use our gifts for building the Church now. These gifts are given to you so that you may give to others. During the rest of this season we will discover ways through the example of Jesus' ministry how to be the body of Christ today as the church. You are invited to share these gifts as Jesus shares His as the children of God with others, for it is when we share the gifts of love, grace and faith through our spiritual gifts that they grow for us all. It is by giving that we receive a glimpse of the life to come through faith in Jesus' promise to be with us always.

## NOTES FROM THE INTERN

VICAR JACKIE BRAUN

**BUT HE SAID TO ME, "MY GRACE IS SUFFICIENT FOR YOU, FOR MY POWER IS MADE PERFECT IN WEAKNESS." 2 CORINTHIANS 12: 9**

We all have our struggles, our limitations, our weaknesses, our imperfections. We know this. Yet we try to hide them, avoid them, or spend much time worrying and energy trying to be perfect. Walk down a self-help book aisle with But no matter what we do the question will always remain – how do we know when we have been good enough or when we are perfect enough? And what do we do about the fact that no matter how hard I try I still fail. I still hurt someone I love. I still worry when I should have faith. I still fail to follow through on your expectations for me. Seeing our imperfection or our neighbors, ours (theirs) weakness, we seek to improve upon our self or improve upon our neighbor by getting rid of these nasty creatures. Though it seems that imperfection seems to follow all those attempts at perfection, no matter who it is we are speaking of.

Paul understood this struggle too. Paul calls it his thorn in his side. He pleads three times to God to have it removed. We don't know exactly what Paul's thorn was but we do know he wished for it to be removed. God's response is not to take it away from Paul but instead says, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." And so Paul continues by saying, "Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, I am strong." (2 Corinthians 12: 9-10, NIV)

numerous titles suggesting they can make you a better person. Open a magazine or turn on the TV commercial and you are surrounded by messages that suggest you are only beautiful by hiding the imperfections. We, young and old alike, are surrounded by the message in order to be good enough, one needs to be perfect.

Paul came to understand that our salvation was not about improving to the point of perfection, or overcoming our weaknesses. Instead, Paul proclaims it is his very weakness where he is made strong because it is God's grace and mercy which is present. So rather than boast about his perfections – he will instead boast about his weaknesses. Now take a moment to consider what that conversation may look like if you and I were to boast about your weaknesses. To actually share your burdens, your limitations, your struggles with others openly, to stop believing you can do it all perfectly and to admit to others friends and enemy alike that you can't. What would this conversation look like? What does it look like if we were to say in faith, "I am both perfect in Christ and imperfect as man?"

Christ's forgiveness is given to us now so that we can live into this freedom. Free to be imperfect and full of quirks and oddities and limitations. Free to ask for help and to care for your neighbor, even when we might mess up, because we are made free in the death and life of Jesus Christ. Christ has spent the energy for you – freeing you from your hiding and giving you the gift to delight in your weaknesses and imperfections. For in our weaknesses, we are made strong. We live imperfectly and made perfect only in and through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

# PASTOR'S REPORT FOR APRIL 2011

Worship	Education	Meetings	Pastoral Acts	Visits
23 - Sundays Worships Total	12 - Bible/Book Study	2- Council/Meeting	1 -Funeral	30 - Home
6 - Nursing Home	3 - TFA	3 - WELCA	7 - Counseling	2 - Hospital
7 - Saturday Night		1 - WXY		
14 - Lenten Service		3 - Synod		
		1 - Ministium		

## JUNE PREACHING SCHEDULE

		Bethany (8:30)	Grace (8:30)	Peace (10:30)	St. Paul (8:30)	Bethany-Elim (10:30)
Sat, June 04	<i>Holy Communion 5:30 pm</i>	Rasmusson				
Sun, June 05	<i>Service of the Word</i>	Rasmusson	Anderson	Anderson	Braun	Braun
Sat, June 11	<i>Holy Communion 5:30 pm</i>			Cancelled		
Sun, June 12	<i>Service of the Word</i>	Lay	Lay	Lay	Lay	Lay
Sat, June 18	<i>Holy Communion 5:30 pm</i>					Anderson
Sun, June 19	<i>Service of the Word</i>	Braun	Anderson	Braun	Rasmusson	Rasmusson
Wed, June 22	<i>Service of the Word Ordination Celebration</i>			<i>First Diamond Lake service, 7 pm Braun, Rasmusson</i>		
Sun, June 26	<i>Service of the Word</i>	Rasmusson	Braun	Braun	Supply	Supply



## 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 4.

Second Saturday of the Month at Peace Lutheran in Ruthton on **June 11 will not be meeting** due to the Synod assembly.

Third Saturday of the Month at Bethany-Elim Lutheran in Ivanhoe on June 18.

Mid-week services begin at Diamond Lake Chapel on June 22. Saturday evening services will begin again after Labor Day on September 10 at Peace. Invite and bring your friends and neighbors as we gather to praise our Lord and Savior.



## 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 considering offering a study of the texts for the upcoming Sunday beforehand and are wondering who is interested, so let them know.

❖ Date	Topic	Texts	Church/Committee
June 22, 2011	Pastor Steve 30 <sup>th</sup>	The Beatitudes- Matthew 5:1-12	Winds Board
June 29, 2011	VBS Potluck and Program	Salt & Light Matthew 5:13-20	VBS
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

## VBS 2011 SCHEDULE

It is that time of year when our thoughts turn to summer and Vacation Bible School. Mark your calendars for the following dates and consult with your Christian Education for information on registration:



**Bethany and Bethany-Elim** - June 13 to 16 from 2 pm to 6 pm with Shetek Lutheran Ministries.

**Grace** - June 6 to 10 from 5:30 to 8:30 pm with "Nazareth, Jesus Boyhood Home"

**St Paul/Minneota** - May 31 to June 3 from 5:30 to 7:30 pm.

## WINDS OF THE PRAIRIE MINISTRY PLANNING MEETING

All those who are interested in the Christian Education of our youth, adults and families are invited to a discussion on June 15 at 6:30 pm at Bethany Lutheran in Arco. Many things have changed in our world both near and far and the leadership is looking for new ideas and your input as to how we can best teach about God's Word in our congregations. Please let Pastor Julie know if you are attending so she can send you an itinerary for you to ponder and comment on before the meeting. The comments at this meeting will shape our Christian Education for the years to come.



## 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 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](mailto: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!

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## SPECIAL EVENT AT SHETEK LUTHERAN MINISTRIES SATURDAY JUNE 4!

All are invited to REVIVE! at Shetek, with Christian speaker/musician Peder Eide the evening of Saturday, June 4!

There will be a dinner of hotdogs/burgers & potato salad available for a free-will offering to Camp Love's Embrace\* (hosted at Shetek Lutheran Ministries). Peder Eide will inspire & educate us with a Christ centered concert & time of worship. Parents, bring your kids. Kids, bring your parents, for this fun night for families! All ages are welcome as we start the summer Saturday worship at Shetek!

Watch for additional details coming soon! This event is being sponsored by Thrivent Financial. Food will begin being served at 5, with a concert following at 6:30. \* Camp Love's Embrace is one weekend at camp designed for young people touched by the loss of a close family member.

## 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



**SERENDIPITY BIBLE:** If you are wondering how to start a Bible Study with some folks this summer we have an opportunity for you. The Serendipity Bible offers simple studies with questions to guide a discussion with 4 to 8 people that lasts around an hour on a variety of interests. A case of these Bibles has been purchased and are available for \$20 at the Winds of the Prairie Ministry office. You don't need a pastor to lead the study but we would like to help you get started and know when you are meeting so we can drop in from time to time. A group of women from the Lake Benton are meeting once a month and have been loving the study.

**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.

**MEN'S BIBLE STUDIES:** Men are invited to gather at 7:30 am on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday at Rusty's in Taunton and the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

**Any other ideas:** How about BBQ and Bible with friends/neighbors once a week? Fishing and the Word; take your Bible on the fishing trip and fish for God's will for your life. Camping with Jesus: read the Gospel of Matthew when you are out camping.

## PASTOR STEVE'S ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY

PAT JOHNSON

On Sunday, May 22, Grace helped Pastor Steve celebrate his 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his ordination. The Grace men accompanied by Diane Evers sang two songs (which included Pastor Steve) in his honor. They always do an excellent job and add so much to our services.

During the children's time, the Sunday school children did their yearly reciting of learned materials and then presented a congratulation card to Pastor Steve from the children and Sunday school staff along with a group love hug!

The congregation honored Pastor Steve with serving beautifully decorated cake made by Chandra Prosch in the fellowship room after the service.

Thank you Pastor Steve for all your years of service and we wish you many more.

God be with you always.



# WXY CAMPFIRE NIGHT

NANCY KROG

All WOTP current 6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> graders are invited to a campfire night on Tuesday, June 14. We will leave from the Bethany-Elm 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 BE church after campfire. Please RSVP to Nancy Krog by **JUNE 10**, call 507-487-5722 or email [knkrog@frontier.com](mailto:knkrog@frontier.com) if you plan to attend.

Hope to see you there!

## WHOLENESS WHEEL UPDATE



During the Easter Season we have explored the six segments of the wholeness wheel to access where we have been, leading each of us to set goals and objectives in each segment to help us grow healthier in our daily life journey which helps us to better use our gifts .

On June 12, the birthday of the Church, you are invited to offer your goals as a gift, placed in the **ARC, the Annual Review/Renewal Covenant Container**, on the altar as a weekly reminder that God helps us to live a life that is whole and full. You will be the only person to know what is in the envelope as a reminder of the way you feel the Spirit guiding you along the way of Christ. These goals will help you to be more aware of opportunities to respond to the life you were created to live rather than react to the challenges of life.

If you are looking for some ideas of goals here are some we can do as a ministry.

**Intellect-** Be part of a study of Bible text before or after worship.

Read the Bible in one year by daily reading for 20 minutes or 3 chapters daily.

**Social Relationships-** Maintain contact by voice, mail and visits to several people, especially those I have not seen lately.

Have a monthly meal with friends, neighbors, family or co-workers.

**Physical fitness-**Bring more healthy snacks for fellowship and potlucks. Sharing your favorites is good for then everybody gets a little and you don't have to eat the whole pan.

Don't overfeed the pastors in the name of hospitality.

**Emotional well-being-** **Name my emotions and identify what is evoking the emotion. I will think about my response before speaking. When I speak I will state my feeling and what I need.**

**Finances-** Giving, Saving and Spending will be done consistently and with purpose. Suggests are to Give 10%, Save 10% and budget the other 80%.

**Vocation-** After taking Spiritual Gift Inventory, look for an opportunity in the church and community to use this gift to help others. I will let others know what my gifts are and seek their help to use them.

### **MARKS OF DISCIPLESHIP: WATERS OF BAPTISM**

Another list that you can use for the gift 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.

## GREETINGS TO YOU FROM LUTHER SEMINARY!

It has been a busy year for both Anthony and me. We both completed one unit of Clinical Pastoral Education, (re)memorized the Small Catechism, continue to work on our preaching, and continued to dive deeper into what being Lutheran really means. I also completed my Chaplain Basic Officer Training, three months of intense, rewarding training and ministry.

In January, we were blessed with the opportunity to travel to Europe and Egypt, as we took a cross-cultural class in Egypt. It was a pilgrimage for us, as we were able to visit Rome and Lutherstadt Wittenberg. We saw the 95 Theses Doors at the Castle Church, toured the Luther House, and went to Vatican City and St. Peter's Basilica. In Egypt, we studied the Coptic Christian Church. We visited many monasteries, including the Monastery of St. Anthony (the father of monasticism), touched the Red Sea, and took a boat ride on the Nile. It was an incredible experience and helped us put into perspective the awesome history of the Christian church. We also gained a new respect for the stories of baby Moses in the Nile, the parting of the Red Sea, and the flight of the Holy Family into Egypt. We were in Egypt in the days leading up to and the first day of the revolution.

We are looking forward to heading out on internship next year, and we will not be far from home! I have been assigned to Christ Lutheran Church in Hartford, SD and Anthony will be headed to First Lutheran/St. Jacob's Lutheran Church in Colton, SD. We anticipate a year of growth, challenges, and learning.

Thank you so much for all of your prayers and support. Your financial support is greatly appreciated and is going far to help with our education expenses. We leave you with this, one of our favorite verses. "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." –Psalm 119:105. As we continue our journey to becoming pastors, we are often reminded that God gives us the guidance we need to take our next few steps forward. As much as we want the whole path lit before us, we are given what we need one step at a time. We continue to keep you all in our prayers.

The Peace of Christ be with you all, Stephanie & Anthony Christoffels

## BACK TO EAGLE BUTTE!

Due to an up swell of interest we will be heading back to Eagle Butte this summer. We leave on June 26<sup>th</sup> and return on Saturday July 2<sup>nd</sup>. The cost will be \$175. A \$100 non-refundable deposit must be in the parish office by June 5<sup>th</sup>. Scholarships are available. For more information ask Pastor Steve or SammyJo Buffington.

## ROLLING ON THE RIVER

The Wind's Venture Crew's high adventure trip for this summer is canoeing on the Crow Wing River in Northern Minnesota. Absolute deadline for registration is June 6<sup>th</sup>. We leave for the trip on July 5th and will have two sessions for camping and water safety prior to attending the trip. All participants must attend these sessions. Write the dates: on Saturday the 4<sup>th</sup> we will be at Shetek for a chance learn a bit about canoeing and attend the Peder Eide concert. On Saturday the 18<sup>th</sup> (following the Car Wash at Grace) we will go over camping safety. All participants must be at the camping safety meeting.

For more information, contact Pastor Steve at 507-829-9164.

## TRAINING FOR AFFIRMATION



It is summer and the formal training for TFA is over. It is now time for the students complete their worship notes and participates in service events.

We would like to thank all the people who helped as table leaders, food providers and those who did all the stuff that makes it possible for us to have this opportunity for our students. We are already looking ahead to next fall by evaluating this year and seeing how to fill the needs of our upcoming classes. Every year offers new challenges and opportunities.

# FAMILY FAITH

NANCY KROG

June is the month we honor the amazing Dad's in our life. A few years back I wrote an article about my incredible Dad and how lucky I am to have him close in proximity and in my heart! Today I want to brag about my husband and the Dad he has become to our three daughters. Who knew Kelly and I would be blessed with three girls? Now marrying a "Krog boy," you have to realize that we didn't think baby girls were even possible! Our Jennifer was the first Krog girl born since the 1950s! Kelly has become an excellent Dad to our children and I'm impressed how well he relates to girls! Of course everything relates to balance...Kelly can listen to the girls tell elaborately detailed stories, compliment them on their carefully chosen outfit, encourage them to do the right thing, remind them of their manners, is a good example of faith, teach them to pick rock and keep up the pace, coach them on how to hold the bat and hit the softball, guide them during chore duty and the love of caring for animals, support them to be proud farm girls with lots of potential, and LOVE them dearly! So, I count my blessings today and I thank the Lord for providing me with a wonderful daddy to our children and this journey through parenthood with the best teammate!

So please tell your dad how much he means to you this Father's Day and then thank your Heavenly Father for blessing your family with YOUR Dad.

## DAD'S THE BOSS!

**Today's Reading:** Proverbs 23:15-25

Listen to your Father, who gave you life. Proverbs 23:22a

**Faith Walk:** Dad's choice! Go on a walk around a golf course (with clubs/balls of course), at a lake (with fishing poles), or hiking at a county/state park, to the backyard for a game of kick ball or to play catch. Dad's the boss!

**Faith Talk:** The following questions can be jotted down and taken with you on your "dad hike". Discuss the items with your child and enjoy the answers they come up with!

- Dads are a gift of the Lord. How has your dad been a gift?
- Read the whole scripture selection. What is the greatest gift that a child can give a father? Why?
- The most important role of a father is to raise his children in the faith and train them in righteous living. That is a Christian father's joy and delight. Why? How does your father teach you the faith and train you in righteous living?

**Follow-Up Activities:** Use sidewalk chalk to make a Father's Day "card" on your sidewalk and let the world know what a wonderful Dad you have. You could choose an extra chore to help Dad with this week. Pray for Dad, asking God to help him in his role as your spiritual leader. If your relationship with your dad has been loving and warm, spend time in prayer thanking the Lord for that blessing.

**Our Response to God's Grace:** Dear Lord, Thank you for our dads here on earth and for being our perfect Father in heaven. Help my dad to be a strong spiritual leader and man. Help us to please Dad and to glorify You with our words, actions, and faith. In the name of Your Son, Jesus. Amen.

*Family Faith Walks by Kelly J. Haack, Concordia Publishing House*

# BETHANY, ARCO

## BETHANY NEWS

GAYLE RASMUSSEN

Our Saturday service with Scott Gattshalk was an interesting and memorable event, as he related about his brushes with death and angel interventions. He also explained how a book becomes published. Thanks to all that made this a great evening.

Summer is a time for us to enjoy the outdoors and vacations. Keep Bethany in mind, as our church doesn't take a vacation.

It sounds like VBS is going to be an exciting time. We invite any Sunday School students to attend and have a good time.

Hope to see you in church.

# BETHANY-ELIM, IVANHOE

## BETHANY-ELIM COUNCIL NOTES

SHARON RASMUSSEN, COUNCIL PRESIDENT

At our annual meeting last February, Pastor Steve distributed a questionnaire to help determine the Light of Christ In Our Midst. The council is reviewing the responses, but I wanted to compile and share some of the thoughts of the congregation, so you know you are heard.

The first question asked where have you sensed the light of God in your life this past year?

Responses ranged from family, friends, good health, town and church community, and my personal favorite of talking to God while fishing & asking God to send the fish to the bait.

The next question asked where have we sensed darkness or seen struggles?

There are health struggles, aging families and other concerns. But one of the most overwhelming responses from the members in this church was a concern for our financial situation and ongoing need to raise funds to keep us going.

The last question asked how might the light of Christ shine in the darkness this year?

I really liked many responses centering around bringing back members who we haven't seen in church for a while, inviting new people in the community to come to our church, making sure we are all involved, show mercy and have faith.

What great people we have in our congregation. God Bless us, everyone!

## BRIDAL SHOWER

There will be a "Come and Go" Bridal Shower for Krista Flom, daughter of Jim & Dianna Weckert, on Saturday, June 11. It is from 2-4pm at Bethany-Elim Lutheran Church, Ivanhoe. Everyone is welcome.

## CHURCH SERVICE AUCTION

SHERRY ROST

With the weather this May, summer may still seem a long way off, but September will be here before you know it. The church service auction will be held again on Rally Day Sunday, so here's a little summer homework: get your thinking caps on and start dreaming up what you would like to auction off! Keep watching the newsletters and bulletins for more information. We're hoping to make this year's event bigger and more fun than last year's—if that's even possible!

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL AT B-E ~ "HEROES OF FAITH"

NANCY KROG

"Heroes of Faith" is the theme for our VBS week slated for June 13 – 16, 2011. 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 grand finale VBS Celebration Program will be Thursday, June 16 at 6 p.m. VBS kids will be showing off their new songs, crafts, and friendships during the program. All are invited to attend! A hotdog meal will be provided after the program, please stay and enjoy the fellowship!

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

it! Since we will be having more Shetek Staff this summer, we are in need of additional housing. If you can offer a place to stay for two counselors, please contact Nancy.

If anyone is interested in helping provide food to our Shetek Staff, please contact Nancy Krog.

We look forward to a spectacular week as we join forces with Bethany, Ss. Peter and Paul, and St. John Cantius churches to provide an action-packed week of faith building for our youth!

## GRACE, LAKE BENTON

### WORSHIP ASSISTANTS FOR JUNE

**USHERS:** Lowell Nelsen, Darren Nelsen,  
Bruce Nielsen, Gary Nordmeyer

**ALTAR GUILD:** Carole Larsen

### GRACIOUS WORDS

The upcoming summer will be very busy with our anniversary of both of our churches on their 125th this September. We would like volunteers to help with the events leading up to and during the celebrations. If you have pictures from past church events it would be greatly appreciated. Please label them so you get all of your photos back.

For all 4th-6th graders we will be sending them to Shetek Bible camp for a 3 day and two night camp. The parents will pay for the original cost but when your child or

### CALENDAR:

No GLCW in June

**June 8** Bible Study with Mary Paschke as Hostess

**June 15** Block Day

**June 22** Do Day

children get back from camp we will pay 100% of the total costs. This will be completed with funds in the Youth Fund and donations from members. This is something new that we are trying and see how it helps with the development of their faith. This is an investment in our youth. It is a help to all parents in a tough economy to give these young Christians the opportunity to go to Shetek.

God Bless,  
Darren Nelsen

## CONGRATULATIONS 2011 GRADUATES

Grace Lutheran is proud to recognize Amber (Nielsen) Reese as she graduates from Elkton High School on May 22. Amber is planning to attend MN West Community and Technical College in Granite Falls for child development.

## GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH 125<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

In preparation for the fall event, we have formed an Anniversary Committee, and our kick-off meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 18 at 7:30 PM at the church. Members of the committee include Romelle Pritchett, Garnet Petersen, Ray Sportel, Wayne Fehrman, Barb Hershberger, Karen Lichtsinn, Mary Paschke and Pat Johnson. All members of the congregation are welcome to be part of the big event, and we will solicit your participation as we begin planning the celebration.

## GRACE VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

VBS will be June 6-10 from 6-8:30 pm. If anyone has grandchildren or neighborhood children who would like to attend, please contact Pat Johnson (368-9298) by May 1<sup>st</sup> to get needed material.

## GRACE SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

PAT JOHNSON, SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT

The excitement is about to begin!!! VBS will start on June 6 and run until June 10. Supper will be served from 5:30-6:00 p.m. and VBS runs from 6:00-8:30 p.m. We will be visiting "Hometown Nazareth" where Jesus was a boy. We look forward to putting on a fun week for the children. We thank the LB Methodist Church and Peace of Ruthton for joining us and also other local children.

Thank you volunteers. It takes a lot of people to make it all possible. We will serve supper & snacks on Monday, Tuesday, and Friday nights. If you would like to help with them or in the market place with activities please let me know. If anyone has food baskets that we could borrow to serve our snacks at the marketplace please contact me.

Everyone is invited to our program on Friday at 7pm. We'd love to show you what our week was about. Let me know if you'd like to be a citizen of Nazareth during the week. Come join our fun.

Remember - the children will remember all their lives that they attended Bible school.

### UPCOMING DATES:

**June 5** - 6p.m. set up for VBS

**June 6-10** - VBS 6 p.m.-8:30 pm

**June 29** - VBS potluck supper and program at Diamond Lake

## PEACE, RUTHTON

### NOTES AND DATES:

**Sunday, June 5, 2 pm** -- Opportunity to Hear About Modern-Day Slavery

**Tuesday, June 7, 9:30 am** – St. Matthew Circle meets at the home of Jean Lundholm (note time change)

**Tuesday, June 7, 2 pm** – St. Mark Circle meets at the home of Deloris Dagele

**Wednesday, June 8, 2 pm** – PLCW

**Wednesday, June 8, 5 pm** – St. John Circle meets at the Church

**Monday, June 13, 9 am** – Quilting Day (extra day)

**Monday, June 27, 9 am** – Quilting Day

## LEARN ABOUT MODERN-DAY SLAVERY

**SUNDAY, JUNE 5, 2PM**

Carmen Gronewold will be speaking at the Ruthton Community Center giving us information about human trafficking. She is the Associate Director of Peace Rehabilitation Center outside of Kathmandu, Nepal where she is serving as a missionary under the World Mission Prayer League. Middle school and high school students and their parents are encouraged to attend. This age of youth are the ones who are being targeted in this human trafficking.

### JUNE PLCW

June 8 at 2pm. Program – Marilyn Mortland; Devotions – Valerie Petersen; Offering Meditation – Joyce Peters; Hostesses – St. Mark Circle

### QUILTING DAYS

Please note there will be two days in June to make up for winter storm days.

# ST PAUL, MINNEOTA

Congratulations to Natasha Gislason on her Graduation from Minneota High School on May 15<sup>th</sup>. We wish her well at NDSU.

Thank you for the great Easter Egg Hunt and Easter Morning Fellowship. There was a great crowd in church Easter Morning and so fun to have the hymns echo through the walls. Christ is Risen indeed!

We pray for a speedy recovery of Frank Josephson's broken arm.

Confirmation class is done for the school year. Thank you to Mike Josephson for being an adult leader for our church. We appreciate your time and dedication to the

## PRAYER CONCERNS

### BETHANY (ARCO):

Pray for 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 Vlamincik (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.

education milestone. Also thanks to Pastor Julie, Pastor Steve, Vicar Jackie and all the other participating area pastors for leading class throughout the year.

We now focus our attention on Vacation Bible School May 31-June 3<sup>rd</sup>. Again this summer, Hope Lutheran, St. Ed's and St. Paul's churches in Minneota are working together create a fun week of learning about God. We will be meeting at Hope Lutheran from 9-12:00 each day. Our program and fundraising supper will be on Thursday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> beginning at 5:30pm. Please join us. Please pre-register for VBS by calling Sue Buysse at 872-6219.

A yard and church clean-up day will be set up soon. Stay tuned for that date.

### 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- Peace Lutheran

### DIVINE PROVIDENCE NURSING HOME (IVANHOE):

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