



March 2010

CrossWinds

Newsletter of Winds of the Prairie Ministry

Winds of the Prairie Ministry

First Word: On Loving and Listening

Pastor Rasmusson

[There was a] time you did not know about Christ. You were foreigners to the people of Israel, and you had no part in the promises that God had made to them. You were living in this world without hope and without God, and you were far from God. But Christ offered his life's blood as a sacrifice and brought you near God.

Christ has made peace between Jews and Gentiles, and he has united us by breaking down the wall of hatred that separated us. Christ gave his own body to destroy the Law of Moses with all its rules and commands. He even brought Jews and Gentiles together as though we were only one person, when he united us in peace.

On the cross Christ did away with our hatred for each other. He also made peace between us and God by uniting Jews and Gentiles in one body. Ephesians 2: 12-16

Wow – when we read the promises of God, by Whom we are saved, don't you want to tell someone? But wait. What if the folks to whom we tell this good news don't respond, or worse yet, they reject us? Nobody enjoys rejection.

So – imagine a rural congregation in Nebraska – Let's call it Lord's Lutheran Church. It's time for the annual report of members. The council is making tough decisions about members who have stopped coming and are not giving. The folks around the table are having a difficult time. It's one thing if they have moved from the area, and want to keep a connection to the congregation. Then they could encourage them to find a new congregation nearer their new home, to begin worshipping God at another portion of this great big church we call the body of Christ. They become associate members of their little congregation in Nebraska.

But, what if the people still live in the area around Lord's Lutheran, and have become separated from the congregation in some manner. On the one hand, the council knows that it is bound by the congregational constitution, which defines active as having given or communed in the past twelve months, and removing their card from the roster. But they know the Good News is not shared in this way. What are they to do?

They make a list of inactives. The Johnsons haven't been to church since their youngest went away to college. The Thorvalsens had some kind of illness in the family a few years back, and just stopped coming. The Stynskis really haven't been around much, since Grandma Stynski died. Carl and Elaine are not getting around much anymore, and the word at the coffee shop is that Bernharts are not getting along too well lately, since Roger got laid off. So why don't they come to church? The folks around the council table haven't changed. They keep coming to church.

There are reasons humans do what they do. There are reasons our active members show up in church Sunday after Sunday. And there are equally good reasons for people to stay away. We may think we know what they are, but rarely are we on target. The only manner to really find out is to listen. What keeps a person from coming to hear the Gospel and receive the gifts of the sacraments is usually known only to that individual.

Lord's Lutheran in Nebraska is not far from us, spiritually. We live in an area where less than 20% of the population is at worship in any given month. We are in congregations where the average attendance is rarely above 40%.

So, how is a person to know what to do about the spiritual life of those who are no longer attending our congregations? In a word – listen.

We listen to hear the stories, not to fix them. We listen to hear the hurts, not to heal them. We listen to hear where God is at work, not to be God. We listen with the heart of Jesus, knowing that the one we are listening to is a person redeemed by God. We listen to gain the confidence of those we value. Then we share with them the best news we can – that of their new life in Jesus.

So, let's listen. Who knows what we might learn.

MARCH 2010 PREACHING SCHEDULE

February 28th

Grace and Bethany Elim – Vicar Harvestine
St Paul – Pastor Anderson
Peace and Bethany – Pastor Rasmusson

March 3rd

Bethany-Elim and Bethany – Vicar Harvestine
Grace – Pastor Tom Kolden
Peace – Pastor Rasmusson
Hope/St.Paul's – Pastor Anderson

March 6th

Bethany – Pastor Anderson

March 7th

Grace and Bethany Elim – Vicar Harvestine
St Paul – Pastor Anderson
Peace and Bethany – Pastor Rasmusson

March 10th

Bethany-Elim and Bethany – Pastor Anderson
Grace – Vicar Harvestine
Peace – Lay Leaders
Hope/St.Paul's – Pastor Rasmusson

March 13th

Peace – Vicar Harvestine
Bethany Elim – Pastor Anderson

March 14th

Grace – Pastor Rasmusson
St Paul – Vicar Harvestine
Peace and Bethany – Pastor Anderson

March 17th

Bethany-Elim and Bethany – Pastor Rasmusson
Grace – Lay Leaders
Peace – Vicar Harvestine
Hope/St.Paul's – Pastor Tom Kolden

March 20th

Bethany-Elim – Vicar Harvestine

March 21st

Grace and Bethany Elim – Pastor Steven Quist
St Paul – Vicar Harvestine
Peace and Bethany – Stephanie Gregor Christoffels
(WotP Seminarian)

March 24th

Bethany-Elim and Bethany – Lay Leaders
Grace – Pastor Anderson
Peace – Pastor Tom Kolden
Hope/St.Paul's – Vicar Jackie Harvestine

March 27th

Grace – Vicar Harvestine
St. Paul – Pastor Rasmusson

March 28th – Palm Sunday

Grace and Bethany Elim – Vicar Harvestine
St Paul – Pastor Anderson
Peace and Bethany – Pastor Rasmusson

OFFICE HOURS & CALENDARS



With five locations, the pastors are scheduling office hours at each church the rest of the year in an attempt to be more visible and available in all our communities.

We have created at www.google.com/accounts online calendars for each church and the ministry. Check below to note who to contact about gaining access to the online calendars.

Winds of the Prairie Ministry office hours for Deb is Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9 am to 12 pm. [Calendar- belutheran@frontiernet.net](mailto:calendar-belutheran@frontiernet.net)

Bethany: Vicar Jackie at Tuesdays 9--11:30-except the third Tuesday for Prairie Conference meeting. [Calendar- rasmus@frontiernet.net](mailto:calendar-rasmus@frontiernet.net)

Bethany-Elim: Pastor Steve. [Calendar- beparsonage@frontiernet.net](mailto:calendar-beparsonage@frontiernet.net) .

Grace: Monday from 9 to 11:30 usually Pastor Julie. [Calendar- glc@itctel.com](mailto:calendar-glc@itctel.com)

Peace: Thursday from 9 to 12. [Calendar- philipja@woodstocktel.net](mailto:calendar-philipja@woodstocktel.net)

St Paul: First and Third Thursday from 10 to noon followed by Minneota Manor Service at 2:30 on the third Thursday.

Please remember this is the ideal but emergencies, vacations, and all those events life can place in our way will affect the timing, but the pastors will do their best to maintain this commitment. One way to assure meeting is to call and schedule an appointment to meet with them on the days they are in the area.

WHOLENESS WHEEL UPDATE



The sevenfold gifts of the Holy Spirit are a guide for each of our lives. Let's take a look at them through the areas of the Wholeness Wheel with this month's focus on Teaching as we learn from the example of

Jesus and his disciples.

Spiritually when we read of God's Word constantly we are learning of God's direction and we hear the Spirit's guidance. Read one chapter of Proverbs each day this month.

Physically there is the need to take the posture of a student. Go to the place you created last month and take your place as a student and listen to God.

Emotionally we are enriched and strengthened when we learn something new. Take joy and pride in learning something new this month.

Socially we discover that we are all part of a larger body. What is it that you bring to the body? Explore and note how you contribute to your social groups.

Intellectually is often what we associate with teaching and learning. Would you like a way to learn about your spiritual gifts? Go to www.elca.org and search for 'spiritual gifts inventory', which is a questionnaire to help you discern your unique gifts. Pastors have hard copies if you need one.

Vocationally explore the gifts you have been given by the Spirit according to the quiz. Rejoice in your skills and use them to further enhance your ministry

Financially learning often requires new training and time commitments. How will you steward and develop you gifts?

We learn best by teaching for we must prepare ourselves to share. Take time this Lenten season to explore how God continues to teach you each day to be His disciple.

WATERS AS A MARK OF DISCIPLESHIP



The acronym WATERS is to remember the marks of discipleship that come in our Baptism. These are the vows we make when we affirm our faith.

Worship is when we are gathered hearing God's Word, sharing the Lord's Supper as a family within the family of God. To enrich the experience we all participate in the public rites that honor and remind us of God's grace. Our lectionary takes us through God's Word several times each year along with Jesus from different views.

Advocacy is being aware of issues and concerns which effect our neighbors near and far. The result is God's Justice and Peace in the world reflecting the kingdom.

Teaching and Training is a spiritual gift where we learn from the Old and New Testaments, Catechism, and Lutheran Doctrine. Study can be done individually, as a family, in a group or as part of a focused experience.

Evangelism is sharing with others what God does for all people in Jesus Christ through witnessing. It is listening to others, welcoming them as fellow sinners and sharing how your faith helps you to live with doubts and fears.

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

HAITI EARTHQUAKE RELIEF FUND

Thank you for your support of our Haiti Earthquake



Relief Fund for Lutheran Disaster Response. The congregations of Winds of the Prairie Ministry have sent \$ 782 to this relief fund. If you wish to donate personally go

to the Southwestern Minnesota Synod of ELCA website at www.swmnelca.org and click the link for Haiti Earthquake Relief.

NOTES FROM THE INTERN

“*Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.*” Luke 15:31--32

It is the season of Lent. Perhaps “giving up” something for Lent was a custom you practiced and may still do. I remember my sister giving up a particular favorite candy for the 6 weeks. Of course, immediately when Easter arrived, it was back to business as usual.

I have reflected over the past few years about looking at Lenten discipline in another way. The word “discipline” has at its root “disciple” which is a state aspired to for the long haul, not just a 6 week sprint. I have begun *adding to* rather than *subtracting from* the season in a way that intensifies my faith journey.

This year, I am adding devotional readings beyond my usual daily reflections and random prayer moments when I focus on specific individuals and their needs and struggles. There is a temptation to think one’s schedule does not allow for anything extra. Yet, I would challenge anyone who says ones faith would *not* be strengthened nor ones neighbor *not* benefit from these activities. Disciple-building that happens through doing more rather than “giving up”.

Two resources I am currently reading are the Lenten devotional booklet published by Luther Seminary entitled *Our Father We Have Wandered* based on the ELW hymn #606 title which arises from the story of the Prodigal Son. Contributions to this publication are from persons associated with both Luther Seminary and Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary in Berkeley. Simultaneously, I am reading a Lenten devotional published by an interdenominational resource reflecting on the writings of Henri Nouwen, a highly regarded theologian and spiritual writer of the 20th century. The title of this booklet is *From Fear to Love: Lenten Reflections on the Parable of the Prodigal Son*. I find it quite interesting that two diverse resources chose to base their Lenten devotionals on the same text from Luke 15.

It is a story rich with layers of interpretation and opportunities for reflection. We most often look at the younger son to find parallels with our own lives and our struggles to stay on a path that brings life. Many of us, though, if we are honest, find we resonate with the older son. He has followed the “correct path” and his efforts are seemingly not affirmed. Instead, the father joyously celebrates the return of the wayward son. Then, there is the father. Do we ever consider the story solely from his point of view? Not often, I would guess. Much artwork over the centuries has been devoted to this story and I encourage you to take a look at how the artist’s interpretation speaks to you. One source is www.textweek.com which has a link called “art index”. There are dozens of responses to this parable worth exploring.

Our parish has a devotional for Lent entitled *Are You Hungry?* Included are readings, reflections and opportunities for journaling and prayer. All TFA students, mentors and parents are asked to utilize this resource and I invite *everyone* to pick up a copy which is available in all congregations and join in as well. Use this for personal, family or group devotions as a way to enhance your faith journey.

I offer these suggestions as a response to the story of the Prodigal Son. In it, the overwhelming grace shown to *both* sons by the father is but a glimmer of the grace *we* are shown by our Heavenly Father whether we are on a self-righteous, correct path or crawling back home, awash in shame and disgrace. God does not “give up” on us. Let us find ways to add to and enrich our walk with Him.

Peace and blessings to you - Vicar Jackie Harvestine

WINDS OF THE PRAIRIE MINISTRY LENTEN BABY SHOWER 2010

During Lent and the second Sunday of Easter hampers or baskets will be in each of the congregations to collect baby items that will then be given to the Public Health Departments in our three counties. Non-perishable items to donate include diapers, toiletries, utensils and clothing with a special need for newborn and toddler items. Just bring your items anytime and place in the designated place. Thanks in advance for your generosity and care for our youngest children in God's Kingdom.



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER - 2010

The women of the parishes in Arco, Ivanhoe and Wilno are invited to be a part of the 2010 World Day of Prayer hosted this year by St. Peter and Paul's in Ivanhoe. We will gather Friday, March 5, at 1:30 p.m. This year's ecumenical service was put together by the women of Cameroon under the theme of "Let everything that has breath praise God." All women are invited to be a part of this service of learning and prayer. Please join us there.

FIRST WEDNESDAY FOR VIBRANT FAITH @ HOME



The first Wednesday of March is the 3rd. Plan on attending the midweek service together as a family. When you get home talk about the life of

the saints you heard about and do any further research you may want to do.

Talk about those who have served you as saints, setting an exceptional example of what it means to be claimed by God?

Look in the front of the ELW worship book and see which saints are being remembered the following week and honor their memory in your prayers and daily life that week.

JORI ANN MAGNUSON



Jori Ann was baptized last fall. She is the first daughter of Missy and Cory Magnuson, a couple from St. Paul Lutheran, Minneota. Her first months were in a cast for hip displacement. Throughout all the time wearing the cast, she grew to be an alert happy child with wonderfully inquisitive eyes. To look at her was to love her.

On January 17th, while preparing to attend worship, Jori Ann had trouble breathing. She was diagnosed with RSV and airlifted to Sanford Children's hospital. It was there that she was further diagnosed with Spinal Muscular Atrophy, a rare genetic condition that has no known cure. This disease may progress rapidly with death in infancy. Our congregations we contacted and their prayer chains notified of the family's needs.

As the weeks progressed, more and more of the members of the parish became aware of and were praying for Jori Ann. Visits to her caring bridge site number close to 10,000.

<http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/jorimagnuson>

In situations like this we are often pressed to ask "why?" Why does God allow such a young family to suffer in this way?

This past summer our Area Parish of Winds of the Prairie celebrated five years together. In that time we have learned a bit about each other as a community of congregations and have come to understand our uniqueness in the body of Christ. But nothing has brought us together more than the work of a young girl named Jori Ann.

Jori Ann (who is now, at eight months, middle-aged) has done more in her short life to bind our community of faith in prayer than we clergy will do in ten years. She has taught persistence, love, compassion, and trust.

She continues to teach family values in a manner that our congregations deeply appreciate. Her life has an incredible purpose and her baptismal vocation bears witness to a God who is infinitely caring.

Somehow, in the midst of the struggles in which our ELCA finds itself, I thought you all should hear this.

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 March 6.

Second Saturday of the Month at Peace Lutheran in Ruthton on March 13.

Third Saturday of the Month at Bethany-Elim Lutheran in Ivanhoe on March 20.

Fourth Saturday of the Month at Grace in Lake Benton on March 27.

Last Saturday of the Month at St Paul Lutheran in Minneota on March 27.

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

BETHANY NEWS

By Gayle Rasmussen

We held our annual meeting, electing some new council members, and representatives for Bethany.

Our new officers are president Gayle Rasmussen, vice president Ilene Sorensen, secretary Billie Jo Moat, treasurer Marie Henriksen, WOTP council Randy Noble, congregational representative Ron Madsen.

Winter being as nasty as it has been, we look forward to Spring and the renewal of life in nature, as we are entering Lent waiting for Easter, and our new life in faith, as Jesus was raised in a new life.

We are now into a new year, and we should be asking ourselves, how can I make Bethany a better church.

Thanks to all members for their work with Bethany this past year to accomplish our missions.

We ask ourselves to come to church to celebrate and honor Jesus.

BETHANY WORK ASSIGNMENTS:

Ushers: Dan & Julie Bunjer and family

Altar Guild: Lynette Madsen

BETHANY-ELIM NEWS



Bethany-Elim would like to welcome our two newest members Preston Alderson and Megan Clarke who were confirmed on February 14th.

Everyone is welcome to attend our Wednesday night Lenten services beginning at 5:30 followed by soup, sandwich and fellowship. Offering and supper donations will be used towards our outstanding bank operating loan.

SNUGGLE UP!

By Nancy Krog

We are so grateful for the talented people around us...and the giving ones too. Amy Clarke has graciously knit and donated 3 soft and beautiful baby blankets and donated them to Bethany-Elim. A baby blanket raffle will take place from February 28 to March 21. Raffle tickets will be sold each Sunday morning in the narthex and during the Beef Dinner (3/14), for \$1 per ticket. On March 21st, the winners will be announced during church. The proceeds for this raffle will go toward the BE Sunday School program. Thanks to Amy for your kind donation...and sharing your talents! We'll be posting the lucky winners in the next newsletter! Buy your tickets...increase your chances of winning...and you may see your name listed as a WINNER!

ALL ARE WELCOME



Please join us for our annual
Bethany-Elim Beef Dinner

Sunday, March 14
11:00 am - 1:30 pm

Adults - \$8.00
Students - \$5.00
Under 5 - free

Menu includes carved roast beef, mashed potatoes with gravy, green beans, cranberry salad, dinner rolls, and a variety of desserts.

Delivery of take-out meals is available in Ivanhoe. Call 694-1353 on March 14 to place your order. Enter through the Sunday School wing to pick up your take-out order.

We look forward to seeing you!

GRACE LUTHERAN

Ushers: Darren Nelsen, Bruce Nielsen, Gary Nordmeyer, Eldy Nordmeyer

Alter Guild: Jeanette Nelsen

Acolytes: 3rd-Derek Haugen; 7th-Emily Christensen; 10th-Scott Hunter; 14th-Brandon Hefti; 17-Kate Bump; 21st-Amber Nielsen; 24th-Cody Miller; 28th-Brandon Hefti; Easter Sunday April 4th-Derek Haugen

GLCW-FRIDAY, March 5th @ 2:00p.m.-WORLD DAY OF PRAYER-No GLCW meeting in March. Members are encouraged to attend World day of Prayer, which Grace Lutheran will be hosting-Hostess: Judy Thomssen, Gen Sportel, Bernice Johannsen

Bible Study-Wednesday March 10-Hostess: Deloris Johansen

WOTP FAMILY DAY AT NIELSEN'S LANES



Be ready for fun, faith, family and hopefully a strike!

Bethany-Elim will be having Saturday night service on March 13 because of our Beef Dinner on March 14. We invite all WOTP families to join us at the bowling alley in Ivanhoe from 3 – 5 p.m. on Saturday, March 13. The cost of bowling and shoe rental will be paid for by the BE Sunday School. We'll enjoy a game or two of bowling, snacks and fellowship, and lots of cheering for those that can knock down a few pins! Bowling pros, rookies, gutter masters, and cheerleaders are welcome. Hope to see you at the bowling alley and then we'll gather at Bethany-Elim for 5:30 p.m. worship.

ST. PAUL'S NEWS

St. Paul's Annual meeting was held on February 14th following church services. Although the weather tried not to cooperate, we did manage to cover the church's business, ask good questions, lead healthy discussions, and preview the upcoming year. Thanks to those who have taken on leadership roles and those who continue their current positions for council and various committees. Your time is appreciated.

One of the continued goals for St. Paul's congregation is to update our church record books. If you are a St. Paul's member, we ask that you gather dates of baptisms, confirmations, weddings, and funerals for your family. The dates we especially need help with are 1990-current. Please submit them in writing at your earliest convenience. Either mail them to St. Paul's Church (412 E. Lyon) or bring them to church.

We are so glad that Jori Ann Magnuson was discharged from Sanford Children's Hospital and back home in Minneota. We continue to pray for her and her family as they cherish each other. A benefit will be held for the Magnuson's on Sunday, March 21st from 11-3 at the Minneota Legion. We invite all of our WOTP friends to come to Minneota for hot pork/ turkey sandwiches and other great food, face painting for the kids and a silent auction. This benefit will help defray medical expenses.

PRAYER CONCERNS

Bethany (Arco): Pray for the family of Lee Richmond. Pray for Kendall Lundberg, Ardis Henriksen, Luella Madsen, Elsie Barber, and Joel Hopkin (Geneva Rasmussen's grandson).

Bethany-Elim (Ivanhoe): Pray for the family of Ellen Hauschild. Pray for Dave Lawrence, Ken Swanson, Greg VanOverbeke, Dawn Rund, Emily Clarke, Brenda Sheik, Jackson Nelson (son of Ryan & Kate Nelson); Kristi (Dahl) Morelan, and Leann (Dahl) Wadsworth; Dareld Benz (brother of Mavis Nielsen); Nancy Resmen (sister-in-law of Bernadine Olsen); Linda Vlaminck (Sister-in-Law of Dave & Marlene Lawrence); Mary Grace Nelson (daughter of Ryan & Kate Nelson); and Mindy Linscheid (Sister-in-Law of Julie Nelson).

Grace (Lake Benton): Pray for Joe Harris Sr., Lorraine Krog, Mary Paschke, Ernie Bannick, Joyce Knutson, Annette Fehrman, Joyce Nielsen, Ann Kruse, Wesley Paschke, Karen Fredricks, Norma Burdick, Rosina Ritter, Leann Wadsworth, Evelyn Rudebusch, Jacob Johnson, and Chet Borresen

Peace (Ruthton): Pray for the family of Orlo Kruse. Pray for Lavonne Fuhrmann, Cliff Kittelson, and Chris Petersen (Kuwait).

St. Paul (Minneota): Pray for Jori Ann Magnuson, Mary Buysse, Reese Kompelien, Doris Richards and Crystal Gawarecki.

Military

Pray for the leaders of this nation and all the nations of the world that all may seek peace. Pray for those family and friends of the members of WOTP who serve in the military or reserve forces, especially Chris Petersen, Scott Johnson, Anthony Nielsen, Jon Dougherty, Tony Knutson, Christian Vizecky, Jon and Jack Healy, Danielle Thomsen, Michael Colman, Ross, Ryan, Angela, and David Nelson, Allan Peterson, Brook Brown, Derrick Linneman, Todd Board, Kyle Sheik, Alyson Bylone, Steve VandeBerg, Jim Pedersen, Scott Lundberg, Aaron Darrel Lundberg, Justin Schmidt, Adam DeRoode, Pam Gregor, 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

WINDS OF THE PRAIRIE COUNCIL MEETING FEBRUARY 18, 2010

Donna Kurth called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. at Bethany-Elim Church.

A quorum was declared with the following people present: Donna Kurth, Karen Richmond, Mary Gislason, Carol Dahl, Ivan Kuhlman, Ron Madsen, Randy Noble and Marie Henriksen. Pastors present: Steve, Julie and Vicar Jackie

Pastor Steve, Donna Kurth & Karen Lichtsinn were recently invited and had an extended meeting with the Hendricks Christ Lutheran Church Council to talk over the possibility of becoming part of Winds of the Prairie. Pastor Steve advised them it would be a 2-3 year courtship. We shared our experiences, the growth we have achieved and the many blessings we now share as a ministry. They asked questions and were open with their concerns and visions.

It was brought up that it has been a concern in getting information to record births, deaths, baptisms, etc. The suggestion was for each council to address this at their next meeting and work to solve the situation. It was stressed of the importance of these legal records and their timely recording.

For special benefits that are put on for fundraising purposes for members of our congregations, each church will make plans and arrangements. They are urged to contact the other churches so they can know and respond with help and attendance. .

Gary Streng, SWMN Synod, will be coming to WOTP on March 20th and will have a presentation on/training on the evangelism emphasis. Our churches are urged to name about 5 people who would be trained. These would then form groups in their churches. Pr. Steve urged us to think of who in our church can talk to people easily and who can listen. They would be good candidates for this training and carrying on the important task of evangelism.

Pastor Julie led us in devotions and prayer.

Donna conducted election until a new president could preside. Randy Noble nominated Karen Richmond for President. It was passed unanimously. Karen Richmond nominated Randy Noble for Vice President. It passed unanimously. It was brought up at this time for continuity purposes, people are on the board for 2 years and that they should only be on the executive board—elected or an appointed official, during their second year. Mary Gislason was appointed Secretary and Carol Dahl was appointed Treasurer. Philip Anderson will be Member at Large.

A motion was made by Randy Noble and seconded by Ron Madsen to approve the Agenda. It passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Randy Noble and seconded by Karen Richmond to approve the Minutes. It passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Ron Madsen and seconded by Ivan Kuhlman to approve the Treasurers report given by Marie Henriksen. It passed and will be placed on file for audit.

Guests were Pastor Baun, Joan Larson and Mitzi Trooien, from Hendricks Christ Lutheran Church. They came seeking out and to discuss further options to work with us in ministry of WOTP. They came with open minds and hearts to check us out since they are in transition. Conversation centered on options for sharing ministry in the entire rural area, with much interest in a youth program. We encouraged them to join us this summer for Wednesday night worship and fellowship at Diamond Lake Campus. It is agreed to remain in contact with each other.

The guests from Christ Lutheran said their church was comprised of 530 members and is an older member congregation. There are many on the rolls that are not active. There are 19 kids currently in confirmation and 80 kids on the roster for Sunday school, of which around 50 are active. They have a Secretary/Treasurer who works 3 hours a day, 3 days a week in their church office.

Pastor Steve said that for a start we could possibly get our youth groups together for some of their activities. The guests had also requested another meeting and Pastor Steve thought it should be with one of the committees—probably the youth group.

Each of the congregations has approved the 2010 budget. Randy Noble made a motion, which was seconded by Ivan Kuhlman to approve the 2010 budget. It passed unanimously.

Each Pastor and Vicar Jackie participated in the Pastor’s Report.

- Each committee and each congregation will be responsible for planning a service and serving refreshments at Diamond Lake this summer.
- The Synod Youth gathering will be March 12-13 and they need to know if any youth are going and how their church can help them. Pastor Steve said it works well if the youth is responsible for registrations fees and the church helps with the remaining money.
- We went over upcoming services through the Synod Convention.
- “Favorite Saints” in each church March 10, 17 and 24.
- Pastor Steve interviewed 5 candidates for intern next year and will be interviewing 1 more.
- The Mutual Ministry Committee meets every other month.
- The Personnel Committee will be meeting in March.
- May 2nd will be the Wholeness Wheel Pledge—could/would be Stewardship.

Each church could give their congregations a mid-year report. Time and Talent surveys could be given out.

Mary Gislason made a motion, which was seconded by Randy Noble to adjourn the meeting. We prayed the Lord’s Prayer. Karen Richmond and Donna Kurth provided refreshments.

Mary Gislason, Secretary

PASTOR’S REPORT JANUARY 18, 2010 TO FEBRUARY 17, 2010

Worship	Education	Meetings	Pastoral Acts	Visits
4- Sundays Worships @ 5 congregations	10- Bible Study	8- Council/Meeting	3-Funeral	25- Home
6- Nursing Home	4-TFA	0-WELCA	2-Baptism	22-Hospital
4-Saturday Night	2- Book Studies	1-WXY	6-Counseling	
1-Lenten Service	1-Letters/Dad	2-Synod	0-Wedding	
		1-LCC	2-Affirmatin of Baptism	
		1-Worship Plan		

Youth Pages

FIRST COMMUNION CLASSES

First Communion Classes are planned for Saturdays April 24(Grace), May 1 (Bethany) and 8 (Peace) at 3 pm. Those in 5th grade or older who wish to have instruction are invited along with at least one parent to these classes. The following are the current list we have of 5th graders who are invited, please contact Pastor Julie [507-215-2388 cell or pastorjuliea@frontiernet.net] if you are not listed and wish to be included.

- Bethany-Elim: Kathy Richmond and Shanelle Buffington**
- Grace: Abby Anderson, Steven Czech, John Sutherland**
- Peace: Stephanie Kuhlman, Elizabeth Breszinski**



Last Supper - Fill in Balnks

F	T	T	U	S	T	P	R	E	P	A	R	E	D
E	S	L	S	T	E	T	T	T	P	S	E	E	
S	I	E	E	D	E	S	E	C	R	A	J	S	N
T	S	S	H	E	S	R	A	D	G	S	L	D	E
I	P	U	N	E	V	I	C	P	T	S	N	I	V
V	E	C	P	S	T	F	H	T	E	O	H	S	A
A	T	E	G	P	E	L	E	S	T	V	O	C	E
L	V	G	N	E	E	R	R	S	E	E	U	I	L
I	I	N	I	I	Y	R	I	A	E	R	S	P	N
A	W	I	N	S	H	A	T	S	A	H	E	L	U
T	H	T	E	I	P	S	S	S	R	E	C	E	R
N	E	A	V	D	C	E	R	T	A	I	N	S	T
A	R	E	E	L	B	A	T	E	H	T	U	R	T
B	E	T	R	A	Y	J	E	S	U	S	T	E	V

Here is part of the story of the Last Supper, taken from Matthew 26:17-21. Find the missing words in the word search to the right.

On the ___ day of the ___ of ___ Bread, the ___ came to ___ and asked, "___ do you want us to ___ the ___?" "As you go into the city," he told them, "you will see a ___ man. Tell him, 'The ___ says, My time has come, and I will eat the Passover meal with my disciples at your ___.'" So the disciples did as Jesus told them and prepared the Passover supper there. When it was ___, Jesus sat down at the ___ with the twelve disciples. While they were ___, he said, "The ___ is, one of you will ___ me."





Family Faith

By Nancy Krog

During Lent may you and your family practice the family table grace before meals and enjoy the family devotion listed below.

Family Table grace:

God of mercy, as we begin the season of Lent, we wear ashes to remember our sins and we turn to you for forgiveness. Help us not to think so much about ourselves but about others and you. During these forty days help us to pray more, to keep our promises, to make sacrifices, and to share with those in need. And bless this food we share. Amen.

March Silent Prayer Walk

Today's Reading: John 17: 1-26

After Jesus said this, He looked toward heaven and prayed. John 17:1.

Faith Walk: Take a silent walk. Rather than talking to one another, pray silently, talking to God your Father.

Faith Talk:

- As Jesus prepared for His death, He turned to His Father and spent some quiet time in prayer.
- Jesus prayed for Himself, that God would glorify Him through His death.
- Jesus prayed for His disciples, that God would protect them, unify them, and give them joy.
- Jesus prayed for all believers, that God would unify them, that God's love be in them, and that they be with Jesus.
- During Lent, we can focus on prayer as a way to better know God's love given to us in Jesus' death.

Follow-up Activities:

- Try praying in different positions: kneeling, lying down, hands folded, arms raised up to heaven, or arms crossed like pretzels.
- Early believers sometimes prayed with their arms crossed like pretzels. Make pretzels from bread dough as a reminder of the relationship we can have with God through prayer.
- Glue six store-bought pretzels into a cross shape as a reminder that Jesus prayed for us, God's children before His death on the cross.
- Start a prayer journal. Record your prayers and periodically go back through your journal and write God's answers to your prayers.
- Make a book of family prayers. Write out and illustrate each memorized prayer your family uses.

Our Response to God's Grace:

Dear Jesus, our Savior: Thank you for your great love for us revealed in your prayers before your death. May the power of the Holy Spirit in our hearts bring us to you in prayer so our faith may be strengthened. In your name we pray, Amen.

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