



Winds of the Prairie Ministries

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

CrossWinds

**MAY 2010
NEWSLETTER**

FIRST WORD

PASTOR STEVE RASMUSSON

The Flower Carol - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BrMuwabCrTY&feature=related>

Author unknown, 13th Century; first appeared in the Swedish Piae Cantiones, 1582
sung to the tune of Good King Wenceslas.

*Spring has now unwrapped the flowers, day is fast reviving,
Life in all her growing powers towards the light is striving:
Gone the iron touch of cold, winter time and frost time,
Seedlings, working through the mould, now make up for lost time.*

*Herb and plant that, winter long, slumbered at their leisure,
Now bestirring, green and strong, find in growth their pleasure;
All the world with beauty fills, gold the green enhancing,
Flowers make glee among the hills, set the meadows dancing.*

*Earth puts on her dress of glee; flowers and grasses hide her;
We go forth in charity — brothers all beside her;
For, as man this glory sees in th'awakening season,
Reason learns the heart's decrees, hearts are led by reason.*

*Praise the Maker, all ye saints; He with glory girt you,
He Who skies and meadows paints fashioned all your virtue;
Praise Him, seers, heroes, kings, heralds of perfection;
Brothers, praise Him, for He brings all to resurrection!*

May is a wonderfully busy time. The spring flowers are in their glory, the rains renew the earth and wash away the grime of winter. Summer is just around the corner, and with it comes the busy-ness of farming, summer “leisure” and gatherings in every community.

The writer of this old Gaelic song has captured the mystery of the earth's resurrection, and the hand of our God within it. But as Easter people, we Christians want to say more about resurrection than this. We say it is more than the cycle of dormancy and resurgence, like a tree that loses its leaves in the fall only to bud again in the spring. We challenge the cycle of old begetting new with a totally new thing. Death, real death, has come. And it is not the last word. Life is. Christ is risen, He is risen indeed, Alleluia.

With the resurrection of Jesus comes the hope and mystery of a new life. Flowers, and spring births, and rains which promise growth are all bound to eventual death. But the new life that is found in Christ's resurrection is endless life. St. Paul writes, “If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.”

The hope of the Easter people stands against the world and it's witness to endless rebirth. It is a hope that acknowledges death as real death, suffering as real suffering. It is a hope that leads us to neglect the world's understanding of lordship and power. It is a hope that leads us to risk for the sake of telling the Gospel to others.

We know another power. It is Resurrection power. And it belongs to Jesus. And we belong to Him.

Pastor Steve Rasmusson

PREACHING SCHEDULE FOR MAY

	St Paul: 8:30	Peace and Bethany	Grace and Bethany-Elim
Sunday, April 25, 2010	Rasmusson	Anderson	Harvestine
Saturday, May 01, 2010		Bethany-Rasmusson	
Sunday, May 02, 2010	Rasmusson	Anderson	Harvestine
Saturday, May 08, 2010		Peace – Anderson	
Sunday, May 09, 2010	Supply -TBD	Gene Anderson	Anderson
Saturday, May 15, 2010			Bethany-Elim – Harvestine
Sunday, May 16, 2010	Harvestine	Rasmusson	Anderson
Saturday, May 22, 2010			Grace – Anderson
Sunday, May 23, 2010	Anderson	Harvestine	Rasmusson
Saturday, May 29, 2010	Rasmusson		
Sunday, May 30, 2010	Supply -TBD	Harvestine	Rasmusson

PASTOR'S REPORT FOR TO MARCH 18, 2010 TO APRIL 21, 2010

Worship	Education	Meetings	Pastoral Acts	Visits
3- Sundays Worships @ 5 congregations 6- Nursing Home 4-Saturday Night 6-Lenten Service	17- Bible/Book Study 3-TFA 1-Letters/Dad	2- Council/Meeting 0-WELCA 1-WXY 2-Synod 1-LCC 0-Worship Plan	3-Funeral 1-Baptism 5-Counseling 0-Wedding 0-Affirmatin of Baptism	23- Home 9-Hospital

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 May 1.
- Second Saturday of the Month at Peace Lutheran in Ruthton on May 8.
- Third Saturday of the Month at Bethany-Elim Lutheran in Ivanhoe on May 15.
- Fourth Saturday of the Month at Grace in Lake Benton on May 22.
- Last Saturday of the Month at St Paul Lutheran in Minneota on May 29.

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

SAVE POSTAGE



If you are able to receive your monthly WOTP newsletter via e-mail (as a Word document or PDF), please e-mail Deb at belutheran@frontiernet.net and let her know so she can put you on the e-mail list.

WINDS OF THE PRAIRIE MINISTRY LENTEN BABY SHOWER 2010

During Lent and part of the Easter season hampers or baskets will be were filled in each of the congregations of baby items that will be given to the Public Health Departments in our three counties. Thanks again for your generosity and care for our youngest children in God's Kingdom.

HOLY WEEK PRAYER VIGIL



Thanks to all who participated in the Holy Week Prayer Vigil. The hope is that you will continue to make prayer for a part of your daily discipline of discipleship. Look for the signs of those prayers coming true.

TRAINING FOR AFFIRMATION

During May TFA students will be completing their year of Old Testament and related catechism. 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.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Snack Providers</u>	<u>Topic of Discussion</u>
May 5	Hank Neyens Logan Johnson	Wisdom, Proverbs-S
May 12	Allison Bloch Maranda Jerzak	Review & Worship

PASSING ON VIBRANT FAITH @ HOME



May 8 in Springfield, MN at St John Lutheran Church.

“Mom and Dad, you are not just the chauffeurs who bring your kids to church functions- you are the pastors at your house!” If

you are interested in passing on a vibrant faith join others from Winds of the Prairie Ministry on May 8 from 9 to 4 in Springfield. For one price we can bring as many as we like, so we need to know by May 3 to get registration in. Sign ups at each congregation will let us know your desire to attend and allow us to make transportation arrangements. Take a day to learn how to be authentic, available and affirming in your vibrant faith.

FIRST COMMUNION CLASSES

First Communion Classes are planned for Saturdays May 1 (Bethany), 8 (Peace) and 15 (Bethany-Elm: Make Up)) at 6:30 pm pm. The group continues to explore the nature of this special meal which they will partake of on or after May 23, Pentecost Sunday.

BBQ BIBLE STUDY



What could be better than a Bible study before the Wednesday Worship at

Diamond Lake along with sharing supper fellowship? A **Social Statement on Genetics draft** is out and awaiting our study and input. The field of genetics makes new discoveries and develops new technologies that will effect 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 Once we complete the Genetics study we will look at the social statement passed last year at the Church Wide Assembly on **Human Sexuality**. We will look at the Biblical **Wisdom Proverbs** this statement and how we can use this statement to help others better understand our **Review & Worship** and hope for God’s Will for each of us and the World

VBS 2010 SCHEDULE

It is that time of year when our thoughts turn to summer and Vacation Bible School. Mark your calendars for the following dates:

Bethany and Bethany-Elm- June 14 to 17 from 2 pm to 6 pm with Shetek Lutheran Ministries.

Grace: June 7 to 11 from 5:30 to 8:30 pm with “High Seas Exploration”

St Paul: July 25 to 27 from 5:30 to 7:30 pm.

SHETEK WOMEN’S RETREAT



Brochures are at each congregation for the 64th Annual 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.

WINDS eXtreme YOUTH SUMMER TRIPS

There will be a pre-trip meeting for parents, youth and all other participants of both trips. It will be at 7:00 p.m. on Sunday evening, May 23rd.

Registrations are due NO LATER THAN MAY 15th. Please mark you calendars.

Eagle Butte Habitat for Humanity Servant Trip - June 20-26

Cost for this trip will be \$190/person.
For those 14 years of age and older.



EAGLE BUTTE,
SOUTH DAKOTA



In the Lakota language, Okiciyapi Tipi means "People Helping People Build Houses"

From the HFH Chapter website:

Thank you for expressing interest in our program. Providing such opportunities for those who want to demonstrate love in action is an important part of our ministry. We are always in need of volunteers during our busy spring/summer seasons and hope that you will join us. ... Volunteering on the Cheyenne River Indian Reservation has been a meaningful and uplifting experience for many people.

Cost for the week will be \$190/person. This includes our donation for materials, all food while on site, transportation and housing. Registrations must be accompanied by health forms and liability waivers, parental consent forms for all youth under the age of 18 and a \$50 non-refundable down payment. Registrants must be fourteen or over and in good physical health.



WXY Bike Servants Trip - July 18-21

Cost for this trip will be \$25.
For those entering sixth grade and older.

We will be running our bi-annual Bike Servants Trip again this year. This is for WotP members and their friends. Two years ago we began Wednesday at Bethany Elim and traveled to Bethany in Arco, then First English in Tyler, then to Peace in Ruthton and ended at Grace in Lake Benton.

This year's journey will begin at Peace, then on to Danebod in Tyler, the to Arco, to Mary and Rick Midden's for a day of fun in the sun, and on to Diamond Lake for mid-week worship. Another leg coming from Hendricks to Ivanhoe, and joining with the southern group in Arco is in the works.

A sag wagon and bike trailer will be provided.

Adults and older youths are needed to provide supervision on the ride and at the work projects. We will keep the costs low by making the meals with and for the participants. If you are available to ride with the group, drive the sag wagon, make meals and lunches or supervise overnights, please call one of the pastors.

SUMMER FUN

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

May 23 – PENTECOST – Honoring of graduates
June 20-26 – Eagle Butte Servant Trip for Habitat for Humanity

June 23rd – Diamond Lake worship begin on Wednesdays at 7pm. VBS review and Potluck for kickoff. Statement studies at 5:30 begin on June 30th.

June 27- Sioux Falls Pheasants Baseball Game

July 4 – Gospel Fest in Ruthton

July 18-21 –Journey of Affirmation Bicycle and Servant Trip

July 29th – 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)

PLAY BALL!!

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. The suite is handicap accessible by an elevator so there is no reason we can't have a full suite and a fun day.

THANK YOU FROM CHRIS PETERSEN

Winds of the Prairie Ministry,

Thank you very much for the care package and your prayers. Our time is about to come to the end, I have shared what you have sent with the soldiers I work with and we all wish to thank you.

Thanks, CPT Chris Petersen

THANK YOU FROM WXY

A HUGE thank you to everyone who attended, worked at, or donated to our fundraiser on Sunday, April 18, at Bethany-Elim. It was great success and will go a long way in helping us with our Habitat for Humanity project in Eagle Butte. Thanks again!

SamanthaJo, Maranda, Mary, Stevie, Jessica, Katie, Mavis, Loren and Pastor Steve

BETHANY NEWS

By Gayle Rasmussen

Ruth and I attended the Synod Assembly and experienced a memorable and learning event. We learned of many ideas to think about and use in our congregation. The theme was "God's Work, Our Hands." Just give this some thought.

We want to thank our Sunday School staff for their commitment to the students, and thank the students for their attendance.

Summer is coming, and we ask all members to keep Bethany in all your thoughts and prayers. We sure would like to see you in church as often as possible.

Hope to see you in church. Thanks be to God.

BETHANY WORSHIP ASSISTANTS FOR MAY

Ushers: Allan Lundberg & Jon & Jeff Gladis
Altar Guild - Marie Henriksen

FAMILY FAITH

By Nancy Krog

May is a special month when we honor the mothers in our lives. May you utilize this table grace to honor your mother and remind yourself of her importance in your life. May you enjoy the devotion below and devote a special time for your mom to make her feel loved and appreciated.

So here's to my mom...thanks for being the best role model in my life, teaching me the morals and values I have today, providing me tools to have a positive outlook on life, demonstrating true faith in God, having the knowledge to know when to give advice and when to simply listen, being a wonderful and loving grandma to our girls, being there, being there, being there. I could go on and on, I'm so grateful for my mom and the role she plays in my life!

Mother's Day Table Grace

Dear Lord, we thank you for giving us Mom and for the many ways she shows us sincere love. On this her special day we ask you to bless her with your joy and peace. As she cares for all of us, help her to find strength for the many challenges she faces. Remind us to show our gratitude for all she does, and especially who she is. Bless this meal which we share in celebration of Mom, and be with all mothers and grandmothers on this day. Amen

Mom's Choice!

Today's Reading: Proverbs 31:10-31

Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her.

Faith Walk: Mom's choice! Take a walk at a favorite park, by the lake, through a mall, or in the woods – Mom's wish is your command.

Faith Talk:

- Moms are a gift from the Lord. Read the whole scripture selection. How has your mom been a gift?
- In the Bible, God commands us to honor our mothers. How can you honor your mother?
- How do mothers help us to grow in our faith and in life?
- What are the roles of a mother? How is God like a mother? Read Isaiah 66:13.

Follow-Up Activities:

- Create Mother's Day cards. Use a computer, paint, stamps or stickers...be creative!
- Write a letter to your mother telling her how and why you love her.
- Give mom breakfast in bed, have a picnic for lunch, or take her out for supper...no cooking for Mom, all day! (Remember to clean up the mess in the kitchen too☺)
- Make Mom a book of coupons redeemable to chores, hugs, helpful smile, and the biggest slice of pie.

Our Response to God's Grace:

Dear Father in Heaven, You are the creator of all mothers. Thank You for giving me my mother and the blessings I have received through her. Help me, in turn, to be a blessing to her as I follow Your command to honor my mother. In Jesus' name, Amen.

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

BETHANY-ELIM

Another great year of Sunday school has come and gone, we are so blessed to have such wonderful youth leaders in our congregation. I would also like to recognize the Sunday school families who provided our Easter Breakfast raising \$200 for the Church. The Council would also like to recognize and thank everyone for their efforts in this year's Beef Dinner; we had a record turnout and raised \$2,400.00 dollars. With the beef dinner funds and an additional \$1,100 from WELCA we were able to greatly reduce our outstanding operating loan. Thank you WELCA. Please continue to pray for our congregation as we continue struggling to meet our missionary goals and obligations. I encourage everyone to take advantage of the exciting summer worship opportunities we have being part of Winds of the Prairie.

Kyle Krier - Bethany-Elim Chair

B-E WELCA QUILTERS' REPORT

WELCA Quilts have been donated to Relay for Life, 2010 Graduates, Lutheran World Relief, Camp Knudson, Lake Shetek, and many will be donated to a needy cause. We sold 12 at our Beef Dinner quilt display. Julie Leibfried won the baby quilt donated by Arlinda Bednarek.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL AT BETHANY-ELIM

By Nancy Krog

Just a reminder, BE is hosting Vacation Bible School June 14 – 17 from 2 – 6pm. Shetek Lutheran Ministries will be leading VBS and offering a jam-packed week of fun and faith. If you have not registered, please contact Anna or Nancy, registrations are due by May 1. If you are entering 7th grade on up and would be interested in being a student volunteer to assist Shetek Staff with VBS, let me know, we need you.

BE SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATE

By Nancy Krog

Our Prayer Pal Revealing Event filled the parish hall on April 11, thanks to all who attended. This is a simple and amazing program that connects our youth with our adults in the congregation and I believe both sides of the prayer pal connection appreciate the positive experience.

If you attended the Youth Sunday Celebration on April 18, you were beaming with pride during and after worship...and probably still beaming as the week progressed. The message, “**Fully Rely On God**” (FROG), was driven home by reviewing the Biblical stories the children have learned throughout the Sunday School year, the skits performed, and the amazing music that echoed throughout the sanctuary. Thanks to Jess Epple who led our worship, thanks to our preschool through 9th graders who participated and shared the talents God has given you. Our “Praise Band” made it’s first appearance thanks to Chris, Megan and Emily Clarke, Tyler Epple and Kristy Gifford playing music while Jess Epple and Allison Bloch sang...you sounded great, the kids and congregation were in awe, and you were praising the Lord together! Keep rocking on! Thanks to all who enjoyed a delicious Roast Beef sandwich meal, your support is so appreciated.

We had a great year thanks to our committed teachers and parents who teach our youth God’s word, bring food when asked, and volunteer when help is needed. A Sunday School program can only be successful with a strong TEAM and we are fortunate to have a strong TEAM at BE!

GRACE LUTHERAN SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

By Pat Johnson - Sunday School Superintendent

On Sunday, April 25, we held our secret prayer pal revealing party after church. Pie and ice cream was served by the Sunday school families. After much guessing during the year, each child got to meet their secret pal. Thank you to everyone who participated in this special program. May you always continue to remember this child in your thoughts and prayers and remain a special friend to them forever.

You showed the children another way to "Living Inside Out" - what this year's Sunday school material has been all about. Letting God's love come through us and to be used for good in so many ways.

On Sunday, May 9, the children will be honoring all mothers in church that day.

VBS registrations for June 7-11 are coming in. Plans are being made for between 50 - 60 children attending. Please we really need to have more volunteers to help put this program on. All interested people are invited to a meeting scheduled for Wednesday, May 12, at 6:30 p.m. at Grace. Maybe you can't do the whole week - a couple of nights would be great. Just give me a call to work something out. Your help would be greatly appreciated.

Sunday, May 16, the children will participate in the church service to finish out our year of Sunday school. Afterward during Sunday school time, we will have a party to celebrate our time together and to look forward to a special VBS and summer of fun.

Thank you to our dedicated teachers: Bruce Nielsen, Mindy Johnson, Tonia & Mike Czech, and substitute Julienne Prosch. I couldn't do it without your help. We had a great time with our new material that had lots of fun activities and new ways to learn God's message. Thank you to the church family for all your support in this program.

On June 23, a VBS review, church service, and potluck supper will be held at Diamond Lake Church to start the summer church services. Please all VBS children attend and wear your T shirts!

GRACE NOTES

Welcome back snowbirds! I hope that you had an enjoyable winter. We sure have had a great spring thus far to come back home to. We at Grace have a lot in store coming up for this spring and summer.

Graduations will be here before we know it. The council would like to extend congratulations to our graduates. Take God with you wherever you go!

The Sunday school children will no sooner be out of school and they get to come back for vacation Bible school! That is always fun. Don't forget to come to church on Mother's Day for a special treat from the kids.

The fourth Saturday (22nd) is Grace's night to host the evening service. This month, council will be hosting an Ethnic Potluck Service. Council would like anyone willing to bring a dish, dessert, salad or anything else to sign up, with your nationality listed as well. Council members will also incorporate a little historical background information to teach our youth about their elders. This should be fun and tasty!

There are a lot of activities, social events, services and all around fun things happening here at Grace and the WOTP this summer. Hope that you are willing and able to take part in the lives of the others around you, both at home and at church, this summer. Life is short, Live it! Share it!

Sincerely,
Roxanne Nielsen
Council Secretary & Deacon

GRACE GRADUATES



The Grace Lutheran Church congregation congratulates Jennifer Gunnink and Zachary Bump who will be graduating from high school this year.

We wish you both all the best in the future. Always know that your church family cares about you and will always be here for you. God's blessings always.

NOTES AND DATES FROM GRACE

Ushers for May: Claire Pritchett, Garrett Petersen, LaDon Prosch, Josh Prosch
Altar Guild for May: Romelle Pritchett

May 5, 12 Noon – GLCW Meeting/Salad Luncheon in the Church Basement. Guests—First English and Danebod of Tyler and Bethany of Arco. Program is “Aprons.” Devotions by Pastor Julie. Hostesses are Kara Christensen, Connie Bressler, Carol Dahl, Nancy Johnson, Joan Klitzke, Anne Lichtsinn, Faye Meyer, Shirley Peterson, Julienne Prosch, Coralee Rochel, Lorraine Trigg, Darlene Willert

May 12, 1:30pm – May Bible Study. Hostess is Judy Thomssen.

NOTES & DATES FROM PEACE LUTHERAN

Monday, May 3, 5:30pm – St. John Circle meets at the church
Tuesday, May 4, 9am – St. Matthew Circle meets at the home of Ellen Hansen in Jasper
Tuesday, May 4, 2pm – St. Mark Circle meets at the home of Deloris Dage
Wednesday, May 12, 2pm – PLCW
Wednesday, May 12, 8pm – Church Council
Thursday, May 13, 9:30am – Ascension Day Brunch, Hope Lutheran, Minneota
Monday, May 24, 9am – Quilting Day

ST. PAUL'S EASTER EGG HUNT



ST. PAUL'S NEWS

By Sue Buysse

All church councils from the WOTP met at St. Paul's on April 21st. Thanks for making the trek over to Minneota.

St. Paul's members, please remember to turn in dates and events for the official church record upkeep from the years of 1990 and on. We need dates of weddings, funerals, baptisms and confirmation of family members who had one of these events at our church.

The members of St. Paul's want to find and select on item in memory of Jori Ann Magnuson. This would be something that hangs in, or placed in our church. If you have ideas or would like to make a monetary contribution to this special memorial, please contact any church council member.

Thank you to members who helped do some sorting of items after church service on April 25th for the special garbage pick-up day later in the month

Thank you to Mary Gislason who found and donated the lovely new ceramic crosses that decorate our fellowship hall in the basement.

Thank you to Mary and Dave Gislason for the fun and candy-packed Easter Egg Hunt that they organized after Easter Services. It is becoming a tradition that the youngest members look forward to each Easter Sunday. Your generosity is so kind.

PRAYER CONCERNS

Bethany (Arco): Pray for Earl Andersen, Kendall Lundberg, Luella Madsen, Elsie Barber, and Joel Hopkin (Geneva Rasmussen's grandson).

Bethany-Elim (Ivanhoe): Pray for Bruce and Julie Nelson and the family of Vernon Nelson. 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 the family of Rosina Ritter. Pray for Darrell Paulson, Joe Harris Sr., Mary Paschke, Earl Klitzke, Ernie Bannick, Joyce Knutson, Ann Kruse, Wesley Paschke, Karen Fredricks, Norma Burdick, Paula Jacobson (daughter of Wayne & Annette Fehrman), Leann Wadsworth, Evelyn Rudebusch, Jacob Johnson, and Chet Borresen

Peace (Ruthton): Pray for Lavonne Fuhrmann and Cliff Kittelson.

St. Paul (Minneota): Pray for the family of Jori Ann Magnuson. Pray for Lyall Gislason, Reese Kompelien, 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, 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

WHOLENESS WHEEL UPDATE



Once again during the Easter Season we will be exploring the six segments of the wholeness wheel to and set forth goals and objectives in each segment personally to help us grow healthier in our daily life.

To help you to come to a better understanding of how you operate in these segments here are questions to help you identify your strengths, challenges and obstacles in each area. By understanding what you use, avoid and struggle with you recognize your place in the community and why you need others in the community to help you.

What attitude did your mother/father have toward _____?

What was your attitude toward _____ as a child, teenager, young adult, parent, elder?

What role has _____ played in your life in the past and present?

What is your happiest and unhappiest memories in connection with _____?

How would you describe your current _____ status?

Do you worry about _____? If so, when did you first start and why?

Are you generous or stingy with your _____? In what ways?

What kind of risks are you willing to take with your _____?

What will you do with your _____ as you approach the end of this life?

Vocation(May 9) Having a sense of purpose is important in living a healthy life. We all want to feel that we are using the gifts God has given us to make this world a better place. We need to be aware of what those gifts are and make good use of education and training to hone our skills. We need to always be seeking for opportunities to make a difference. If not through our occupation, then perhaps through volunteering in the community, nurturing our family, or actively participating in church.

Emotionally(May 16) Being emotionally well means feeling the full range of emotions and expressing those emotions appropriately. Not feeling emotion is a sign of stress or depression, just as having emotions that you cannot control may be the sign of emotional distress. Physical health problems can affect our emotions and emotional problems affect our physical health. One example is anger and hostility, an emotion that puts one at significantly greater risk for heart disease. Keeping our emotional health means taking time in the day to be peaceful and centered, just as it means sharing emotions with others.

Spiritually (May 23) Loving God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength impacts everything we do and everything we are. Starting first with your spiritual health makes balancing the wheel much easier because we know whose we are. Nurturing your relationship with God through daily prayer or devotion is the first step. Knowing that God is always present and has given us the gift of grace through the death of Jesus Christ allows us to stumble along the way and keeps us from getting lost.

Birthday Gift to the Church(May 23) With the coming of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost the Church, the body of Christ's followers on Earth, began the new life which is a foretaste of the heavenly kingdom to come. Plan on completing your Wholeness Wheel Goals and bring a copy in an envelope with your name on it to place in the treasure chests at each congregation as your gift to the Church. No one will open them, but it will be a weekly reminder to us all of the treasures that God gives us each and every day. Place your copy where you can see it or look at it to remind you of your daily commitment to live a life of faith that leads to wholeness in a broken world. Then next year during Easter you can open the envelope and be reminded of how God has blessed you in this last year.

NOTES FROM THE INTERN

“When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability... (and) each one heard them speaking in the native language of each.” Acts 2: 1—4, 6

Scholars tell us that one author wrote Luke and Acts, that they are to be thought of as one, larger whole. From the first chapter we get an inkling of one of Luke’s over arching themes: salvation is for the whole world. In Mary’s Song, the disenfranchised are lifted up. Chapter 2 gives us Simeon’s Song in which he proclaims salvation as “a light for revelation to the Gentiles”. By the time we reach the book of Acts, this message of salvation, made incarnate in the person of Jesus Christ, brought to fruition through his death and resurrection is clearly destined for the whole world, Jew and Gentile, male and female, slave and free. The clear directive in Luke-Acts is the ever-widening circle of influence the gospel is to have. First, it is the exclusive property of the Jews but almost immediately this good news is to go to the world. Like a stone thrown into a pond, the circles expand ever wider to points unknown and undreamed of.

The drama of the day of Pentecost is undeniable...a violent wind, tongues of fire, being filled with the Holy Spirit. What struck me this time I read the text was the section of verse 6 I included above: “Each one heard them speaking in the native language of each”. Understanding each other seems to be an important component of carrying the gospel message. Gone are the days when missionaries superimposed their language and culture upon a native people. What we now understand is that reaching out in humble love and friendship, learning about a people and their culture, being open to receiving as well as giving is the first step in creating a relationship. Within that relationship, faith can be spoken.

At this year’s synod assembly, a wonderful story was shared about a trip taken to South Africa where we have a sister synod and about the sharing, the learning and the building of relationship that went on. The language of love and faith transcended boundaries.

How might we hear “the native language of each” in our communities? At first glance, we all seem to speak the same language. If we listen closely though, I wonder if we might hear from our neighbors the “language” of grieving, of economic loss, of unstable family dynamics, of poor health and the list might go on. Relationships based on the realities of life and genuine care given in the midst of life’s struggles are evidence of truly hearing another speak their native language.

As we celebrate the day of Pentecost this year on May 23rd, note the red vestments recalling the tongues of fire present on that first Pentecost. In some congregations, the story of Pentecost is read in multiple languages simultaneously to bring a flavor of what it might have been like long ago. Consider what “native languages” you might be listening for around you and ask the Holy Spirit to descend upon you and fill you with understanding.

Peace and Blessings,
Vicar Jackie Harvestine

WINDS OF THE PRAIRIE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Winds of the Prairie Council Meeting April 14, 2010

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 p.m.

A quorum was declared with the following people present: Karen Richmond, Ron Madsen, Randy Noble, Sherry Rost, Phil Anderson, and Karen Lichtsinn

Pastors Present: Steve, Julie and Vicar Jackie.

Pastors Julie and Steve led us in devotions.

We reviewed the Winds of the Prairie Ministry Agreement and when each member started on the council. Before it had been mentioned that someone should only be on the executive board during their 2nd year of their two-year term. That may not always happen. Both members from that congregation might be new so one would have to be on the executive committee. The same with only being part of the Winds of the Prairie Counsel for 2 years. Circumstances may not make that possible either.

We are to go back to our congregations and ask what our goals are. We will be bringing back to this council, what they are.

A check in with the congregations: St Paul's said they needed more members that could do things, Bethany-Elm didn't have anything at this time, Bethany mentioned they had been working on the Baby Shower, Grace had been working on a fund raiser.

A motion was made by Randy Noble and seconded by Phil Anderson to approve the agenda. It passed unanimously.

There was a discussion of records and keeping them up to date in each congregation. A suggestion was that births, deaths, baptisms and marriages be recorded in the secretaries minutes. It could work as a back up for the records.

A correction to the minutes was that Gary Stringe is actually Larry Stringe. A motion was made by Ron Madsen and seconded by Karen Lichtsinn to approve the minutes after that correction. It passed unanimously.

President Karen Richmond went over each committee and who was on those committees.

Internship Committee report. Vicar Jackie said they follow the recommendations set down by the synod. The new intern will be Jacquie Braun. She will begin August 15. Vicar Jackie will be done July 28.

We need to designate a contact person for each committee, Internship, Personnel and Mutual Ministry.

The Winds of the Prairie Counsel will be responsible for planning a service at Diamond Lake this summer.

Pastors Steve and Julie and Vicar Jackie gave reports. WXY Fundraiser for Eagle Butte is this Sunday. They will be leaving on the trip on Father's Day. They are already planning on the bike trip this summer where they bike from church to church. Hendricks and Danebod may also join in. They would also like to do a Family Camp out at Lake Benton on Fremont Days.

A motion was made by Dave and seconded by Randy Noble to approve the Treasurers Report. It passed unanimously. Pastor Julie's husband has left his call so her insurance will go up for a couple months.

Sherry Rost made a motion that was seconded by Karen Lichtsinn to reimburse Donna Kurth for the gift to Sister Ellen. It was passed unanimously.

Christ Lutheran in Hendricks seems to be looking forward to long term discussions about working together.

Discussions are for training for Affirmation taking place in each school district in Lincoln County weekly 3 times a month and then the last week they would meet as a large group. These ideas need to be brought back to each council to discuss how it would affect their congregations.

There are delegates from 3 of the 5 churches for Synod Assembly. No one from St Paul's or from Bethany-Elm will be attending. It will be a Lay Sunday this Sunday in each of the churches. We will be reading a sermon that Pastor John has written and there are bulletins at each church.

Emily Rose is working on the website and is looking for someone from each congregation who would let her know "what is happening" in their church and pass it along to her.

The first Evangelism meeting went well. The next meeting is set for April 24th.

Wellness wheel has 6 wedges. Each Sunday one of the wedges is highlighted for emphasis.

A Congregational concern was brought up about people requesting money during a hardship and how we should handle those requests. Currently there is a request by a person for \$180 to keep afloat. A motion was made by Mary Gislason and seconded by Randy Noble that we work towards \$500 being put aside for a discretionary fund from unbudgeted miscellaneous income, overseen by a Pastor and a WOTP Council Member. It is to be called "The Emergency Assistance Fund". Motion passed unanimously. A motion was made by Karen Lichtsinn and seconded by Dave Gislason, to have Marie immediately draft a check for \$180, for emergency assistance for an area resident who had made that request. Motion passed unanimously.

Items to bring back to our individual churches:

Goals for our churches?

Training and Affirmation Linkages—cooperation

Needing a contact person to be in contact with Emily Rose for the web page

Record Keeping

We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

A motion was made by Dave Gislason and seconded by Sherry Rost, to adjourn the meeting. It passed unanimously.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, June 9th at Arco.