



CrossWinds

NEWSLETTER OF WINDS OF THE PRAIRIE

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

MAY 2012

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FIRST WORD

PASTOR STEPHEN RASMUSSEN

**THE WOLF SHALL LIVE WITH THE LAMB,
THE LEOPARD SHALL LIE DOWN WITH THE KID,
THE CALF AND THE LION AND THE FATLING TOGETHER,
AND A LITTLE CHILD SHALL LEAD THEM.
THE COW AND THE BEAR SHALL GRAZE,
THEIR YOUNG SHALL LIE DOWN TOGETHER;
AND THE LION SHALL EAT STRAW LIKE THE OX.
THE NURSING CHILD SHALL PLAY OVER THE HOLE OF THE ASP,
AND THE WEANED CHILD SHALL PUT ITS HAND ON THE ADDER'S DEN.
THEY WILL NOT HURT OR DESTROY ON ALL MY HOLY MOUNTAIN;
FOR THE EARTH WILL BE FULL OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE LORD
AS THE WATERS COVER THE SEA.**

ISAIAH 11:6-9

Seven centuries before the resurrection of Jesus, Isaiah had a vision of God's future. The Northern kingdom of Israel made an alliance with Syria, denying their identity as a people of the Lord. As a result, they had been destroyed and hauled off into slavery in Assyria. Isaiah, a prophet of the southern kingdom broken from the once great nation of Israel (under Kings David and Solomon) warns Israel and Judah of their fragile position before Assyria. Israel had been taken, Judah had been decimated, and only a remnant remained. (Isaiah chapters 1-10). But Isaiah promises a new covenant, a new day, a new order of creation about to take place when the "shoot from the stump of Jesse" comes and brings a flag to call all the nations to the Lord (11:12). We call this "shoot" Jesus.

Isaiah describes a vision of peace, safety and wisdom in four short verses. His dream calls forth images of creatures beyond what we consider places of safety; Predators join with prey in rest, natural enemies graze together. Children safely play where death once hid in the ground.

The newness of this vision of the future would be laughable, were it not so captivating. Poets have reflected, artists have painted, musicians have lauded these words. What is it that endears them to us? The situation the words describe certainly hasn't been seen in our lifetime nor in our past. But the hope set forth in Isaiah 11 persists.

To dream of a better future seems to be a part of the human spirit. We envision a time when peace will prevail, when all will be fed, when unemployment will be no more and everyone will serve the neighbor with dignity and purpose. We humans are at our best when dream of God's promised future and strive to achieve it. Each of us has a place in that divine vision of the future. Each is called, empowered and sent into the world with a vision of righteousness, a vision of God at work in all people.

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CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE During this season of Easter, we of Winds of the Prairie are invited to join God in our dreams of the future, to take our place in the care of others and the care of God's world. God has a future, and we pray that our part in that future will be revealed. I invite you to dream of your future a year from now. Where will you find peace? Where will you find purpose? How will your life praise God? How will you stand up for others? How will you share the Good News of Jesus? How will you be a part of God's vision of peace revealed to Isaiah?

Blessings! Pastor Stephen

NOTES FROM THE INTERN

VICAR BAILEY LANDA

PSALM 46

**1 GOD IS OUR REFUGE AND STRENGTH,
AN EVER-PRESENT HELP IN TROUBLE.
2 THEREFORE WE WILL NOT FEAR, THOUGH THE
EARTH GIVE WAY
AND THE MOUNTAINS FALL INTO THE HEART OF
THE SEA,
3 THOUGH ITS WATERS ROAR AND FOAM
AND THE MOUNTAINS QUAKE WITH THEIR
SURGING.
4 THERE IS A RIVER WHOSE STREAMS MAKE GLAD
THE CITY OF GOD,
THE HOLY PLACE WHERE THE MOST HIGH
DWELLS.
5 GOD IS WITHIN HER, SHE WILL NOT FALL;
GOD WILL HELP HER AT BREAK OF DAY.**

**6 NATIONS ARE IN UPROAR, KINGDOMS FALL;
HE LIFTS HIS VOICE, THE EARTH MELTS.
7 THE LORD ALMIGHTY IS WITH US;
THE GOD OF JACOB IS OUR FORTRESS.
8 COME AND SEE THE WORKS OF THE LORD,
THE DESOLATIONS HE HAS BROUGHT ON THE
EARTH.
9 HE MAKES WARS CEASE TO THE ENDS OF THE
EARTH;
HE BREAKS THE BOW AND SHATTERS THE SPEAR,
HE BURNS THE SHIELDS WITH FIRE.
10 "BE STILL, AND KNOW THAT I AM GOD;
I WILL BE EXALTED AMONG THE NATIONS,
I WILL BE EXALTED IN THE EARTH."
11 THE LORD ALMIGHTY IS WITH US;
THE GOD OF JACOB IS OUR FORTRESS.**

We finally had a decent amount of rain fall in the southwest Minnesota area this April! There were times I would come home and just sit and listen/watch the rain fall outside. There is peacefulness to it, for that moment in time- it seems like everything just stops to make way for the rain. Participating in Holy Week for the first time, I realized that I did not take much time to stop and be still to listen to the rain, or the stillness that was going on around me. And now, this past week, I had the chance to reflect on Psalm 46:10, "Be still and know that I am God." Be still. Be still. Be still. How often do we forget this simple and brief message that God gives us, and take that time to be still? And it is an easy thing to forget. Easier said than done we think.

But what would happen, if we more intentionally took those times in our lives to just be still? What if we found that moment in our day, before we get out of bed in the morning or before going to bed, a few minutes as we drive to work, or as we throw the ball around the backyard for our dog? That time where it is just you and God!

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.

MAY PREACHING SCHEDULE

		Peace (8:30)	Bethany (8:30)	Grace (10:30)	Bethany-Elim (8:30)	St. Paul (10:30)	TFA Parents Meetings
Sat, May 5	<i>Holy Communion</i>		Rasmusson				Bethany at 6:30 pm
Sun, May 6	<i>Holy Communion</i>	Rasmusson	Anderson	Anderson	Landa	Landa	Peace at 10 a.m.
Sat, May 12	<i>Holy Communion</i>	Landa					
Sun, May 13	<i>Service of the Word</i>	Anderson	Landa	Landa	Rasmusson	Rasmusson	St. Paul @ 11:30
Sat, May 19	<i>Holy Communion</i>				Rasmusson		
Sun, May 20	<i>Holy Communion</i>	Supply	Anderson	Anderson	Rasmusson	Rasmusson	
Sat, May 26	<i>Holy Communion</i>			Landa		Anderson	
Sun, May 27	<i>Holy Communion/ Pentecost</i>	Rasmusson	Anderson	Anderson/ Rasmusson	Landa	Landa	

DIAMOND LAKE SCHEDULE

Date	Topic	Church/Committee
June 27	Apostles' Creed 1	VBS Review
July 4	Apostles' Creed 2	Peace Gospelfest
July 11	Apostles Creed 3	Winds Board Pastor Julie 5 th Anniversary
July 18	Lord's Prayer 1	Bethany-Elim
July 25	Lord's Prayer 2	Ladies Canoe Trip
August 1	Lord's Prayer 3	Grace
August 8	Lord's Prayer 4	Guys Canoe Trip
August 15	Lord's Prayer 5	Internship Welcome of New Intern
August 22	Lord's Prayer 6	Bethany
August 29	Lord's Prayer 7	Pastors

Make plans for your summer worship starting on June 27 at the Diamond Lake Chapel at 7 pm. We'll be completing our study of the Catechism with the Apostle's Creed and Lords' Prayer. Once again our councils, board and committees will be helping to plan and lead worship. Ask if you may help by supplying refreshments, special music or ideas.

June 27 is the **VBS Review & Potluck** to kick off Worship on Wednesdays. Bring a dish to share at 6:15 followed by the highlights of the 3 VBS programs in song and scripture.

The **Gospelfest** on July 4 will begin in the early afternoon with music and a dinner for our break and finish with worship.

PASTOR'S REPORT FOR MARCH 2012

Worship	Education	Meetings	Pastoral Acts	Visits
19 - Sundays Worships Total	11 - Bible/Book Study	5 - Council/Meeting	3 - Funeral	23 - Home
5 - Nursing Home	1 - TFA	2 - WELCA	4 - Counseling	4 - Hospital
5 - Saturday Night		4 - WXY		3- Public Events
16 - Lenten Services		3 - Synod		



VBS SCHEDULES FOR WINDS OF THE PRAIRIE MINISTRY

ST PAUL'S OF MINNEOTA:

May 21 to 24- 9am to noon; St Edwards' Catholic Church

Contact: 507-530-5310 or www.groupvbspro.com/vbs/ez/minneota by May 16

GRACE AND PEACE

Dates: June 4 to 8 **Time:** Dinner at 5:30pm; Fun begins 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm

Location: Grace Lutheran Church **For more information:** Pat Johnson 368-9298

Registration by May 1



BETHANY & BETHANY-ELIM VBS

Dates: June 18-21 **Time:** 2-6 pm

Location: Sts. Peter & Paul Catholic Church, Ivanhoe

Deadline for registration is May 1. **Contact:** Nancy Krog, 487-5722

VBS REMINDER:

VBS welcomes all kids entering Kindergarten through 6th grade. Shetek will be leading VBS June 18-21 at Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic church in Ivanhoe from 2- 6pm. Registration is due May1, or contact Nancy Krog ASAP.

WORLD MISSION PRAYER LEAGUE

Speakers at Rally Day, June 10th

How do you know when God is calling you? Does God still call us today as He called the disciples in the Bible? Please join us for a Rally Day presentation from a young missionary family about to embark on the adventure of their lives. These missionaries from the World Mission Prayer League will be leaving for India in a few short weeks to study language and culture for 2 years. They will live and serve among people who have never heard the gospel. Come and hear how God called

them, is preparing them, and is leading them. Be encouraged as they share how God is calling us to reach out into our own community and beyond.



LENTEN BABY SHOWER REPORT

Thank you to all of the members of Winds of the Prairie Ministry who contributed to the Lenten Baby Shower. We once again filled 5 hampers with clothes, toiletries, diapers, toys and supplies for infants and toddlers. The supplies are divided among the Lincoln, Lyon, Murraray, and Pipestone Human services offices where it is a wonderful surprise for them. Your contributions will make a difference for many families especially since the giving comes from the heart. ...

STEWARDSHIP: WATERS OF BAPTISM

In May we complete our examination of the WATERS of Baptism before we fill the ARC. It is in the **WATERS** of Baptism that we live as members of the family of God, the body of Christ, and the communion of saints. Our TFA students have been working with the WATERS and want to share them with you as a means to learn and experience the life of a disciple.

A *Disciple* is defined by participation with God's faithful people to learn and grow in:

Evangelism- proclaiming what God does for all people in Jesus Christ through witnessing. We are a part of the story that is called the Biblical narrative. It is how the story of God's faithfulness to our life makes our life different than what the world expects. We share other good news in our life why not the "best" good news around that God wants to get to know us so we can know ourselves fully.

Relationship is how Jesus did his ministry. He spoke to people where they were at to reveal the love of God to them. Those hungry for God were open to hear, those who were challenged by Jesus' attempts to show a new way of relating to God pushed him away verbally. Today we would say, "People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care for them." Listening is the greatest gift you can often give that nurtures relationships.

Service –is following Jesus example of service to the neighbor both near and far. Jesus sent his disciples out to serve and they came back full of stories of changed lives. At the last supper he washed the feet of the disciples, the lowliest of household jobs, as an example of how they are to humble themselves to care for others. We find that we are filled when we empty ourselves for the sake of others.

On Pentecost Sunday, the birthday of the Church, you are invited to gift the Church with your commitments to broaden and deepen your WATERS of Baptism. It is a simple process to make up your commitment gift.

1. Fill out a WATERS of Baptism goalsheet. Fold it up and put in an envelope with 'your' name on the outside. Make a copy for your refrigerator or mirror to remind you.
2. Place the envelope in the ARC (Annual Renewal of Covenant) chest on Pentecost or Holy Trinity Sundays. No one will open or look at the envelope contents.
3. Each time you come to worship you will see the ARC and be reminded of the WATERS of Baptism and how it effects your life. You will receive the envelope back at Easter 2013 for your review. Only you and God will know.

Let's pack the ARC chest with cards for the Church on its birthday.



SOUTHWESTERN MINNESOTA SYNOD ASSEMBLY

JUNE 8 & 9 * GUSTAVUS ADOLPHUS COLLEGE IN ST PETER, MN.

THEME: Inviting & Welcoming: God's Promised Future

THEME TEXT: Jeremiah 29:11

THEME HYMN: *All Are Welcome* (ELW #641)

WHAT IS A SYNOD ASSEMBLY?

About 850 persons from throughout the synod will meet to **worship** God, in whose name we gather; to **deliberate** carefully and faithfully on the business of the synod; to **learn** from God's Word about the life and mission God has given us; and to **enjoy fellowship** with God's people from across southwestern Minnesota.

WHO WILL BE OUR PRIMARY SPEAKERS?

Rev. Dr. Rick Bliese, President of Luther Seminary, has been invited to be our Bible Study leader. Our ELCA Churchwide Representative will be Rev. Stephen Bouman, Executive Director of Congregational and Synodical Mission for the ELCA. Lungile Nyathakazi, the HIV/AIDS Coordinator, from Empangani, Kwa Zulu-Natal, South Africa, will be with us as well.



YOUTH NEWS

GRADUATE RECOGNITION SUNDAY WILL BE MAY 13.

For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. [Jer 29:11](#)

Special prayers and presentations honoring our graduates will be held during the regular worships on Sunday May 13th in all of our churches.

The following youths are graduating from High School;

- Bridgette Bloch, daughter of Ben & Michelle Bloch
- Samantha Jo Buffington, daughter of Kevin & Nichelle Buffington
- Katie Bump, daughter of Kristi Bump and Chris Bump
- Emily Christensen, daughter of Collin and Kara Christensen
- Jeramie Blegen, son of Jay and Tammy Blegen
- Mary Blegen, daughter of Les and Linda Blegen
- Philip Madsen, son of Tim and Laurie Madsen
- Andrew Swanson, son of Kevin and Deb Swanson

If you are aware of other graduates (Vocational or college) please let us know in the Parish office.

SUMMER TRIPS PREPARATION

Canoe Trip participants are gathering on June 2nd at Shetek Lutheran Ministries for an orientation to leave no trace camping and canoe/water safety. We will practice compass orienteering on the lake as participants compete for collecting items cached around the lake. They will use a compass and map to arrive at preset locations marked on the map. (Lakes don't have roads signs!)

There are still spaces available on both the men's and women's trips to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area (Gals' trip – July 12-18, Guys' trip – July 26-31).

The Habitat for Humanity trip is planned for June 17th through the 23rd. We will be house at a lake home south of Fergus Falls and plans are to work on a property near Rothsay, MN. Hard work, prayer, singing, water sports and campfires await! For more information contact Pastor Stephen.

BETHANY, ARCO

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS FOR JANUARY

USHERS: Alan Lundberg

ALTAR GUILD: Ardis Henriksen

BETHANY NEWS

ILENE SORENSEN

Welcome Spring—Isn't the warm weather nice? It was so wonderful to receive some rain. As the farmers return to the fields, we pray that they will be safe. We hope they remember to get their needed rest and to take in proper nourishment.

As we look at the church calendar there are many things going on to become involved in. I hope that you will take the time to attend some of the events. There are trips planned for all ages. So if you are interested, let the pastors know. Remember to mark June 2 on your calendars. Our Saturday event will be at Shetek. It sounds like it will be fun with varied activities. Everyone is invited. If you have any questions contact the pastors. Come and see the beautiful water and enjoy the day at Shetek (the camp that Bethany supports throughout the year.)

Our graduating seniors will be recognized on May 13. So plan to attend church and support our youth as they make some huge decisions in their life. We pray for them as they set their goals and strive to achieve them.

It was an extra special Easter Sunday this year. We had a great turnout as we celebrate our risen Christ. Everyone enjoyed seeing the families and becoming acquainted with the next generation. Didn't the younger people add to the service? The Easter Brunch was fantastic. Thanks to everyone for making it enjoyable time.

See you in church!!!!

BETHANY-ELIM, IVANHOE

THE LORD HAS BEEN VERY GOOD TO US AT BETHANY-ELIM!

The mild winter has helped our heating costs and we had a terrific beef dinner, and the proceeds from that brought in approximately \$2900. This financial health has brought us into a time where we feel able to focus on the mission of our church and spiritual health of our congregation. We are blessed. However, we need to remember our expenses will continue all through the year and summer is coming where attendance generally lags a little. So have a great summer, but don't forget about us at Good Old Bethany-Elim!

The new round tables, purchased from the Memorial fund, are here and just right for fellowship and conversation. If you haven't had a chance to check them out, we invite you to come in and look around anytime. Join us for coffee after church and try them out!

BETHANY-ELIM SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

NANCY KROG

Another year of Sunday School has come to a close. Thanks to our dedicated and willing teachers who have shared their time and faith to teach our children. Thanks to Kristy Gifford for your amazing talent on the piano, you make our opening music sessions so much fun! Thanks to our devoted church family that cheers for the kids, offers encouragement, donates food & money toward our programs, continually drops coins in our noisy offering buckets and supports our Sunday School all year long!

The council continues to work on setting up committees and, at our last meeting, approved the establishment of an endowment fund. So, we will be looking at some policies and procedures for setting up a fund. For those of us who don't exactly know what an endowment fund is, it usually is a large account that is never touched. The interest from the endowment can be used for activities of the church and its mission or expenses, but the fund itself stays intact and can continue to grow through periodic contributions, generating more interest. We will be setting up a committee to get this going, so if you are interested in helping with this, please contact me.

Have a wonderful spring and may the Lord Bless and Keep you.

Your Sister In Christ,
Sharon Rasmussen
Council President

GRACE, LAKE BENTON

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS FOR JANUARY

USHERS: Steve Johnson, Glenn Krog,
John Lichtsinn, Lowell Nelson

ACOLYTES: 6th-Becca Berkenpass; 13th-Tyson
Weets;
20th-Brandon Hefti; 27th-John Sutherland

ALTAR GUILD: Jeanette Nelson

NOTES & DATES

April GLCW: Wed, May 2, 12 Noon -- SALAD LUNCHEON in the Church Basement.

Guests are First English and Danebod of Tyler and Bethany of Arco

Program-"Jerry and Faith McCollough" **Devotions:** Pastor Julie

Hostesses: Garnet Petersen, Donnita Bennett, Kara Christensen, Carol Dohal, Diane Evers, Anne Lichtsinn, Shirley Peterson, Julienne Prosch, Coralee Rochel, Faye Rochel, Lorraine Trigg, and Darlene Willert

May 16 – Block Day

May 23 — Do Day

Wed, May 9 -- GLCW Bible Study. Hostess is Mary Midden

GRACIOUS WORDS

TONIA CZECH

We are in the middle of another busy spring. There will be many opportunities for our members and the community to use their unique talents and gifts of time. On May 13th Grace will honor our seniors and, of course, our Mothers. On May 20th the Sunday School Teachers and helpers will be acknowledged for their commitment to educating our children. We also have two students who will be preparing for Affirmation.

June 1st and 2nd starts another busy month with our first annual Garage Sale and Bake Sale. We also hope to have available a light lunch with proceeds going to our youth

summer trips. This is a great opportunity to clean out your house or garage and help support the church and community. More information will be coming in the May church bulletin.

From June 4th through the 8th will be our Vacation Bible School. We will be using "Sky" from Group this year. It is again free and open to everyone in the community. Registration information will be coming out this month. Please contact Pat Johnson if you would like to make this VBS another fun and great opportunity to hear and teach God's Word.

SEEKING APPLICATIONS FOR GRACE CHURCH SECRETARY - Heidi Thomssen, our current church secretary, has accepted a new position and will be resigning as our church secretary. We want to thank Heidi for all her dedication and wish her the best in her new opportunity. Effective immediately, the church council will be accepting applications for the role of church secretary. This is a part-time job at 20 hours per month and would start effective April 23. If you are interested, please submit a letter of application to Karen Lichtsinn, Church Council president.

FUNDRAISER-JUNE 1-2(FRIDAY & SATURDAY)-It is time for Spring cleaning, so start setting aside items for the 1st Annual Grace Lutheran Church Garage Sale. Donate your items to the church in late May, and we will do all the work. This is a great way to clean out your house or garage and to help support the church. A lunch and bake sale are also

planned during the sale. Proceeds of the event will go to the General Operating Fund, with 10% designated to the Pastor's Emergency Fund. Contact Karen Lichtsinn or any council member with questions.

THANK YOU TO THE SUNDAY SCHOOL FAMILIES for all your food & raffle donations and hard work. You did great. We look forward to an exciting VBS June 4-8.

GRACE LUTHERAN SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

PAT JOHNSON May will be a busy month for us. On Mother's Day, May 13 we will honor the Mothers of our church. May 20 will be our last day of Sunday school. The children will be participating in the church service and the teachers will be recognized for their service this year. We have many children with perfect attendance this year. I'm very proud of the children and parents for this very special effort.

We look forward to another exciting VBS scheduled for June 4-8. It is called "SKY" where everything is possible with God. Supper will be served starting at 5:30 p.m. with VBS running from 6-8:30 p.m. Everyone is invited to our program at 7 p.m. on Friday, June 8. There is no charge to attend. Registration is to be in by May 1. If you have children, grandchildren, or friends that would like to attend please contact me at 368-9298. We will be seeking food donations for our suppers by putting out a request list in the narthex. Thank you for all the support given to this very special program.

UPCOMING DATES:

Sunday, May 13 - children honor Mothers in church

Sunday, May 20 - last day of Sunday school. Children recite in church / recognize teachers' service

Sunday, June 3 - set up for VBS at 6 p.m.

Monday – Friday, June 4-8 - VBS suppers starting at 5:30 p.m.
VBS 6 p.m.-8:30 p.m.

Friday, June 8 - VBS program @ 7 p.m

SIGN UP FOR VBS will need to be done by May 1 to get needed material. VBS is free and if you have grandchildren, neighborhood children, or friends that would like to attend please let Pat Johnson know so we can get them enrolled.

PEACE, RUTHTON

NOTES AND DATES

Tuesday, May 1, 9:30am – St. Matthew Circle meets at the home of Barbara Petersen

Tuesday, May 1, 2pm -- St. Mark Circle meets at the home of Lilen Kuhlman

Monday, May 14, 5:30pm -- St. John Circle meets at the church

Tuesday, May 15, 2pm – PLCW (see note below)

Monday, May 21, 9am – Quilting Day

PLCW MEMBERS

The May meeting is a Special meeting and is a different day--Tuesday, May 15, at 2pm.

It is Guest Day and special speaker will be Beth Erdman who will be speaking about “Dolls”. If anyone would like to bring a doll to the meeting is welcome to do so and tell what is special about the doll. Women of the Winds of the Prairie Ministry are all invited to attend.

ST. PAUL’S, MINNEOTA

HERE AT ST. PAUL’S

Good Friday has come and gone, the price has been paid, “it is finished,” we have been redeemed, bought at a cost not of our own. How often do we, you and I, stop to reflect on the depths of the love God has demonstrated in giving of His own Son so that we—in spite of our righteousness of filthy rags, our wisdom of foolishness, our busyness of doing—have a way back to the Father?

How do we thank thee, Lord? How do we worship thee?
How do we thank then!

Thank God we have a Savior, a teacher, a Messiah, one we can turn to for direction. Jesus, our kinsman-redeemer. The one by our own actions we helped put on the cross. He said, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.” And “you shall love your neighbor as yourself.” At first glance it seems easy enough, we go to church, sing some songs, take communion, shake hands and offer “peace” to each other. Yup, easy enough, and we feel good about it, as we should. End of story, let’s go eat, easy enough.

But let’s think again, does god love us, faithful church-going participants, only? Whom did He send Jesus to the cross for? Of course, for all of us who call Him Savior, Son of God, Lord of Lords. Just us? What about the others? You know, the people we have difficulty with, the unbelievers, the profane, the ones that don’t (or won’t) help themselves, the ex-wives, ex-husbands, in-laws, out-laws, brothers, sisters, moms, dads, all who are mean, crude, and rude because they can be. Those that smell, drive too slow, too fast, thieves, murderers, abortionists, politicians, lawyers, those who don’t agree with us, those

who do and shouldn’t, husbands, wives, those from the other side of the tracks, addicts of any kind, abusers, enablers, racists, Catholics, Muslims, Baptists, Atheists, (Muslims?), communists, socialists, dictators—the list is endless. Even those we can’t get along with, try as we might, even when they are of the same family. Which one of these am I? Which one are you? Truth be told, we are all more than a few on that list than we want to admit. You see, ALL these people God loves enough to provide the way of redemption. Jesus on the cross, Jesus descends into hell, Jesus appears to our brethren, Jesus ascends into Heaven. God did all the work, god paid all the price, and yet we still struggle with---I (pride), Me (self-importance), Mine (stubbornness). Our actions, behaviors, lack of words, what do they say? What is the value of what we have, or what we gain, in this world? What is the cost, or is there a cost? Is anything lost?

When someone loses their way, say even a loved one, certain sounds or events or smells can trigger a memory, thoughts of sadness to the point of tears. God has gone to measures beyond our comprehension to teach us, to show us how much He loves us. And yet . . . do we bring Him to tears by our lack of zeal to follow His way, His word, laid out literally for the salvation of our soul? What is important to you, what do you treasure? Jesus said, “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth . . . but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven.” Where are you?

A number of people commented on the powerful impact of the readings during our Good Friday service. God says,

“So shall my word be that goes forth from my mouth; it shall not return to me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.” Where am I? How do we thank thee, Lord? As for me and my house, I will worship the Lord. My heart longs to her, “Well done, my faithful servant, well done,” over and over, again and again. The most humbling words I have ever encountered. When we believe in our hearts, and voice with our mouths, “Jesus is Lord,” God sees us as saints.

And Easter Sunday when Jesus was raised up on the third day, there, there is all the proof we need that God can, does, and will do what He says. Even in our unfaithfulness, God is always faithful to His word.

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PRAYER CONCERNS

BETHANY (ARCO):

Pray for Don & Delores Oerter, Dagmar Blegen, Elsie Barber, Travis Noble, and Harley Johnson (brother of Joan Lundberg)

BETHANY-ELIM (IVANHOE):

Pray for Esther Wayland, Kay Weckert, Bernie Aronson, Rhoda Larson, Brenda Sheik, Travis Noble (Brother of Nichelle Buffington), Bruce Kelm (brother of Gretchen Suhr); Gabriel Johnson (Grandson of Norma Jean Johnson); Leigh Jerzak; Michael Kropp; Jackson Nelson (son of Ryan & Kate Nelson); 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 Don Evers, Norma Burdick, Robert Boll; Joyce McColn (sister of Carl Burk); Paula Jacobson (Daughter of Wayne & Annette Fehrman); Earl Klitzke; and Chet Borresen

CrossWinds

This, our Easter morning, was filled with the joy of a well-stocked breakfast brunch, followed by the sounds of children laughing, playing, looking for Easter treats to fill their baskets, some too full to carry. It's good to see so many people, so many kids, and it is especially good to come and hear God's comforting word.

And yet, as we are in this world, a time comes when the Lord will call and we will answer. Between Good Friday and Easter morning, God called Lyall Gislason home. God is faithful to His word, and it was my privilege to visit Lyall with Pastor Steve and hear his testimony of faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. As we mourn his passing, with prayers of comfort for Jean and the family, we can rest assured of His calling.

Praise to you, O Lord!

Amen and Amen

PEACE (RUTHTON):

Pray for Doretta Vinson, Florine Bannick, Bonita Fuhrmann, Herb Vinson, Doretta Vinson, Lance Preston, George Vinson, Carolyn Holck, Edna Haraldsen, and Cliff Kittelson.

ST. PAUL (MINNEOTA):

Pray for Jean and the family of Lyall Gislason. Pray for Doris Richards, Clara DeRoode, & Crystal Gawarecki.

TYLER NURSING HOME:

Cliff Kittleson, Carolyn Holck, Harvey Christensen- Peace Lutheran Grace-Annette Fehrman

HENDRICKS NURSING HOME:

Ila Rasmussen, Bethany Lutheran

Rhoda Larson, Bethany-Elim Lutheran

Kay Weckert, Bethany-Elim Lutheran

DIVINE PROVIDENCE NURSING HOME (IVANHOE):

Mabel Dressen, Bethany Lutheran

Elsie Barber, Bethany Lutheran

Dagmar Blegen, Bethany Lutheran

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 Matt Schaefer (in Kuwait); 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, and Paul Gregor