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First Word

It is November, that time when the harvest is coming in and we begin to assess how best to use the blessing that God has given us. In Old Testament times, an offering was made of the "Firstfruits," the first of the harvest, to honor and acknowledge God as provider (Leviticus 2). God knew there was a temptation to refill the empty cupboards before thinking about giving a sacrifice. God called for an offering of *Firstfruits* so that a gift of trust was shared between God and His people. Whole burnt offerings for the forgiveness of sin involved an entire animal, the best of the herd, being burnt on the altar" to please and honor God with a pleasing odor" (Leviticus 1:5-17; 6:8-13; 8:18-21). God himself gave that offering when the firstborn son Jesus died on the cross.

So how much of what is given by God is to be brought as an offering? It is the Tithe, **10%** of the harvest: "All tithes from the land, whether the seed from the ground or the fruit from the tree, are the LORD's; they are **holy to the LORD.**" Leviticus 27.30. The tithe was given to the priests in the Tabernacle (and later the Temple) for the worship and ministry that was done in God's name. The prophets often had to remind the Israelites that they were blessed by God to be a blessing to others. The tithe was a common understanding of how to share and bless others.

'But woe to you Pharisees! For you tithe mint and rue and herbs of all kinds, and neglect justice and the love of God; it is these you ought to have practiced, without neglecting the others. Luke 11.42 Jesus had to call out those who saw the tithe as a way to fulfill their duty while ignoring using their blessing to praise God and do God's Work. The tithe is not abolished with Jesus offering of His entire life as a sacrifice for sin once for all. It now becomes a way to participate in God's Work as the Church, the body of Jesus today. It reminds us that God is in charge of our life. God asks for our loyalty above all other things that appear to be life-giving but are merely tools for sharing with other. Money is one of those tools that at times tempts us to make it more important than God. Thus the tithe is another way of keeping the first commandment, "I am the Lord your God. You shall have no other Gods."

Cross Winds

First Word

Let us speak from personal experience. Both of the families of your pastors have tithed their blessings. We have been amazed that, when tithing is the first check out the door, many times it doesn't look like that offering check of 10% of the month's income will leave enough for the other bills and expenses. But there is always enough and some left over. But it was on those occasions when we would become anxious about money, and make our offering from what was left over, that we always had a shortage of funds. When we tithed firstfruits we had more than enough. That's God's math, not ours. God resets our priorities. We have learned that God is abundantly faithful when we rely upon his grace by making our offering the top priority in life.

Our culture tempts us to think first of ourselves. The tithe helps us to remember the neighbor by using the collected resources of the members of the Church to care for one another. On average a Lutheran household gives 2% of their net income to their congregation. Imagine what could happen in our congregations if everyone gave 3 or 4%? Our congregational incomes would go up 50 to 100!!!! We would have to re-evaluate our whole mission for God!

As congregations there are budgeting guidelines that help us to be wise stewards:

Administration 30%-personnel and expenses associated with them doing their job.

Facilities 30%- mortgage, utilities, maintenance (present and future), taxes.

Ministry 30%- Christian Education for all generations, Ministries (internal and external), advertising, office expenses.

But, you may notice, this adds up to only 90%. Even congregations are to gift 10% of their offerings to mission beyond their local ministry and house of worship to bless others. This might include the work of denominational bodies to train leaders and do ministries that local congregations cannot do alone. It might support colleges, camps, social and international ministries and other local and world ministries.

When we as individuals and congregations make a commitment to each other to share our blessing, we are able to respond to God's presence in our lives as abundance. When we operate out of fear and anxiety we become self-focused and live a life of scarcity. God invites us into abundance and the work of blessing others with that with which we have been blessed.

Your Partners in Ministry,
Pastor Stephen and Pastor Julie



Cross Winds

News From the Vicar

Vicar Update

Hello from Vicar Ryan on a sunny and chilly mid-October day. Over two months will have now passed since I moved down to Ivanhoe in mid-august, forsaking my city-life for the prairie winds. So far, I can truthfully say that I've taken a lot of time to dig into my sermon preparation and various other books and reading material so as to bring relevant and thought provoking material into my practice of preaching God's Word on Sunday mornings. I've been given an exceptional amount of encouragement in my preaching feedback, as well as a few tid-bits of constructive criticism. For instance, one of the studious bible study folks at Bethany, Allan, encouraged me to use an essay structure while preaching, with a thesis, body, and conclusion. And while I can't say that I'll be able to adopt this method immediately, I truly appreciate this request for me to try to clarify my sermons' main ideas. When I am preparing to talk on Sunday about how God is asking us to live our lives, I usually go through a number of stages of exploration, through spontaneous inquiry, before I really "hit" on what connects me to God in the reading of Scripture and in the life of Jesus. This is what makes preaching so exciting for me, the tension of searching through my own questions and disparate trains of thought until God finally snags my attention and it becomes much clearer where my mind and heart are encountering an Idea of the Holy. I hope that this method rubs off on you and encourages you to expect to encounter God when you ask questions or are just allowing your mind to wander. Let our dedication to living new lives as disciples of Jesus draw us both into the life of generosity and faith that God invites us to risk taking part in for the sake of the whole world. Amen.



Cross Winds



Calendar

November 2015	Bethany Lutheran Sunday Worship 8:30am	Bethany-Elim Lutheran Sunday Worship 10:30am	Grace Lutheran Sunday Worship 8:30am	Peace Lutheran Sunday Worship 10:30am	St. Paul Lutheran Sunday Worship 8:30am
Monday, November 2	10:00am Bible Study at Grace				
Wednesday, November 4	9:00am Bible Study at Divine Providence 10:00am Worship at Divine Providence 1:30pm GLCW 5:30pm TFA in Minneota 6:00pm Family Bible Study at Bethany 6:15pm TFA at Bethany 6:15pm P3 at Bethany				
Thursday, November 5	9:00am Boundaries Training				
Friday, November 6	7:00am Bible Study at Bethany				
Saturday, November 7	1:00pm New Member Welcome Class at Bethany				
Monday, November 9	10:00am Bible Study at Grace				
Tuesday, November 10	7:00pm Winds Board Meeting at Grace				
Wednesday, November 11	9:00am Bible Study at Divine Providence 2:00pm PLCW 5:30pm TFA in Minneota 6:00pm Family Bible Study at Bethany 6:15pm TFA and P3 at Bethany				
Thursday, November 12	10:00am Devotions and Communion at Sunrise Manor in Tyler 1:30pm Bethany WELCA				
Friday, November 13	7:00am Bible Study at Bethany				

HAPPY VETERNS DAY



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Calendar

November 2015	Bethany Lutheran Sunday Worship 8:30am	Bethany-Elim Lutheran Sunday Worship 10:30am	Grace Lutheran Sunday Worship 8:30am	Peace Lutheran Sunday Worship 10:30am	St. Paul Lutheran Sunday Worship 8:30am
Monday, November 16	10:00am Bible Study at Grace				
Tuesday, November 17	9:00am Prairie Conference Meeting at Bethany-Elim 7:00pm Joint Council Meeting at Grace				
Wednesday, November 18	9:00am Bible Study at Divine Providence 10:00am Worship at Divine Providence 5:30pm TFA in Minneota 6:00pm Family Bible Study at Bethany, Arco 6:15 pm TFA and P3 at Bethany, Arco				
Thursday, November 19	2:30pm Worship at Minneota Manor				
Friday, November 20	7:00am Bible Study at Bethany JR. HIGH GATHERING				
Saturday, November 21	JR. HIGH GATHERING				
Sunday, November 22	4:00pm Lake Benton Community Thanksgiving Service				
Monday, November 23	10:00am Bible Study at Grace				
Wednesday, November 25	9:00am Bible Study at Divine Providence NO TFA, P3 or Family Bible Study 7:00pm Ruthton Community Thanksgiving Service 7:00pm Minneota Community Thanksgiving Service 7:00pm Ivanhoe/Wilno Comm. Thanksgiving Service at St. P&P				
Thursday, November 26	HAPPY THANKSGIVING				
Friday, November 27	7:00am Bible Study at Arco				
Monday, November 30	10:00am Bible Study at Grace				

Cross Winds

Community News

New Saints through Baptism

Kaelynn Marie Kronbach on August 2 at Grace

Kade Lee Dougherty on September 19 at Bethany

Beckett Carl Nielsen on September 27 at Bethany-Elim

Kennedy Kay Rasmussen on October 11 at Bethany-Elim

Saints who have died

Ellen Frances Hansen of Peace on August 20

Jeanette Marie Nelsen of Grace on August 21

Norma Jean Burdick of Grace on August 31

Knute Harry Lund of Grace on September 8

Betty Blegen of Bethany on October 13

St. Paul's will hold its annual chili feed on Sunday, November 1st, 2015 from 4:30-7:00 P.M. Bring all your family and friends and enjoy out chili and all the fixin's!



Volume 11, Issue 9

Bethany

Bringing Everybody Together by Helping, Accepting and Nurturing YOU

Worship Aides

Altar Guild: Ilene Sorensen

Ushers: Randy and Jewel Noble

Lectors: 1—Marie Henriksen

8—Ron Madsen

15—Morgan Possail

22—Allan Lundberg

29—Ardis Henriksen

Assisting Ministers: 1—Marie Henriksen

15—Jewel Noble

Dates to Remember:

November 12, 1:30pm WELCA at Bethany-Elim

November 17, 7:30pm Bethany Church Council

December 12, 9:00am Christmas Cookie Walk

Bethany Cookie Walk is scheduled for December 12th. So the women of Bethany need to begin thinking about what their contribution will be. Christmas cookies will be needed for the sale. Further information will be sent out in late October.



Cross Winds

Bethany-Elim

Jesus Christ is Lord

Bethany-Elim Soup and Sandwich Luncheon and Bake Sale...a great success!

Thank you to all who helped make the Soup and Sandwich Luncheon and Bake Sale at Bethany-Elim a success. The fall day was lovely. The luncheon was delicious. The bake sale offered a wonderful variety of treats to take home. Thanks for your participation in the day. Thank you for your donations, for helping prepare and serve the meal, and for leaving the kitchen and dining hall clean and ready for its next event. The money from this project was pledged toward the replacement of the windows in the dining hall. A total of \$1716.00 has been recorded. Work on the windows will begin late this fall. Thank you for your support.

Bethany-Elim to host WELCA meeting in November

The November WELCA meeting will be held at Bethany-Elim on Thursday, November 12, beginning at 1:30. Women of Bethany are invited to attend.

Fall Gathering 2015

Fifty-four women of the Prairie Conference WELCA local units gathered at Christ Lutheran in Cottonwood on Saturday, October 3rd. They enjoyed Christian fellowship. There were workshops for local officers in which new information was passed along from the synod level. They heard Elise Williams' excellent presentation entitled, "*Hospice...Something More*".

Mark your calendars now for the Prairie Conference WELCA Spring Gathering. It will be held on Saturday, April 23, 2016, in the handicapped accessible Community Center in Ruthton, sponsored by Peace Lutheran. Bethany, Arco will provide morning coffee and treats.

Prayer Pals at Bethany-Elim

Prayer Pals were distributed on October 4 to members of Bethany-Elim. This is our 8th year participating in the Prayer Pal program and thanks to our faith-filled adults who work hard at making personal connections with our youth and sharing their faith...it continues to be a huge success. Thank you for praying for our youth, you are truly making a difference in their lives! God Bless You!

Cross Winds

Bethany-Elim

Jesus Christ is Lord

First Communion at Bethany-Elim

First Communion was held at Bethany-Elim on Sunday, October 11, with Vicar Ryan leading worship. The following students received their First Communion: Madison Lawrence, Megan Krog and Jadyne Krier. After worship, the congregation enjoyed a celebration luncheon to acknowledge this important milestone for Madison, Megan & Jadyne.

Pictured from left to right: Madison Lawrence, Megan Krog and Jadyne Krier.



Bible Class at Bethany-Elim

Karrie Richmond, third grader at Bethany-Elim, received her very own Bible on October 4.

An "Opening Your Bible Class" was given for the 3rd through 6th graders at Bethany-Elim on October 11. The students reviewed the books of the Bible, practiced finding Bible verses, and they loved seeing the special verses highlighted in their Bible by members of their family.

Pictured from left to right: Madison Lawrence, Karrie Richmond, Megan Krog, Jadyne Krier and Brady Gifford.



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Grace

To Love and Support Each Other, As We Grow in Faith

Worship Service 8:30am

November Ushers - Milo Downs, Don Evers, Wayne Fehrman, Martin Ritter

November Acolytes - Nov 1 Zach Miller, Nov 8 Tristen & Connor Simonsen, Nov 15 Tyson Weets & Brayden Kopinski, Nov 22 Becca Berkenpas, Nov 29 Jaxon Harstad

November Deacon - Karen Lichtsinn

November Altar Guild— Julienne Prosch

Confirmation

- Adam Czech, son of Mike and Tonia Czech
- Adrianna Johnson, daughter of Jerid and Mindy Johnson
- Blaine Hefti, son of Ken and Kim Hefti
- Caul Harstad, son of Denton and Charity Harstad
- Jayla Prosch, daughter of LaDon and Julienne Prosch
- Jaylen Miller, daughter of Brandee Miller

First Communion

- Autumn Tooley, daughter of Michael and Shayna Demuth
- Breelee Berkenpas, daughter of Barry and Tanya Berkenpas
- Ellie Frahm, daughter of Chad and Sandy Frahm
- Gary Sutherland, son of Tom and Linda Sutherland

Congratulations to you and your families. May the Lord Bless and watch over you as you continue your journey in Faith.

Volume 11, Issue 9

Grace

To Love and Support Each Other, As We Grow in Faith

Grace Sunday School News

Pat Johnson

Oct. 4 was a very special day for our church. Congratulations to our 1st communion students: Breelee Berkenpas, Ellie Frahm, Gary Sutherland, and Autumn Tooley and our confirmation students: Adam Czech, Caul Harstad, Adrianna Johnson, Jaylen Miller, Jayla Prosch, and Blaine Hefti for receiving the sacraments of communion and affirmation of baptism.

I am especially proud of these kids due to most of them starting Sunday school at the age of 3 & 4 while I have been the Sunday school superintendent. To watch them grow from little ones into such responsible young people makes my heart so happy.

You are all a very important part of our congregation. Please remember – even though you have reached these very special achievements we ask that you continue to remain very active in our church. You help keep our church alive and also the children in Sunday school and TFA are watching you so that they may follow in your footsteps.

May our God always watch over you and guide you. “In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make your paths straight”. Proverbs 3:6

Upcoming dates: November 29 – **No Sunday school** – Thanks giving break



Confirmation: (L to R) (Back) Adam Czech, Caul Harstad, Blaine Hefti. (Front) Jaylen Miller, Adrianna Johnson, Jayla Prosch

1st Communion: (L to R) Autumn Tooley, Breelee Berkenpas, Gary Sutherland, Ellie Frahm and Pastor Stephen

Cross Winds

Peace

To Spread the Gospel by being a community of believers that offer hope and hospitality to all.

Tuesday, October 6th-9:30 a.m. -St. Matthew Circle meets at the home of Barbara Petersen.
2:00 p.m. – St. Mark Circle meets at the home of Doretta Vinson.

Sunday, October 11th – PLCW Fall Fundraiser – Offering Alone

Monday, October 12th- 5 p.m. – St. John Circle meets at the Church.

Monday, October 26th- 9 a.m. – Quilting Day

PLCW Reminders:

Saturday, October 3 – 8:30 a.m. – Prairie Conference Fall Gathering – To be held at Christ Lutheran, Cottonwood.

Registration - \$10.00. Day begins with coffee and goodies at 8:30 a.m. and ends with a complimentary noon lunch.

PLCW Fall FundRaiser – Sunday, October 11th – Offering Alone. Offering to be placed in the Love Box. If unable to attend church, your offering may be mailed to the church, indicating on the memo line It is for the FundRaiser.



Trusting in Christ, Growing in Faith, Serving in Love

Worship Service starts at 8:30am

St. Paul will hold its annual chili feed on Sunday, November 1st, 2015 from 4:30-7:00 P.M. Bring all your family and friends and enjoy out chili and all the fixin's!

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank all our fellow Winds of the Prairie members for their fantastic support of our congregation during our chili feeds and our pie and ice cream socials. Your generous support enables us to continue our mission here at St. Paul's, and we are most truly grateful! We look forward to seeing you at the feed!

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Preaching Schedule

November	2015	Grace 8:30am	Peace 10:30am	Bethany 8:30am	St. Paul 8:30am	Bethany-Elim 10:30am	
Sunday, Nov 1st 2015	All Saints Holy/ Holy Communion	Rasmusson	Rasmusson	Anderson	Pusch	Pusch	The Kingdom is Divided White
Sunday, Nov 8th 2015	Service of the Word	Pusch	Pusch	Rasmusson	Anderson	Anderson	Fire from Heaven Green
Sunday, Nov 15th 2015	Service of the Word	Anderson	Anderson	Pusch	Rasmusson	Rasmusson	God's Love for God's Children Green
Sunday, Nov 22nd 2015	Christ the King/Holy Communion	Rasmusson Anderson/ Pusch 4:00pm Thanksgiving Service	Rasmusson	Anderson	Pusch	Pusch	Israel, God's Vineyard White
Wednesday, Nov 25th 2015	THANKSGIVING		Country Church 7:00pm Pusch	St. Peter and Paul 7:00pm Anderson	Hope 7:00pm Rasmusson	(St. Peter and Paul)	
Sunday, Nov 29th 2015	Service of the Word/ First Advent	Pusch	Pusch	Janice Zimmerman	Anderson	Anderson	Josiah Find the Scroll Blue

Cross Winds

Winds Extreme Youth

Your Youth Ministry Team had a meeting on September 30th. They discussed possible events for the winter and spring. If anyone has any ideas for events or activities please contact your Youth Ministry Team Member or Morgan Hoffman and they can get it into discussion.

Bethany Family Bible Study

Bethany Family Bible Study has kicked off with a Bang this year! We have between 21-25 kids each week. We are using a new curriculum, Whirl! We have snack and a craft every week as well. So far the kids have painted pumpkins, made friendship sandwiches, decorated their treasure boxes and made a Trinity Candy Corn.

Family Bible Study, TFA, P3

This year the Family Bible Study, TFA and P3 will all be in the same location, Bethany Lutheran in Arco! Family Bible Study will start at 6:00pm and end at 6:45pm. Snack will be provided and an offering will be taken. Parents, I encourage you to attend as this is a family bible discussion and fun time.

TFA will start at 6:15pm and end at 7:45pm

P3 will start at 6:15pm and end at 7:45pm.

Please Note: Faith 5 name has changed to Family Bible Study!!

Here is your Youth Ministry Team Board

Bethany Lutheran— Tammy Blegen and Lacey Barke

Bethany-Elm Lutheran— Susan, Ethan and Anna Krier

Grace Lutheran— Tonya and Adam Czech

Peace Lutheran— Tracey and Stephanie Kuhlman

St. Paul Lutheran— Sue and Hannah Buysee

Cross Winds

Prayer Concerns

Bethany: Please pray for Jonathan Henriksen (nephew to Marie and Ardis) Ila Rasmussen, Mable Dressen, Les Blegen, Eloise Hauschild, Buck Barber, Norma Renken, Travis Noble, Connie Clausen (mother of Brenda Possail). All of those with silent health issues. All our civilian volunteers & Military personnel who are seeking to do God's work in God's world.

Bethany-Elim: Pray for Clara Amundson, Chad Nuy, Sara, Regina Robinson (Scott Conner's mom), Kinsley Asmus, Michael Hunter, Bob Clausen, Esther Wayland, Anna Zafft (granddaughter of Harvey & Muriel Koopman), Richard Ellis, Ray Johnson, The family of Rhoda Larson, Bruce Kelm (brother of Gretchen Suhr); Gabriel Johnson (Grandson of Norma Jean Johnson); Mike Kropp (son-in-law of Ken Swanson); Mary Grace Nelson (daughter of Ryan and Kate); Nancy Resmen (sister-in-law of Bernadine Olsen), Ralph & Lynn Holland. Pray for the safety of all military men & women who are defending this nation, and the families and loved ones they leave behind to serve our country.

St. Paul: Please keep Lloyd Klug (Jim Klug's dad), Megan Boerboom, Jeff Kompelin & Clara DeRoode in your prayers. Pray for the safety of Adam DeRoode, Corey Gregor, Scott Johnson and all military men and women defending this nation, and the families and loved ones they leave behind to serve our country.

Peace: Brian & Bobbie Lensing and twins Sawyer & Samuel, Bonita Fuhrmann, Carolyn Holck, Rosmary Hartson, Edwin Ewald, Ellen Hansen, Edna Haraldsen, Cliff Kittelson, Lois Studemann, Byron Stelton, Philip Lingen (Armed Forces) and the families of LeRoy Hartson and Lois Trout.

Grace: Jim Hershberger, Karen Fredricks, Romelle Pritchett, Don Evers, Carl Burk, Marg Selken (sister to Dorothy Henningsen), Jodi Reese (daughter of Joyce Nielsen & sister to Kim Hefti), Jeanette Nelsen, Allan Johnson, Marian Bennett, Naomi Enke, Norma Burdick, Annette Fehrman and Earl & Joan Klitzke. All those with health issues that are silent. All our civilian volunteers & Military personnel who are seeking to do God's work in God's world.

PRAYER
changes things

Volume 11, Issue 9

Prayer Concerns

Tyler Nursing Home

Cliff Kittleson, Carolyn Holck and Bonnie Fuhrmann (Peace), and Annette Ferhman (Grace)

Hendricks Nursing Home

Ila Rasmussen (Bethany), Norma Burdick (Grace), Naomi Enke (Grace) and Ruth Josephson (Bethany-Elim)

Divine Providence Nursing Home

Mabel Dressen and Esther Wayland (Bethany-Elim)

Missionaries

Pray for those who follow God's calling to spread His word and love.

Military

Pray for the leaders of this great nation and all nations of the world. Pray for those who follow the calling to protect our freedom . Pray for all of the families of military and government members.





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Winds of the Prairie Ministry Contact Information

Phone Numbers

Pastor Stephen Rasmusson 507-829-9164 (Cell) rasmus@frontiernet.net

Pastor Julie Anderson 507-215-2388 (Cell) pastorjuliea@frontiernet.net

Vicar Ryan Pusch 262-707-3038 (Cell) beparsonage1@froniter.com

WOTP Office: 507-694-1238

Bethany Lutheran 507-487-5530 Bethany-Elim Lutheran 507-694-1353

Grace Lutheran 507-368-4243 Peace Lutheran 507-658-3329

St. Paul's Lutheran 507-872-6605

WOTPM's email: windsoftheprairieministries@gmail.com

WOTPM website: windsoftheprairie.org

Secretary's Office Hours

Monday—Thursday 8:30am to 1:30 pm