



October 2010

CrossWinds

Newsletter of Winds of the Prairie

FIRST WORD

6 PLACES FOR FAITH FORMATIVE RELATIONSHIPS

Pastor Julie A. K. Anderson

We continue to build the frame of Vibrant Faith. In review we have looked at the Christian's characteristics to be **Authentic, Available, and Affirming**. Faith is practiced through **Caring Conversations, Devotions, Service, Rituals and traditions**.

The **5 Principles** for living and passing on faith:

- **Faith is formed by the power of the Holy Spirit through personal, trusted relationships-often in our own homes.**
- **The church is a living partnership between the ministry of the congregation and ministry of the home.**
- **Where Christ is present in faith, the home is church, too.**
- **Faith is caught more than it is taught.**
- **If we want Christian children and youth, we need Christian adults.**

Now we come to the places where we find the people for the Spirit blows in six places or locations where the potential exists for faith formative relationships to happen.

- 1. Creation** is what Christians live in each day in a state of harmony by recognizing, receiving, celebrating and caring for the handiwork that God gives us to care for.
- 2. Culture** is the place where people of all ages gather under a common understanding of behaviors and norms in their lives. As different cultures come together we see a broader and deeper image of the one God.
- 3. Community** is the place where Christians live their daily life by learning and serving each other as they daily response of what faith in Christ means.
- 4. Congregation** are places of safety where all ages are welcome and nurtured in their faith to live out their lives of faith in the midst of their communities and the larger world.
- 5. Homes** are equipped and strengthened by their congregation to be the primary nurturers of faith. It is the daily living out of faith in home, following the example of parents, grandparents and neighbors, where children learn to follow the path of faith.
- 6. Children and Youth** are young disciples of God that are exploring and using their God-given gifts in purposeful ministry that inspires us all.

So What Now

Having an understanding and awareness of this framework makes it simpler for our children and youth to build a life-transforming faith in Jesus Christ. Save this article and put it on your refrigerator or in your Bible as a bookmark so that you will look at it often. Pick one point of each segment to focus on for a week and look for opportunities to use them. Change each week until you are familiar with all points.

When we live our faith daily in our thoughts, words and deeds we set before each other and especially our youth what it means to believe in a loving and gracious God. This God is one who would have us live as children who are free from the burden that sin brings into our lives. By dropping the pretense that we are in control we are better able to be of service through love to each other.

Let us find the place, physically and spiritually, where we are living and passing on a principled faith that uses four keys to practice this faith which gives us the character of a Christian. By following these points we can't help but show the world a vibrant faith.

NOTES FROM THE INTERN

Vicar Jackie Braun

And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it, assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, 'Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety.' He said to them, 'Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house? But they did not understand what he said to them. Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favour. Luke 2:41-52

Wow – it is hard to believe that after a year of planning, waiting, praying and hoping, I have settled into the Vicarage in Ivanhoe and have been installed as the student pastor of Winds of the Prairie Ministry. I have felt the warm Minnesota welcome I have heard so much about and beginning to feel a rhythm to my days and weeks.

As I have prepared and began internship, I have thought about the one and only story we have of Jesus as a child. Jesus' family is returning home after celebrating the festival of Passover in Jerusalem and after traveling for a day, Jesus' parents discover that Jesus is not with them. Can you only imagine the fear and anxiety which filled their hearts as they searched for their lost son, not for a few minutes but 3 full days? Jesus is finally found sitting among the teachers at the temple in Jerusalem. Jesus returns home with his family and Jesus grew in wisdom and stature and favor with God and man.

What stands out for me is not only identifying with Joseph and Mary as a parent, but hearing that Jesus, the Son of God, grew physically and in wisdom. Jesus too learned within the context of community. Jesus leaves his family and goes to the temple to learn among the rabbi's. There are times when we too must step away from what is known, familiar and go to those who can teach us what we need to learn. This fall many children have started Sunday School for the first time, others will begin confirmation, some head off for Kindergarten, and others have started their senior year in high school. Some will leave for college, a job in a distant city or military training and others may choose to remain in their community working and learning alongside family and friends. Jesus also returns home with his mother and father and all those who traveled with them and continues to grow.

The only story of Jesus as a child and the details are slim to none. Jesus grew in stature and in wisdom and in favor with God and man. It seems how it happened, the successes and failures of the journey and all who influenced this process are not as important as the fact that it happened. That daily Jesus shared in the life of the community – living, working, praying, eating and sharing alongside his family, friends and all those who lived in Nazareth. Jesus did as we do and just like him, we sometimes are called away to new places to live and to learn and sometimes we are called to remain and share in our daily routines – challenging and encouraging one another, through sharing our source of hope and strength, with those we have known all of our lives and those we have just met. I thank you for sharing your lives – your community with me and inviting me to share mine with you - trusting that in Christ growth will happen. Please stop by the office at Arco or give me a call as I am looking forward to meeting everyone.

PREACHING SCHEDULE

Sunday Schedule

		Bethany (8:30)	Grace (8:30)	Peace (10:30)	St. Paul (8:30)	Bethany-Elim (10:30)
October 3	Holy Communion	Anderson	Rasmusson	Rasmusson	Braun	Braun
October 10	Service of the Word	Braun	Anderson	Anderson	Rasmusson	Rasmusson
October 17	Holy Communion	Braun	Anderson	Anderson	Rasmusson	Rasmusson
October 24	Service of the Word	Rasmusson	Braun	Braun	Anderson	Anderson
October 31	Holy Communion	Rasmusson	Braun	Braun	Anderson	Anderson

Saturday Schedule

All services 5:30 pm		Bethany	Grace	Peace	St Paul	Bethany-Elim
October 2	Holy Communion	Anderson				
October 9	Holy Communion			Braun		
October 16	Holy Communion					Braun
October 23	Holy Communion		Rasmusson			
October 30	Holy Communion				Rasmusson	

PASTOR'S REPORT FOR AUGUST 16, 2010 TO SEPTEMBER 15, 2010

Worship	Education	Meetings	Pastoral Acts	Visits
4- Sundays Worships @ 5 congregations	7- Bible/Book Study	3- Council/Meeting	3-Funeral	45- Home
5- Nursing Home	3-TFA	2-WELCA	0-Baptism	2-Hospital
3-Wednesday Worship	0-VBS	1-WXY	2-Counseling	
1-Saturday Night	1-Continuing Education	4-Synod	1- Wedding/Blessing	
		0-LCC	0-Affirmation of Baptism	
		1-Public Event		

WOTP WEBSITE

Start at our website, www.windsoftheprairie.org. There you will find our most recent newsletter, worship times, prayer opportunities, activities, weather-related announcements, and stories of faith.

Our webmaster is Emilrose Rasmusson and can be reached at wotweb@frontier.com. If you have any questions, comments, or content, please contact her via email.

You may also want to check out the activities of our Synod at www.swmnelca.org. For daily devotionals go to www.luthersem.edu

ACTS OF THE CHURCH

Marriages

Jynnefer Sugar Raiyn Maranel and Mathias Ollion of Paris, France had a blessing of a Civil Marriage that was performed on August 22, 2009 at LePhysainte Reparade. The blessing was in Lake Benton with Pastor Steve Rasmusson.

Deaths

Audrey Ranheim of Pipestone, MN at Peace on August 26 with Pastor Anderson officiating.
Eleanor L. Worth of Lake Benton, MN at Grace on September 11 with Pastor Anderson officiating.

HAVE INFORMATION FOR THE WEBSITE OR NEWSLETTER?

Please direct all newsletter and website-related content to wotweb@frontier.com.

WINDS OF THE PRAIRIE COUNCIL

By Karen Richmond, President

Our churches are gearing up with fall activities. Sunday School and Confirmation classes are now in full swing. We are happy to welcome Vicar Jackie into our midst.

We have three Standing Committees that report to the WOTP Council. They are Internship, Mutual Ministries, and Personnel. Each committee consists of five members, one from each of the five churches. The Internship Committee follows the guidelines of working with the intern. The Mutual Ministry Committee helps the pastors and parish work well together. They provide pastoral care and support. The Personnel Committee is task oriented. They review goals and make recommendations to the WOTP council concerning salaries.

The next WOTP council meeting is at Grace in Lake Benton on Tuesday, October 12th. Our Winds of the Prairie Council will begin to look at budget items for the year 2011. We need to set the WOTP budget in a timely manner so that each individual church has time to set their budget before the annual meetings after the first of the year. We continue to be blessed with excellent pastoral leadership and reliable, willing volunteers within our parish. It takes every member to do their part to achieve our mission, to “*nourish the faith, reach out with the good news of Christ and to serve our neighbors and the world.*” Thanks to each of you.

FALL THEOLOGICAL CONFERENCE

Soon, Pastor Steve, Pastor Julie and Vicar Jackie will be traveling to Mount Carmel Family Camp in Alexandria, MN for the 2010 Fall Theological Conference, “Evangelized: Receiving and Practicing God’s Gift of Forgiveness.” The conference is hosted by the Southwestern Minnesota Synod and designated as an “official synodical event”, which means all pastors and associates in ministry under call or appointment are expected to attend. Registration opens at 4 pm on

Sunday, September 26 and the conference ends on Wednesday, September 29th with worship. The speakers are Rev Dr Frederick Niedner, Professor of Theology at Valparaiso University, and Rev Dr Janet Ramsey, is *Pastor George Wienman Chair of Pastoral Theology and Ministry*, at Luther Seminary. Please mark your calendars that the Pastors and Vicar Jackie will be out of the office September 26 through September 29.

FROM THE BISHOP

Regarding Vicar Jackie's Presiding at Holy Communion: Intern Jackie Braun is not a pastor. At the request of our congregational leadership, she has been authorized by the synodical bishop to preside at the sacrament of Holy Communion in our worship life and for home communion visits within our parish. The authorization is granted in accord with the ELCA’s guiding statement, The Use of the Means of Grace, which says, In witness that this sacrament is a celebration of the Church, serving its unity, an ordained minister presides in the service of Holy Communion and proclaims the Great Thanksgiving. Where it is not possible for an extended period of time to provide ordained pastoral leadership, a synodical bishop may authorize a properly trained lay person to preside for a specified period of time and in a given location only.

INTERN CLUSTER MEETING

On Tuesday, October 19, from 10 am to 4 pm, Bethany-Elim you will see some new faces gathering for a day of worship and discussion. Bethany-Elim will be hosting will be the Fall Internship Cluster Meeting.

Rev. Steve McKinley, the Luther Seminary Contextual Leadership staff person assigned to “oversee” the Twin Cities area and southern MN and South Dakota internship sites/interns, will be here as well 10 others serving as intern supervisors and their accompanying interns. We will begin with morning worship, enjoy a noon meal as we begin to share in this journey of internship together and end with an afternoon of continued discussion. What an exciting opportunity to give others a picture of rural ministry in Southwestern MN; as well as a time, where we can encourage and sharpen one another in our walk in faith in Christ Jesus.

PRAIRIE FIRE



The Spirited News of the Prairie Conference

22 congregations and ministries of the Southwestern Minnesota Synod of the ELCA make up the Prairie Conference who work together on missions locally and globally. The Executive Committee wants you to be informed of upcoming events, opportunities and preparations.

With a new year comes a series of new beginnings.

- Jackie Braun of Brookings is the new intern at Winds of the Prairie Ministry in Lincoln County. She has been studying in Sioux Falls at the Sioux Falls Seminary in affiliation with Luther Seminary through the Augustana Luther House of Study.

Rev. Julie Anderson, Conference Secretary

THRIVENT



Annual Meeting

"The Lincoln County Thrivent Chapter is holding their annual meeting on **Sunday, October 10, 2010 at St. John's Lutheran Church in Lake Benton beginning at 2:00 PM.** Because a large number of the Thrivent members in Lincoln, Lyon, Murray and Pipestone Counties have been transferred to the new Thrivent Community prototype that our area field representatives, Arlyn Stokesbury and Greg Nolting, have agreed to try. This leaves a smaller number of members to be part of the Chapter program, which is the program that handles benevolence projects. At a joint meeting of Board members from all four counties it was decided that we would establish two (2) Chapter units as sub-committees of the Thrivent Community. Those Chapters will be Lincoln/Lyon and Murray/Pipestone. At our meeting on October 10th we will need to elect five (5) at-large members to be on the Lincoln/Lyon Chapter Board. Lyon County has already had their meeting and election. Once the members from each county have been identified, they will determine amongst themselves who will hold what position on the new Board. We will begin the annual meeting with a detailed explanation of the Thrivent Community prototype

and give information about Thrivent Choice, which is the method by which benefit members can designate how they want the dollars assigned to them distributed. After the meeting we will serve a meal and draw for door prizes. We hope to see you there."

Thrivent Choice

In 2009 alone, Thrivent Financial provided \$113 million to help congregations, communities and nonprofit organizations. Giving back makes an important impact in people's lives. Members who own Thrivent Financial products help make this support possible. Look at the letter that was recently and will soon be sent to you.

Thrivent Choice lets you help choose where some of Thrivent Financial's charitable outreach funds go by directing Choice DollarsSM and by participating in Voting Events. See program details on the Thrivent website www.thrivent.com. Use your MyThrivent user ID and password to log in and get started. If you aren't signed up yet, register now to participate in Choice DollarsSM and Voting Events. You may designate your local congregation or Winds of the Prairie Ministry to receive all or part of your Choice Dollars for every little bit helps.

Global Mission



How We Work

Learn more about [the concept of accompaniment](#), which guides the way the ELCA engages in mission outside the United States and the Caribbean.

Engage in Global Mission

And discover [new ways you can engage in global mission](#), by relating, serving, praying, learning, supporting, and worshipping with Lutheran Christians around the world.



Who We Are

In this section, learn how [we as Lutherans](#) continue to be transformed as we build up the global body of Christ together with [churches and agencies](#) around the world.

Where We Work

Find out how you, as an ELCA member, already participate in God's mission in [more than 90 countries](#).



**Please Join Us at Bethany-Elim, Ivanhoe,
on Wednesday, Oct. 6th
For our Annual Luncheon & Bake Sale**

Serving 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

**Super Soups,
Scrumptious Sandwiches,
and Bang-up Bars!**

BIBLE STUDIES TO FEED US

Are you hungry for God's Word? There are multiple opportunities to gather with fellow disciples of our ministry to learn and study the Bible. No previous experience or training is necessary to be part of these gatherings.

Bad Girls of the Bible: A study of some of the women of the Bible.
2nd and 4th Mondays at 6:30pm at Grace Lutheran
2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 10:00 am at Bethany-Elm

Weekly Lectionary Readings Reflection on Wednesdays at 8:30 am at the Buffalo Ridge Trading and Coffee Company.

Book of Faith and Breakfast at Café in Ivanhoe at 7:15 am on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday. We begin with a study of Genesis.

If anyone is interested in another time and place for a Bible Study contact a pastor for help in getting one together.

Friday Morning

Breakfast in Arco at 7:00 am continues to traverse through the Book of Acts.

Saturday Men's Study on the second Saturday at 7:30am in Tauton and 8 am on the third Saturday in Lake Benton at Buffalo Ridge Trading and Coffee Company.

You are welcome to come to any of these studies. If anyone is interested in another time and place for a Bible Study contact a pastor for help in getting one together.



FAMILY FAITH

By Nancy Krog

Please enjoy the family devotion below. Our family has had fun with the pumpkins we planted in our garden this year. The kids are amazed at how far the vines can reach...even way into daddy's corn field! The girls love spotting which pumpkin turned from orange to green, seemingly overnight. Count your pumpkins and your blessings this fall and may you all have a bountiful harvest, whatever you choose to grow.

PUMPKIN PATCH

Today's Reading: Colossians 1:3-14

All over the world this Gospel is bearing fruit and growing, just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and understood God's grace in all its truth. Colossians 1:6.

Faith Walk: Explore a pumpkin patch. Check out the soil, the vines, and the leaves. Look for pumpkins of different sizes. See how many stages of growth you can find.

Faith Talk: From one pumpkin seed grows a vine that produces a number of pumpkins. The pumpkin vine spreads through the pumpkin patch. The seed of God's Word, the Gospel, bears the fruit of believers. The Christian church has spread through the world, producing believers on every continent. We can help grow the fruit of believers by sharing the Gospel with everyone we meet. What is our role in the growth of the church?

Our Response to God's Grace: Dear Jesus, Our True Vine, You are the Vine; we are your branches. It is the Gospel of Your love for us that bears fruit. Help us, like the pumpkin plant, to spread Your Gospel through the world. In Your name, Amen.

(Family Faith Walks, Kelly J. Haack) Youth Protection Training

Follow-Up Activities:

- Carve a cross in a pumpkin and set it on your front steps or in a window as a symbol to those who pass by.
- Place a candle inside the pumpkin and recall that Christ calls us to be a light of His Gospel.
- Clean and dry pumpkin seeds. After they have dried, brush them with oil, sprinkle them with salt, and toast them in the oven at 325° for 10 minutes. Remember that the seed of faith begins with God's Word.
- Have a pumpkin party. Serve toasted pumpkin seeds, pumpkin pie, and hot apple cider. Play pin the nose on the Jack-O-Lantern. Use paints to decorate pumpkins with Christian symbols.

TRAINING FOR AFFIRMATION: OCTOBER VENTURES

This is not your typical confirmation preparation for we are coming together with our fellow ELCA Lutherans in Lincoln and Lyon counties as the L3, to give our youth a richer, educational experience.



- Groups meet on Wednesdays based on school districts with the following arrangement:
 - RTR/Pipestone/Elkton-Lake Benton meet at 5:30 pm to 7:30 in Tyler at the ROCK.
 - Lincoln HI students meet at 6:00 to 8:00 pm in Hendricks at Christ Lutheran.
 - Minneota meet at 5:30 pm to 7:30 at Hope Lutheran.

- The second Sunday of the month, October 10 from 5:30 to 7:30 pm in Minneota at St Paul Lutheran for students, parents and mentors to learn about Lutheran Worship around fellowship and fun.

October Schedule of Instruction

Date	Tyler @ ROCK	Hendricks @ Christ Lutheran Church	Minneota @ Hope Lutheran Church
6-Oct-10	Temptation, Trail and Deliverance-Lyle, Jackie & Doris	Take and Eat-Julie & Tom	Article Three-Bogie & Steve
13-Oct-10	Conclusion and Review- Lyle, Doris,	Saved by Grace Through Faith-Steve & Tom	Introduction to the 10 Commandments- Julie & Bogie
20-Oct-10	MEA	No Classes	
27-Oct-10	Creed Overview- Doris & Steve	Augsburg Confession: Word Alone -Lyle & Julie	Exploring the Commandments Part One- Bogie, Jackie, Tom

Begin by Creating a User Profile: You're invited to join the adventure.

1. Visit your congregation's custom Here We Stand URL:
<http://windstfa.herewestandconfirmation.org>
2. Under "Request an Account", complete the requested information and click "Submit".
3. You'll be prompted with "Thank You" screen. This confirms that your "account access request" has been successfully submitted.
4. You will receive a confirmation email welcoming you to Here We Stand once your account administrator has approved your request.

WINDS EXTREME YOUTH NEWS

✠ **Paintball Party** - The Scott Lawrences will host a paintball part at Shondra's father's farm on October 3rd at 2 pm. Parental permission must be granted. Other outdoor games will be offered for those who are not able to play paintball. Bring a set of loose fitting clothes and your parental permission slip. The cost for supplies will be announced, but expect it to be around \$5.00.

✠ **Junior High Gathering** - The big fall event for Junior Hi is the Synod Gathering. We will go on Friday November 19th for the big overnight at the Willmar Holiday Inn and Conference Center. The theme this year is "Are You Hungry?" Our band and speaker will be AGAPE - a great Christian Hip Hop artist whose youth ministry experience will wow you. Check him out at: <http://www.hiphopoutreach.com/>

Registrations will be \$60/person and are due by September 26. Be sure to check with your congregational leaders about possible scholarships.

✠ **SLEEPOUT** - Senior High youth are invited to join us in an overnight at Gustavus Adolphus College. You are invited to join your youth leaders along with Pastor Grady St. Dennis and political science professor Dr. Richard Leitch in spending one night without a home.

The purpose of this event is to raise awareness of homelessness and learn about hunger issues, and think about what is being done and can be done to end hunger and homelessness in our communities. Giving even one night will make a difference!

On the night of the event, participants must check-in by 7pm in Christ Chapel. Each participant is asked to bring a non-perishable food gift for the local food shelf. Cardboard boxes will be available for those who would like to sleep outdoors. The Chapel will be open the entire time and participants are welcome to sleep indoors. Participants should wear appropriate clothing.

This event will occur rain, snow or shine. There is NO COST to participate except for transportation- however; all Youth Leaders must pre-register the group by November 8.

✠ **Election of Officers and yearly planning** - We will elect officers for the year and finalize our plans for our monthly meetings. Our last meeting gave us a great list of ideas, but we need to come up with committees to make sure they happen!

✠ **Summer Plans** - Oh, be thinking about our summer events. As of yet we have lots of options, but we need to settle on one or two very soon. Possibilities for major summer events include: A servant trip to Washington, DC or the Denver area, Eagle Butte Habitat for Humanity trip, a jaunt to the Boundary Waters, and a "Reverse Servant Trip" where we host a youth group from the cities for a servant trip in our area. We will decide among these options at the meeting on October 3rd.

"They only asked one thing, that we remember the poor ..."
- **Galatians 2:10**

✠ ARTHRITIS FOUNDATION FUNDRAISER

✠ Our own Jill Daniels, from Bethany Lutheran, Arco, is the 2010 "Honoree" and member of the arthritis foundation sponsoring the Jingle Bell Run/Walk.

✠ Southwest MN Jingle Bell Run/Walk

✠ Marshall, MN

✠ Saturday, November 13, 2010

✠ Registration at 9:00 a.m.

✠ Marshall Middle School

✠ Choose the 5K run or one mile walk. Make your pledges now. Help raise awareness and funds to support research and programs for prevention, control and cure of arthritis. For more information check out: <http://southwestmnjbr2010.kintera.org>



**2010 Southwest MN Jingle Bell Run/Walk Honoree
Jill Daniels, Age 30**

Jill Daniels is one of the more than 900,000 Minnesotans living with the pain of arthritis. Three years ago, Jill's life was plagued with pain of the shoulder, elbow and neck. It grew so intense that she could hardly lift herself out of bed to assist her crying baby. Jill was diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis and has since been working on a medication plan that allows her lead a normal life. "I was relived in some weird way that it was RA. That meant I wasn't crazy. What I was feeling was real and it had a name."

In May of 2010 Jill's doctor told her the good news: her RA was in remission. "My RA has been a learning experience for me and my family as a whole. Together, we are living the adventure and learning along the way."

Join Jill at the Southwest MN Jingle Bell Run/Walk to raise awareness and funds to support research and programs for the prevention, control and cure of arthritis.

BETHANY NEWS

By Gayle Rasmussen

Where did summer go? Fall brings us school (including our church education), harvest, and colorful times with many busy times.

Rally day! What a nice day by the lake, and a terrific service, to honor our teachers and students. Also a great pancake brunch. Thanks for everyone who made it a fun time.

When you read this we will have served our Chicken Dinner. Thank you all for your efforts to make it a successful time.

We hope that all farmers have a safe and successful harvest. What a busy season. Now we should say thank you to God for the gifts he has given us.

The council will be starting to put together the budget for the coming year. A lot of thought and concern goes into the planning for the new year. Any opinions and ideas are welcome from all.

Have a great Fall!

Peace be with you fits the season.

BETHANY WELCA TO MEET

The October meeting of Bethany WELCA will be held Thursday, October 14, at the church in Arco. The meeting will begin at 1:30 p.m. The program for this month will be a Bible Mystery Event lead by Ilene Sorensen. Marie Henriksen will serve lunch.

CHICKEN DINNER THANK YOU

Members of Bethany Lutheran extend a "Thank You" to all the people who supported us by attending the Chicken Dinner served on Sunday, September 19. Thanks also to all the members who worked, as well as providing the food, so the event would be successful. The numbers were down slightly but it was a beautiful day giving people a chance to have a wonderful meal.

OCTOBER WORSHIP ASSISTANTS AT BETHANY

USHERS: Donald and Delores Oerter

ALTAR GUILD: Lynette Madsen

B-E SERVICE AUCTION THANK-YOU

What an overwhelming response to the Service Auction! A huge "Thank You" to all who donated, attended, and took part in this fun event. Kevin & Andrew Swanson did an awesome job, and we say THANKS! Nancy Krog and her kitchen helpers did super on the lunch, and we say THANKS! The clean up crew who took care of tables and chairs were great help, and we say THANKS! For everyone who so generously gave monetary donations, we say THANKS!

In all we raised \$6,885.00. With the funds raised we were able to pay off our bank loan and put \$2,500 in the building fund account towards church needs. As a Church Council, we put out the call for support (and fun) and the Bethany-Elim Church Family came through with their giving hearts in the Spirit of our Lord—thank you to everyone!

Kyle, Brandon, Loretta, Sharon, Bernie O. and Sherry -- Bethany-Elim Church Council

BETHANY-ELIM TO CELEBRATE 125 YEARS!

Please join us in celebrating the 125th Anniversary of our Congregation at Bethany-Elim Lutheran Church on Saturday, October 2nd, 2010. A Worship Service & Program will begin at 2 p.m., followed by refreshments.



BETHANY-ELIM SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

By Nancy Krog

Rally Day began on September 12th and the Lord provided a beautiful day for the children to play outdoor games. On September 26 the children sang in church and collected their first noisy offering for our missionary, Heidi Epple, who is working hard to spread God's word in Africa. The following third graders received their Bibles: Kimberly Bloch, Molly Krog and Cody Gifford. We pray that they enjoy reading the stories in their Bible and the special passages that their family wrote inside the front cover as well. Prayer Pals assignments have been distributed. Thanks to all the adult Prayer Pals for making a commitment to pray for the youth of our church! The kids are sooo excited!

Children will be singing in church on October 17th! During October we will be learning about Creation and Baby Moses.

A big thank you to the BE church council for organizing our first Service Auction. We had a great church family day...and together we raised a considerable amount of money for our church. Thanks to all who donated bars, pop, and water and to those who said, "keep the change" when paying your bill, you helped the "lunch stand" make more profit! Thanks to Kevin and Andrew Swanson for sharing your talents as auctioneers! You made the auction fun and entertaining and helped pull in some high bids!

Have a blessed harvest!

NEWS FROM GRACE LUTHERAN

By Darren Nelsen, President

Sunday School has started already and new Bibles given out. This brings us to our next big event. The Fall Family Fun Event it will be held Saturday, October 23rd. There will be lawns to rake for leaves and pumpkin carving after the raking. The raking starts at 12:30pm, followed by pumpkin carving at Grace Lutheran Church. The meal will be grilled cheese sandwiches and soup at 4:30pm at Grace. Saturday night services will follow at 5:30pm at Grace. All are welcome.

Furthering our Mission Ideas for 2010, there will be rides to church for anyone who needs a ride now and especially this winter--with the icy and snowy weather we expect in the wintertime. Please contact Faye Rochel or Darren Nelsen if rides are needed.

I would like to welcome Vicar Jackie Braun as our new intern for the coming year. It should be another great year with our latest intern.

God Bless and I hope it quits raining one of these days.

GRACE NOTES & DATES

Wednesday, October 6, 1:30pm – GLCW in the Fellowship Room. Program is “Life’s a Purse.” Devotions by Garnet Petersen. Hostesses: Bonnie Nueberger and Jan Brockhouse

Wednesday, October 13, 1:30pm – Bible Study. Hostess is Eva Otkin

Ushers for October: Don Weets, Jim Berenpass, Barry Berkenpass, Steve Bennett

Altar Guild for October: Darlene Willert

A REMINDER FOR GRACE MEMBERS

The annual GLCW fundraiser is now in progress. If you haven't all ready given your donation, please do so as soon as possible. It is our hope that we can hear from every family by October 1st. Many thanks to those who have all ready contributed.

PEACE LUTHERAN NOTES & DATES

Sundays – Sunday School – 9:15 a.m.

Morning Worship - 10:30 a.m.

Monday, Oct. 4, 5:30pm -- St. John Circle meets at the church

Tuesday, Oct. 5, 9am – St. Matthew Circle meets at the Shirley Knutson home.

Tuesday, Oct. 5, 2pm -- St. Mark Circle meets at the Deloris Dagele home.

Saturday, Oct. 9, 8:45am -- Prairie Conf. Fall Gathering – Tracy

Sunday, Oct. 10 -- PLCW Fall Fundraiser – Offering Alone

Wednesday, Oct. 13, 2pm – PLCW meeting. Program – Barbara Petersen; Devotions – Joyce Peters; Offering Meditation – Doretta Vinson; Hostesses-St. Mark Circle

Monday, Oct. 25, 9am – Quilting Day

PLCW MEMBERS

Saturday, October 9-Prairie Conference Fall Gathering at the Tracy Lutheran Church, Tracy, MN. Registration begins at 8:45 a.m. - \$5 which includes morning coffee and lunch. The In-kind offering – new or gently used mittens or hats for children in need.

Sunday, October 10 – PLCW Fall Fundraiser – Offering Alone – This year there are NO Matching

Funds from Thrivent, so the offering that is given is the amount that we will have to use to give to various projects.

HAPPY CELEBRATION

On Saturday, October 2, 1:30 – 4:30 P.M. there will be an Open House at the Ruthton Community Center where you can come and help Chester and Barbara Petersen celebrate their 55th Wedding Anniversary and their 80th Birthdays.

ST. PAUL'S NEWS

Looking back... Vacation Bible School was a great experience August 9-13, 2010. The group effort between St. Paul's, St. Edward's and Hope Lutheran led to a successful week. Minneota's Boxelder Bug Days found Winds of the Prairie and St. Paul's Lutheran well represented in the Parade on September 12th. Thanks to the hard work and creativity of Mary and Dave Gislason for designing a beautiful float for members and staff to ride on. The kids along the parade route love the hands full of candy that were thrown at them.

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Now....TFA is in session with Megan Boerboom and Hannah Buysse attending. Students meet from 5:30-7:30 each Wednesday evening at Hope Lutheran Church. Pastors from the WOTP, Tyler and other area churches rotate to each site for their specialized instruction. Once a month all TFA sites gather for a family-centered evening. This is the second Sunday of the month. St. Paul's will be hosting this event on October, 10. We look forward to filling our sanctuary that evening.

Looking forward.... All our welcome to our annual Chili- Supper on Sunday October 24th from 5-7 pm. Last year we had a wonderful crowd and are now preparing even more chili for great crowds again.

Best Wishes and Congratulations to Agnes Severson who will be 100 years old on October 13th. We wish you healthy and happy years to come!!!!

May the Lord bless you yesterday, today and tomorrow as we work to do his Will.

BEGINNING EXPERIENCE

Beginning Experience of Southwest Minnesota, a peer ministry support group for widowed, separated and divorced people has several offerings this winter.

Weekend Retreat - "A Path to Healing" - A weekend providing an individual with the opportunity to encounter self and to grow with a purpose to achieve inner peace. The experience is to help close the door gently on the past and move on with renewed hope and purpose. The weekend retreat will be held at Shetek Lutheran Ministries and is scheduled for October 15-17, 2010. Early registrations are encouraged.

Level I Series for eight weeks beginning November 1, 2010. The Monday night sessions begin at 7:00 P.M. at the First Lutheran Church on Church and "A" Street in Marshall, MN.

Registration is held the first two Monday nights starting at 6:30 P.M. Registration is then closed for that session. The support group is open to people of all denominations. There is a fee to cover the cost of materials. This series is designed for those wishing to work through the grieving process

If you have any questions or wish to register, please contact Karen at 507-532-0922 or email kmpokey@hotmail.com.

following the loss of a loved one through death, divorce or separation. All dialogue is confidential and facilitators are trained individuals who have suffered a similar loss.

Level II "Rebuilding" series for ten weeks beginning January 24, 2011. The Monday night sessions begin at 7:00 P.M. at the First Lutheran Church on Church and "A" Street in Marshall, MN. Registration is held the first two Monday nights starting at 6:30 P.M. Registration is then closed for that session. The support group is open to people of all denominations. There is a fee to cover the cost of materials. This series is designed for those who are past the initial pain of losing a partner and are working to put their lives back together. All dialogue is confidential and facilitators are individuals who have suffered a similar loss.

BOTSWANA UPDATE—HEIDI EPPLE

By Anna Epple

It's hard to believe that it has been 3 years already since Heidi's last visit home. When she left to return to Botswana, she was unsure as to what the Lord would lead her to do. She returned to her house in Kumakwane and got reacquainted with everyone. It did not take long before the village children started to return to her house. The feeling that we have gotten is that Heidi's house is a safe

and caring place where the village children can go after school and on weekends. Heidi teaches them about Jesus and how He loves them. She also provides a meal after school and during school break, probably providing some of the children the only meal they receive a day. Most days she has 30 – 45 children in her yard.

For the past 6 months she has struggled with water, electricity, and phone problems. The last time that Lorens' parents were able to call was late May. Email is somewhat better, but that is also hit and miss since she's had computer issues as well. It's very difficult to find repair people and if you do find someone they are on Botswana time – very slow!

Heidi's biggest news to us in April is that she became a foster parent for Katlego, a girl who is 14 and Bokang who is a 10 year old boy. They were living in the village with a lady who had taken care of them for years and she is no longer able to do that. Their mother and grandmother have both passed away and there are no aunts who can care for them. Their grandfather is sometimes on call at his job in Gaborone and is unable to stay with them. They had shown up at Heidi's house several times in the night because they locked out of the house they were staying at. This arrangement has been made for year until Heidi returns home next May.

Bokang has mouth deformity that requires a lot of special speech therapy. Heidi wasn't sure how to do the speech therapy, but had asked God to direct her path on how to help him. She found some different sized horns and a recorder, so now he is learning how to close his mouth and make blowing motions. She also does other speech exercises with him and is teaching him what he would learn in school.

Before the foster parent idea had been discussed, a single bed was delivered to her door. She was a little upset at the time because she didn't want a single bed and really had no space for a single bed, but awhile later it became apparent that God had sent the bed before she even realized she needed it.

Her mornings are spent doing Bokangs therapy and schooling and then preparing food for the children to have when they arrive after school and a daily Bible story. In the afternoons, the children start arriving between 2 and 3. They get something to eat and then are free to play with a wide variety of things. At 5:30, they have a Bible story and prayer time before they leave for the day. She feels that they need to function like a family, so the children take turns sweeping floors, washing plates and spoons and cleaning up.

They have started a "Church" in Kumakwane. It is going slow, but they continue to meet in hopes of spreading the good news about Jesus.

I will leave you with the last line of Heidi's June prayer letter:

Please pray with that God will bring about a God-plan for the next year when I am to be in the States – not just for Bokang and Katlego, but for the other children that come here as well. As we read today in our Bible story about Abraham and Sarah: Is anything too hard for the Lord?

PRAYER CONCERNS

Bethany (Arco): Pray for Glen & Ilene Sorensen, Elsie Barber, and Carol Marin (Beth Daniels' Sister).

Bethany-Elim (Ivanhoe): Pray for Mavis Nielsen, Judy Thomsen, Dave Lawrence, Dennis Amundson, Ken Swanson, Greg VanOverbeke, Brenda Sheik, Kelsey & Robin Hoffman (Grandchildren of Gene & Alice Faulds); Michael Kropp (Ken Swanson's son-in-law); Jackson Nelson (son of Ryan & Kate Nelson); Kristi Morelan, and Leann Wadsworth; Dareld Benz (brother of Mavis Nielsen); Nancy Resmen (sister-in-law of Bernadine Olsen); Linda Vlaminc (Sister-in-Law of Dave & Marlene

Lawrence); and Mary Grace Nelson (daughter of Ryan & Kate Nelson).

Grace (Lake Benton): Pray for Mary & Rick Middlen and the family of Eleanor Worth. Pray for the family of Evelyn Rudebusch. Pray for Joyce Knutson, Carolyn Venekamp, Clyde Krog; Chandra & Matt Prosch Family; Tony Skaar (Lorraine Krog's Great-Grandson); Linda Borresen (Sister of Gerry Rochel); Paula Jacobson (Daughter of Wayne & Annette Fehrman); Larry Neuberger; Joe Harris Sr.; Earl Klitzke; Leann Wadsworth; and Chet Borresen

Peace (Ruthton): Pray for the family of Audrey Ranheim. Pray for Lavonne Fuhrmann and Cliff Kittelson.

St. Paul (Minneota): Pray for 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, 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:

Hilda Herschberger, Bethany-Elim Lutheran

Minneota Manor:

Clara DeRoode, St. Paul's

