

FIRST FORUM Newsletter

226 North Putnam St.
PO Box 516
Algona, IA 50511-0516

JULY 2011

As I shared last month, I am going to spend some time sharing about worship. After all it is the one constant and regular thing we do together as a Christian congregation.

We worship for a number of reasons. Probably the most important reason is to praise God. Think about the word worship in the first place. It means to adore, to revere and to respect, in other words to acknowledge how remarkable and incredible is God.

We can read about all that God has done from the Old Testament to the New Testament, from the creation of the World in Genesis chapter one to the descriptions of heaven, the praising of God by the angels and saints and the promise of Christ's return in Revelation chapter 22.

We also can think of all the things God has done for us. From providing enough money to shelter, clothe and feed our families to giving us the strength to get through a parent's death or the loss of a job. While difficulties happen to everyone, it is good to stop and reflect upon the ways God has carried you through such times. In

addition, in our world that has such an abundance of stuff, it is easy to forget all that we already have.

As humans we tend to come to worship thinking about how God can meet our needs. We come with a list of things we are concerned about. We come feeling mentally and spiritually tired, hoping God will restore our strength and hope. While all of these feelings and expectations are fine, we sometimes forget we are also to acknowledge what God has already done and what God is capable of doing. That is what I think praise and respect is about.

Therefore, I am going to try adding an element that will help us remember the importance of praise when we gather together for our worship services. Just like we take time for reflecting on our sins in confession, I would like to add a time for individual reflection on what God has already done in our life. Blessings, as they are often called. It is an experiment. We will see how it works. I will ask you what you think. My hope is that we are able to feel more praise in our hearts and express that together, thanking God for these blessings.

One more thing. This summer I am preaching on the theme of "Growing in our

Faith Life". The preaching text will all be from passages that use an image of "growing". I am hoping this extra focus will encourage us to think about the importance of our faith and trust in God becoming stronger. Just like we most often have to be intentional about strengthening our physical muscles, so too it is helpful to be intentional about strengthening our faith muscles. If we aren't intentional about such strengthening and growing, our faith muscles can atrophy and weaken. Then when a time comes that we really need a strong faith and it is weak, we will have a much more difficult time getting through that situation. I see one of my most important tasks as a pastor is to "coach" you all in strengthening your faith muscles.

Pastor Marsha Smith

Western Iowa Synod Assembly Report 2011

The Western Iowa Synod Assembly was held on June 3-5, 2011 in Sioux City, Iowa. First Lutheran representatives were voting members Rodney and Jean Davis and non-voting member Deaconess Colleen Teuwee.

Friday started with a light buffet meal and opening worship. I truly believe worship at the Assembly is my favorite part. Very upbeat, motivating and encouraging! Plus, many youth involved which makes for a great worship service. We moved right into our first Plenary which included approval of several reports and adopting of the agenda and rules.

Day Two started bright and early Saturday morning with Bible Study and Plenary #2. Important items of business were as follows: 1.) Amended the constitution to add clarity to provisions for synodically authorized worshipping communities and to the role of the synod

treasurer, and to add voting rights for rostered leaders on disability and 2.) Adoption of the 2012 Compensation Guidelines.

Our lunch was a very eye opening reenactment of the ratio of hungry and people with inadequate food to the number of people who do not hunger. We were sectioned off into groups....one small group which was served a three course meal with desert and one group who was served a portion of rice and beans with water and yet the largest group which was given only a small ration of rice. When the meal was over, everyone was more than well fed as the well fed sector of the group was more than willing to share and the less fortunate were not turned down when asking for food. It reminded me of the loaves and fishes which fed all the people and no one walked away hungry.

The afternoon session included a Global Mission keynote speaker, mission support presentations and mission endowment presentations. Defeated was a resolution to memorialize the 2011 church-wide assembly to amend the ELCA constitution to require a congregational ratifying vote to adopt social statements of this church.

Sunday morning was the last Plenary session which included the following adoptions: 1.) Resolution to Review the Work and Mission of the Western Iowa Synod through the appointment of a Synodical Advisory Committee and 2.) Adoption of a revised budget of \$1.089 million and a proposed 2012 budget of \$1.104. Mission support received beyond 2011 projected \$953,000 will be used to supplement remittance for church-wide mission support.

Bishop Last wrote a very moving and heartfelt reflection of this past year in the Synod and I encourage anyone who would like

to read it to please ask Rodney or Jean for a copy. A quote from Paul stays with me from that report..."since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him."

Rodney and I truly appreciate the opportunity to participate and represent First Lutheran Church, Algona and encourage everyone to take in this opportunity for yourselves! You will truly walk away with a new understanding of our church as a whole.

Sincerely,
Rodney and Jean Davis



A "NON-DESTINATION" SHOWER FOR JENNIFER CLAUDE

Jennifer Claude is planning a destination wedding (in Kansas City), and a Come and Go shower is being held at First Lutheran on Saturday, July 9 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Please come and share in Jen's excitement! Also, please bring a favorite recipe on a 4" x 6" card to share with the bride.

Jennifer and Alphansu (Zo) Coker will be married on September 17.

* Jennifer is registered at Target, Bed, Bath & Beyond, The Market, and Crate and Barrel.

ELCA MALARIA CAMPAIGN

Chris VanDeventer will be one of the Western Iowa Synod delegates to the ELCA Church-wide Assembly in Orlando, Florida. One agenda item at the Assembly is our work aimed at containing malaria: the ELCA Malaria Campaign. The goal of this campaign is to provide mosquito nets, medication and comprehensive health education to parts of Africa. Read more about the ELCA Malaria Campaign at www.elca.org/malaria.

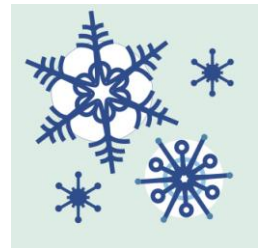
WHATEVER THE WEATHER

No matter the forecast, weather can remind us of God's presence:



- When it's sunny, remember that Jesus is the light of the world (John 8:12)

- When it's cloudy, remember that God often spoke to and guided his people from a cloud (Exodus 13:21-22).
- During a thunderstorm, remember the thunder and lightning when God beckoned Moses to Mount Sinai (Exodus 19:16).
- When it rains or snows, remember that God's Word serves his purpose just as precipitation does (Isaiah 55:10-11).



- When it's windy, remember that "a wind from God" came at Creation (Genesis 1:2), and God's Holy Spirit arrived at Pentecost light a mighty wind (Acts 2:2).

Youth News

BASIC (Brothers & Sisters in Christ) Grades 9-12

2011 Thunder Bay Mission Trip Planning Meeting

A planning meeting will be held on **Sunday, July 17**, at 7:00 p.m. to go over the mission trip details and paperwork. All who are going on the trip and their parents need to attend!



Thunder Bay Mission Trip Payments

- The July payment of \$70 is due by July 31st.
- \$130 is due if you still need to make the May payment.

If you are unsure on how much you owe, please contact Colleen @ 281.701.4202.



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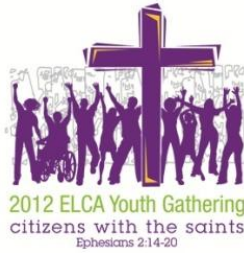


Thanks to Pam Winn

05-09-2011

TROUBLE IN CAT CHURCH

2012 ELCA Youth Gathering Citizens with the Saints July 18-22, 2012 New Orleans, Louisiana



If you haven't already and are thinking of going to the National Gathering, applications for financial assistance are available on the Gathering website at www.elca.org/gathering,

through 1:00 p.m. EDT July 31, 2011.

The financial assistance will cover the \$315 fee for the program part of the trip. The ELCA Youth Gathering next summer will be available to those entering 9th Grade thru graduating seniors.



Campaigners Grades 6-8

2011 Denver Urban Plunge Planning Meeting

A planning meeting will be held on **Sunday, July 17**, at 6:00 p.m. to go over the mission trip details and paperwork. All who are going on the trip and parents need to attend!

Denver Urban Plunge Payments

- The July payment of \$50 is due by July 31st.

24-hr Lock-in

Where: Meet at First Lutheran

When: Wednesday, July 6

Cost: \$15

We're paintballing, hoonting, drive-inning, sardining, etc. Bring a sleeping bag, pillow, change of clothes, and your hoonting accessories! Contact



Colleen Teeuwe at 281.207.4202

or youth@netamumail.com by Friday, July 3, if you are attending. Friends are welcome!



FUNDRAISER DATES FOR BASIC/CAMPAIGNERS

Friday, July 8

- Founder's Day Drink Sales & picking up empty cans

Sunday, July 17

- Car Wash, 9:00 a.m.
- Bring your car to church Sunday morning and it will be sparkling clean after worship. A freewill donation will be taken to raise funds for the Campaigners and BASIC mission trips.



WANTED!

A gas grill that can be left at FLC to be used for youth and family events (it doesn't need to be new, just gently used). Please contact Colleen at youth@netamumail.com or call 281.701.4202 if you can provide one.



K.I.C.K. (Kids in Christ's Kingdom) Grades K-5

Where: WOW

When: Meet at FLC

Monday, August 15

9:00 am - 5:00 p.m.

Cost: \$12.00

We're heading to Mankato to play laser tag, bowling, miniature golf & eat pizza at WOW. Please contact Colleen Teeuwe at 281.207.4202 or youth@netamumail.com by Sunday, August 14, if you are attending. Bring a friend or two!



Family Movie Night

Friday, July 15

6:30 - 9:00 p.m.

Join us at First Lutheran for pizza and a movie. Bring your lawn chair, bean bag, pillows or blankets. We'll get



comfy is the Fellowship Hall and watch a movie and eat pizza! Cost is \$5.00 for a family & \$2.00 for an individual.





**3rd ANNUAL
OUTDOOR
EXTRAVAGANZA!**
Mark your calendars
for the 3rd Annual
Outdoor Extravaganza!

**August 20-21, 2011
North Lawn of FLC**

Two freewill donation meals will be served during the event.

- † **An evening meal at 6:00 p.m. on Saturday night, August 20. Meat provided. Please bring a side dish to share.**
- † **Breakfast on Sunday morning, August 21 before morning worship**

Do you like spending time outside playing games, sitting around a fire, eating a smore, caching fireflies, and/or camping? We have a deal for you!

On Saturday, August 20, there will be activities for *everyone* at First Lutheran. If you want to just come sit by the fire and rest in your own bed, come join us. If you want to spend all night under the stars or in a tent, come join us. If all you want is to do is play some games, come join us.

There will be a meal after the 5:30 p.m. service on Saturday. The main dish will be provided we are asking those who come to bring a side dish. After we eat we will head outside and play games and sit around the fire.

Come join us relax and enjoy each other's company.

SECRET ANGEL PRAYER PARTNERS

Each month we will list a group of kids in our church newsletter. We will include a little information about each youth listed and we ask everyone to pray for each of them at least one time during the month.

Also, introduce yourself to the youth members listed and strike up a conversation, you may have something in common.

YOUTH FOR JULY

- **Adam Denner** - favorite charity is the food pantry, likes milk & favorite sports team is the Cyclones
- **Rachel Meyer** - favorite sports team is the Minnesota Vikings, snack is brownies, & likes Harry Potter movies
- **Jacob Mechler** - likes basketball, favorite car is a Corvette, & likes the game sardines
- **Bekka Voss** - likes to read, play sardines, & favorite sports teams are Iowa Hawkeyes & the Minnesota Twins
- **Theo Herbst-Ulmer** - favorite movies are "Spaceball" & "Dodgeball", has two dogs, & his favorite charity is the soldiers overseas.



COLLEGE ADDRESSES

Parents! We would like to send boxes and notes to keep in touch with the college students. Please email or call with your student's college information to the church office firstlutheran@netamumail.com or 515.295.3758.

THIS MONTH'S CALENDAR

The Rebecca & Priscilla Circles do not meet during the months of June, July, and August.

July 7: 9:00 a.m. Quilt Work Day. No hostess has been assigned.

July 14: 6:30 p.m. Hot Dog! It's a "Summer Celebration" for all men and women at the home of John & Bev Nordman on Thursday, July 14. The evening will begin with a potluck (meat & beverages will be provided). Please bring a salad and/or a dessert to share with the group. We'll end the evening with a bonfire and make s'mores! Bring your lawn chairs! A program will be presented by Dr. Judy Reinking and Karilyn Claude. Hostesses for the evening are Pam Goetz and Linda Denner.

July 21: 1:30 p.m. Sarah Circle will meet at the church with Beryl Soderberg serving as the Bible Study leader. No hostess has been assigned.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

I pledge my allegiance to, _____. What should fill in the blank? Is it like we learned as kids in school?;. . .the United States of America? That sounds okay. But what if we changed it to "Our Heavenly Father", or "Jesus of Nazareth?" Is either of those any better, or just different? I am so glad that years ago people came to "America" to be able to worship God freely (ie: the Pilgrims, and later the Revolutionary War for this and other reasons) and to be able to fight for what they believed in (ie: Civil War). Through these events, and many more, we can proudly stand and say, or shout it from the rooftops, we are Christians, and NOT be thrown into jail or persecuted by

being thrown into the Lion's Den. So, maybe we should be celebrating the Christian Flag, and what that means to us and for us, as well as the Star-Spangled Banner. When you think of it in this way, maybe it would sound okay to say, "I pledge my allegiance to our Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, one nation under God, undivided by Satan, and living on God's Earth as one Christian family. Any takers?"

The July Meeting has been moved back by one week. So, 6:30 pm, Thursday, July 14. We will still meet at Nordman's. We will still doing a bonfire & roasting hotdogs! We will still need you to bring a sidedish or dessert, & your fire builder (aka: firebuilder):-D We will also still have S'Mores!

Make sure you join us in celebrating, a bit late, Fourth of July, the beauty of the Lord's creation in the Nordman's garden, & a wonderful evening with our WELCA Church Family. When I asked my nieces, Alexis & Jaiden, about what the 4th of July was, their answer was "FIREWORKS". I guess when I was that age, I would have said the same. Enjoy your fireworks, wherever you may be, and remember how that whole thing started with a group of people wanting the Freedom to Worship God.

In Christ's Love,
Dr. Judy Reinking



- Pancake Mix
- Pancake Syrup
- Cans of Tuna
- Canned Beef Stew



Items may be placed in the grocery cart in the south hallway.



Our records show that the following members celebrate birthdays and anniversaries in July. We pray for their health and happiness as we share in their celebration. We appreciate being notified of any errors or omissions.

- 7-2 Alan Klepper
- 7-3 Dale Denner, LeAnn Engelbarts
- 7-4 Owen Parker
- 7-5 Pastor Peggy Rose
- 7-7 Tom Claude, Monica Klein
Rick Atkinson, Zandra Kloster
- 7-8 Coral Holmes, Dan Wichman
Brian Petersen
- 7-9 Lucille Olson, Shea McKenna
- 7-10 Kevin Hanson, Dennis Erdmann
- 7-11 Jim Hefti, Max Herbst-Ulmer
- 7-12 Sarah Haack, Lauren McLaughlin
- 7-13 Brady Collison, Mark Hertzke
- 7-14 Andy Denner, Lois Kloster
- 7-15 Jayne Lipps, Gary Schaffer
- 7-16 Amber Buyck, Kent Sandven
- 7-17 Chad Nielsen, Lyndsey Essary
- 7-18 Brian Jenson, Todd Herbst-Ulmer
Emma Cecil
- 7-19 Elizabeth Deeg, Alan Hjelle,
Danielle Benjamin
- 7-20 Amber Welle
- 7-21 Connie Adams, Laurie Davis
Cory Mosher, Joyce Lenz
Mark Holmer, Brian Morgan
- 7-22 Duane Habeger
- 7-23 Chance Weaver, Charlene Hertzke
- 7-24 Kristie Brown, Beth Egel
Abbie Atkinson

- 7-25 Roger Wilson, Robert Nelton, Jodi Wiita
- 7-26 Karen Evenson, James Voss
- 7-27 Donna Kitzinger
- 7-28 Joseph Holtz
- 7-29 Rick Adams, Tony Seebecker
- 7-30 Tom Lipps, Daryl Speich
Helen Tielebein, Terry Whitacre
- 7-31 Steve Metzger

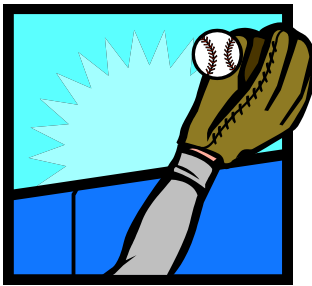


- 7-2 Mark & Linnea Holmer (45 years)
Bill & Betty Holtz (41 years)
Gary & Kay Kinseth (28 years)
- 7-5 Erik & Melinda Kloster (14 years)
Fred & Tammy Johnson (31 years)
- 7-7 Conley & Kim Nelson (32 years)
- 7-10 Jim & Charlotte Carson (29 years)
Mitchel & Tiffany Graybill (1 year)
- 7-14 Rick & Julie Murphy (27 years)
Mark & Joan Wiemann (33 years)
- 7-15 Gary & Stacy Schaffer (5 years)
- 7-16 Teri & Linn Curry (7 years)
- 7-18 Jerry & Nancy Wittmus (24 years)
- 7-22 Keith & Julie Johnson (22 years)
Dennis & Jennifer Becker (5 years)
Dennis & Iris Erdmann (5 years)
- 7-26 Mark & Robin Meyer (25 years)
- 7-27 Mike & Mary Rahe (36 years)
- 7-28 Derek & Amber Buyck (4 years)
- 7-29 Tim & Molly Rodemeyer (5 years)
Nick & Shala Cotner (3 years)
- 7-30 Dale & Connie Mechler (23 years)
Chris & Lisa Cibula (6 years)



“Sometimes the most important thing in a whole day is the rest we take between two deep breaths.”

~ Etty Hillesum



YMCA CHURCH LEAGUE SOFTBALL

The Church Softball League is a co-ed (ages 14 & up), slow-pitch league that emphasizes fun and affiliation with other church members in a positive atmosphere. Upcoming games:

- July 10: 4:00 p.m. on the North field of Bertha Godfrey against the team from Trinity Lutheran
- July 17: Tournaments. Times to be announced.

Contact Captain Brian Meyerink (295-3575) if you would like to be part of First Lutheran's **winning** team!



SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP HOUR

Sunday fellowship time will begin on May 30 following the 9:00 a.m. worship.

Check out the table in the narthex to sign-up for hosting one or more of the Sunday Fellowship hours. At printing time, there are still a few openings. Hosts are asked to prepare the coffee and juice and serve the pastries.



Thank you for your check in the amount of \$1,000. The cost of food has been on the rise, so your gift will help greatly feeding the less fortunate of our county. May God Bless You for your generosity.

Kossuth County Food Pantry
Erby Shipler, Director
Arlene Reising, Treasurer



Thank you for making my Confirmation Day special! Thank you for the cross and the "Bible Promises for Teens".

Scott Von Muenster



Thank you so much for the prayers, kind thoughts and wishes and the memorials that we received after the death of Dale's father. The love and support of our church family is deeply appreciated.

The Dale Denner family



Gerald and I would like to thank everyone who sent cards or visited us when Gerald was in the hospital. It certainly helps brighten the day.

God Bless,
Gerald & Beryl Soderberg

**BULLETINS FROM
TRAVELING WORSHIPPERS**

If you have been traveling and would like to share the bulletin from the church of which you visited, please drop it off in the church office at your convenience. Every month in the newsletter we will note all our travelers.

During the first half of 2011 Chuck & Chloe Sheakley attended the Peace Lutheran Church in Peoria, Arizona.

May 9, 2011: Chuck & Chloe Sheakley attended worship at the Crossings Community Church in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

May 15, 2011: The Dale Denner family attended Grace Lutheran Church in Tripoli, Iowa.

May 22, 2011: The Dale Denner family attended King's Chapel at Mount Vernon, Iowa for the Baccalaureate service for Megan Denner.

May 22, 2011: Bill & Betty Holtz attended the First Lutheran Church in Maquoketa, Iowa.

May 29, 2011: Pastor Mark & Linnea Holmer attended worship at the Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church in Creston, Iowa.

June 11, 2011: Bill & Betty Holtz attended worship at the St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church in Anamosa, Iowa.

June 12, 2011: Chuck & Chloe Sheakley visited the Mount Olivet Lutheran Church in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

June 12, 2011: The Michael Phelps family attended the Christian Church in Runnells, Iowa for the confirmation service of Shelley's niece and Goddaughter.

June 19, 2011: Bruce & Marcia Sundet attended the Mount Olivet Lutheran Church of Plymouth, Minnesota for the baptism of their granddaughter, Faith Marguerite Sundet.

SIXTY PLUS POTLUCK

The next potluck for those "Sixty Plus" will be Friday, July 8 at 12:00 p.m. Please bring a dish to share with the group as well as your own table service. The program will be a tour of the POW Museum with intern, Rachel Lewis. Note: A \$3.00 entrance fee is required. Hosts will be Ray & Marilyn Nielsen and Bob & Karen Speich.



Sixty Plus



EQUAL EXCHANGE COFFEE FOR SALE

Check out the Equal Exchange coffee that is located in the Fellowship Hall. Products in this shipment include: French Vanilla coffee (\$7.00) and Chai Tea (\$4.00/20 packets).



LUTHERAN SERVICES OF IOWA

Purposeful Parenting

July is Purposeful Parenting Month, a great time to remember the effort, commitment and love it takes to be a positive parent and role model for a child. Children look to their parents for guidance, care and love and it is important to recognize the role purposeful parenting plays in the development of a child's mental, social, emotional and physical self.

Lutheran Services in Iowa recognizes that sometimes parents need assistance in getting ready to become a parent for the first time or when struggling to work through difficult family situations. LSI's early childhood and family centered services promote positive parenting through education, counseling, family meetings and support. Through these services, LSI builds on strengths to enhance the emotional, psychological and physical well-being of both parents and children, preventing child abuse and neglect and helping to keep families together.

With knowledgeable and loving parents in a safe environment, children can go on to reach their greatest potential and pass these skills on to their children creating generations of positive parenting.

For information on Lutheran Services in Iowa, visit www.LSIowa.org Visit us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa.

Big hearted mother and daughter overcoming problems together

Six years ago Amy Blackwell met a little girl with a big heart. Amy was an eastern Iowa foster parent and had recently adopted a son Kole, now 8, from foster care when a social worker called about another placement.

"They wanted to know if we would want to adopt Ashlie, too," Amy said.

Ashlie, then 6, had been abused and neglected in early childhood. Even two years after being adopted by Amy, she still faced intense anger issues. Amy looked into an out-of-home placement, but Ashlie's first stay in an Iowa facility only left her more frustrated.

"Nothing got better and so I was worried she'd see it as a punishment and ask me why I sent her away for a year when nothing changed," Amy said. "When she came home, she was still so angry, destroying things or running away to be alone. We were all walking on eggshells. It wasn't good for anyone. We couldn't be a family."

Home life deteriorated so quickly that Amy grew concerned about her family's safety. She began looking at treatment options again, this time at LSI's Beloit Residential Treatment Center in Ames. A year after Ashlie's placement at LSI the difference is clear.

"She's made huge progress since then," Amy said. "She's coming home with a lot more skills in peer interaction. She still gets angry, but before her first instinct was to throw something or hit. Now she thinks, 'Okay, I'm mad. Do I really need to inflict that on someone else?'"

Structure and clear communication have helped Ashlie, now 12, take significant steps, Amy said.

Ashlie will be going home for good soon, and the road forward looks hopeful, though not easy. Here's hoping the days ahead are filled with more of her laughter and more of her healing.

Read more stories and see video at www.LSIowa.org.





July 2 & 3, 2011
July 16 & 17, 2011

Bake Bread
Jodie Knoner

Preparation & Clean-up
Jodie Knoner, Kathy Moss

Communion Assistants for July
July 2 (5:30 pm): Nathan Countryman
July 3 (9:00 am): Don Hansen
July 16 (5:30 pm): Jim Hefti
July 17 (9:00 am): Mark Meyer

Communion Assistants for August
August 6 (5:30 pm): Gen Blumer
August 7 (9:00 am): Kevin Benschoter
August 20 (5:30 pm): Marilyn Nielsen
August 21 (9:00 am): Jean Davis

SUMMER CAMP SIGN- UP CONTINUES!

For both Lutheran Lakeside and Ingham Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camp summer camp registration continues. If you have a child that will be attending camp, please pick up a registration form (or for IOLBC you can register online!) For more information on either camp, check out their webpages:

www.lutheranlakeside.com

www.okoboji.org



Anthony
Wiita
&
Jodi
Watts

June 25, 2011



Births in the Church Family

Taylor Grace McLaughlin
Born June 11, 2011
Parents: Noel & Amy McLaughlin
Grandparents: Al & Julie Buyck

Katherine Grace Holtz
Born June 17, 2011
Parents: David & Amy Holtz
Grandparents: Bill & Betty Holtz



"If we ever forget that we are One Nation Under God, then we will be a nation gone under."

~ Ronald Reagan



SATURDAY

SERVERS

GREETERS

July 2	Larry & Gen Blumer
July 9	Clark & Pat Conner
July 16	Don & Beth Egel
July 23	Betty Murphy, Jodie Knoner
July 30	Brian & Sande Rodemeyer

GREETERS

August 6	Dan & Sandy Peterson
August 13	Gerald & Laura Zwiefel
August 20	Bruce & Marcia Sundet
August 27	Merlin & Marlis Beenken

ACOLYTES

July 2	Dayne Meyerink
July 9	Alexis Bryant
July 16	Rebekka Voss
July 23	Levi Penning
July 30	Christian Davis

ACOLYTES

August 6	Ciera Klein
August 13	James Voss
August 20	Morgan VanZante
August 27	Dayne Meyerink

LECTORS

July 2	Kathy Nelson
July 9	Kathy Jansen
July 16	Reggie Alt
July 23	Bruce Sundet
July 30	Carol Merrill

LECTORS

August 6	Betty Holtz
August 13	Ray Nielsen
August 20	Reggie Alt
August 27	Gen Blumer

USHERS

July 2	Bruce & Kim Knudsen
July 9	Tom & Jayne Lipps
July 16	Jim & Sharol Hefti
July 23	Volunteers Needed!
July 30	Curt & Twyla Schipper

USHERS

August 6	Don & Marcia Beisch
August 13	Al & Julie Buyck
August 20	Dave & Sandi Markla
August 27	Vern & Kathy Nelson

Please remember that if you can't serve, you are to find your own replacement and notify the Church Office so the change may be printed in the bulletin.

Thank you!

COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE NOTES

The Congregation Council met on June 14, 2011 for a Congregation Council meeting. Present: Jean Davis, Kevin Benschoter, Brian Meyerink, April Braun, Keith Dwire, Donna Meyerink, Al Buyck, Bill Lenz, Tony Wiita, Colleen Teeuwe. Absent: Jim Hefti, Mark Meyer, Nathan Countryman, and Bill Lenz.

Old Business

- Synod Assembly Report: Rodney & Jean Davis attended the assembly held June 3-5. Colleen Teeuwe was a guest. The goal of \$25,000 in offering for the Malaria Fund and Hunger was exceeded. Close to \$35,000 was received. Note: See Rodney & Jean's report elsewhere in the newsletter.
- **YMCA 'Parnters with Youth' Banner:** Our YMCA banner was been revised to include ELCA and the church website address.

New Business

- **Rally Sunday:** Rally Sunday will be September 11, 2011. It will be a contemporary service led by Kurt Kissinger. Possible theme of "peace" due to the 10th anniversary of 9/11/01.
- **Lay Preaching Payment:** A policy was passed in 2008 to offer \$50 to lay preacher per service to include mileage and motel if applicable. We will continue to use this fee as a base pay until further notice.
- **Thrivent Fund:** Thrivent Choice is a new way to designate monies to congregations. Money will be available every six months. \$1,300 has been allocated thus far with a cap of \$3,000.

- **Injury Policy:** This was tabled until we check into what our insurance covers as a med/pay policy.
- **Request for Fellowship Hall Use:** Twyla Schipper of the Prairie Quilter's Guild made a request for use of the Fellowship Hall for a garage sale on August 27.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Worship and Music

Three members present. Continued discussion of the Contemporary Worship and logistics of the instruments and who is participating. Summer worship theme will be "Growing in Our Faith". Discussion of the membership guidelines stated in the by-laws was held.

Property Committee

Six members present. Discussion about a new sign for the front of the church property. Pastor Marsha was present to guide the discussion. Continued discussion of the storage shed and emptying the old shed. Pastor Marsha also brought discussion of the Thrivent funds for the purchase of a "snake" needed for audio system.

Christian Education

Three members present. VBS was for focus of discussion. Space is the theme for the week. The committee will help with the preschool curriculum and organizing the meals and snacks for the week. Decorating will be on Sunday, June 26. Want list for food donations will be in the narthex.

Youth Ministry

Five members present. The garage sale was successful. Net profit close to \$400. Discussion of details for the Founder's Day pop sale. Thinking about purchasing a grill

for outdoors. Will spread the word and look for a possible donation. Octoberfest celebration was discussed.

Stewardship/Finance

Five members were present. Committee continues to look for new members. Giving is not meeting pledges. We have a \$20,000 deficit and up \$2,300 in expenses. Pastor will help develop a letter to go out in quarterly statement encouraging congregation to reflect upon their giving and help them to be aware of our current deficit.

Evangelism/Social Ministry

Three members were present. The trip to the church of the Damascus Road is full with 10 members. Coffee Fellowship sign-up is being circulated. Rally Sunday discussed and still considering Band Day participation.

**WORLD HUNGER
QUARTERS**



5-29	\$16.75
6-4	\$14.25
6-12	\$15.00
6-19	\$26.50
6-26	NA

TOTAL GIVEN IN 2011: \$427.00
TOTAL GIVEN SINCE AUGUST 2001:
\$8,633.75!!



Attendance and Offering Report

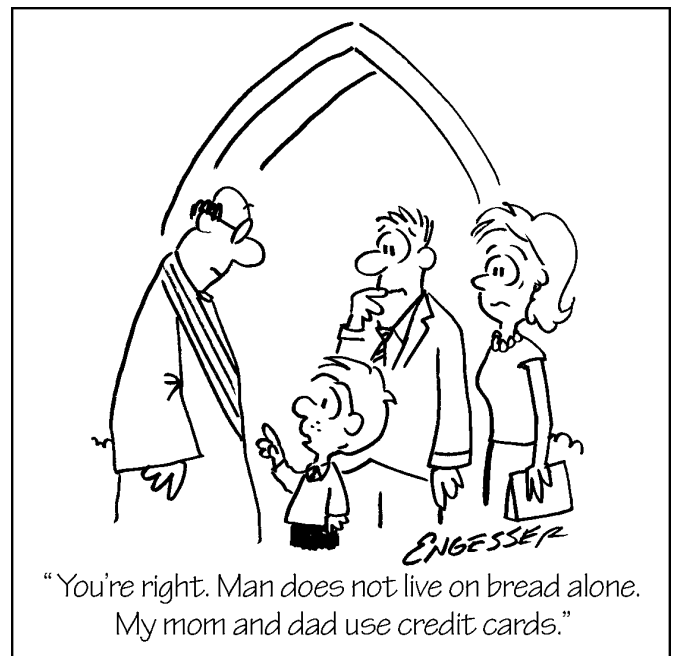
JUNE 2011

ATTENDANCE

<u>DATE</u>	<u>SATURDAY</u>	<u>SUNDAY</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
5-29	34	92	126
6-4	56 (CW)	77	133
6-12	30	64	94
6-19	64 (CW)	70	134
6-26	36	67	103

2011 OFFERINGS

5-29	\$7,833.75
6-4	\$3,556.25
6-12	\$1,693.00
6-19	\$4,379.50
6-26	NA
Received in 2011	\$112,918.55
Pledged in 2011	\$139,372.75



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Organist

Linnea Holmer

Choir Directors

Todd Herbst-Ulmer
Julie Murphy
Chris VanDeventer

Contemporary Music

Director
Kurt Kissinger
Custodians
Carolyn Mosher
Bob Speich

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