

# FIRST FORUM Newsletter

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

## JANUARY 2012

As I typed the heading of this article I had to pause for a moment and consider that it is for the year 2012. "Yes, of course." You would say. But you know what that feels like don't you? It is one thing to know in your mind a new year is coming, it is another to have it happen upon you. It felt like it was catching me off guard. I haven't prepared enough for it.

Do you prepare? Do you make a resolution or a list of resolutions? Or, maybe just a list of things to do? Do you reflect upon the past year, like so many television news shows or a radio station with its list of top ten songs? Do consider the good and the bad things that have happened to you, or maybe the good and bad decisions you have made yourself?

Or maybe do you do nothing at all, not considering the change of four numbers on a piece of paper anything significant what-so-ever. One reason the movement from one year to the next is considered significant is because it marks time. Years are filled with months, which are filled with days, which are filled with hours and so forth. Time is a commodity you know, almost as valuable as money in our world today. The word "busy" is used more than "please" and "thank you" combined. Sometimes we are even just a little bit prideful when we can say we are busier than our friends and family.

Yet how we view our time says a lot about our values and faith life. A while back I told a story about the Duke of Wellington. A biographer of

his was terribly excited when he came upon his financial ledgers because he believed how someone spent their money revealed more about an individual than anything else.

How about our datebook or electronic calendar? What would yours say about your values and faith? Not just, how many Sundays are you at church, though these are important. But, how many hours do you spend at work? How many hours do you spend with your family? Not just watching a basketball game or a choral concert, though these are important. But how many hours do you spend sitting in the living room talking without the television on? Or should I say, "How many minutes?" How many hours in a week do you spend talking with your spouse? Not just about the bills and the children's schedules but talking about a good movie or a funny story? How many hours in a month do you spend with a good friend? How many hours do you spend by yourself, with God?

Time is a gift from God. While most of us do not know the exact amount, we all know it is not infinite. Like the other gifts God gives us it is good to use it in ways that are healthy and beneficial. I encourage you to take some "time" and ask God's guidance as to what to do with this very precious gift.

Pastor Marsha Smith



# ANNUAL MEETING

January 22, 2012

The 130th Annual Meeting of First Evangelical Lutheran Church will be held on Sunday, January 22 following the 10:30 a.m. worship service at 11:30 p.m. On the agenda will be the voting of four new Council members, the proposed bylaw regarding membership and the 2012 budget.

A luncheon will be served following the meeting.

## COUNCIL NOMINATIONS

First Lutheran's Nominating Committee is finishing up nominations for our 2012 Council leadership. Thank you to those who have already agreed to be a part of our leadership team. These members include: Mary Rahe, Jodie Knoner, Fred Johnson, and Bruce Kitzinger. We would still like to have enough to complete a full ballot of eight, as we have four positions to fill. If you are at all interested, please contact anyone on our Nominating Committee. Members on this committee include: Bill Lenz, Keith Dwire, Jim Hefti, Kay Kinseth, Dave Jenson and Kathy Nelson.

We would be happy to answer your questions, as we will send out a job description of responsibilities. As well, we would like to thank the Nominating Committee for the commitment, time and energy to carry out this important task.



Nominating  
Committee



## Committee Reports are Needed!

Reports are due from all committee chairs by **Friday, January 6, 2012**. *Please feel free to email your report!* Financial reports are due in the church office by **January 13**. The Annual Meeting will be held **Sunday, January 22** at 11:30 a.m.

The completed book of reports will be available for members to pick up during worship services on January 14 and 15.

**If you are responsible for writing a report, please make every effort to follow the above deadlines. Thank you!**



## NEWSLETTER CHANGES!

At the December Council meeting it was voted on to **NOT** send out the monthly newsletter to anyone that has email or access to the internet. The newsletter will be emailed to all whom we have an email address and it will be available for reading on the webpage as well. Shut-ins will be mailed the newsletter via USPS.

You do not have internet access? You really prefer the paper copy? Never fear! There will be several printed copies available for pickup in the narthex.

## PROPOSED BYLAW

Below is the proposed bylaw to be voted on at the January annual meeting:

BE IT RESOLVED by the congregation of First Evangelical Lutheran Church of Iowa, that the following Bylaw be added to the Constitution of First Evangelical Lutheran Church of Algona, Iowa:

**Membership: E.1.**

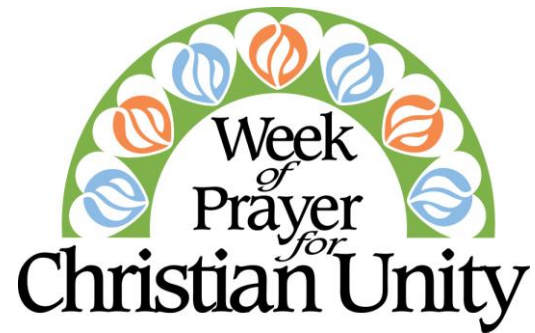
**Removal from the roll due to inactivity demonstrated by having not completed both of the following for a period of two years:**

- a. participated in Holy Communion
- b. made a contribution of record to this congregation's treasury

Said member shall be given written notice that their membership is about to terminate and the reasons for said termination of membership shall be clearly stated.

Membership may be maintained if a response is received from the member within the 30 day timeframe indicating a desire to remain active, however, both of the above acts must be completed for membership to remain active.

If at any time, after due and diligent search, a correct address is unable to be located for any existing member, the member will be automatically removed from the roll.



The week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins Monday, January 16 and continues through Friday, January 20, with noon prayer lunches and worship in the host churches each day.

The theme for 2012 is based on 1 Corinthians 15:51-58: "*We will all be changed by the Victory of our Lord Jesus Christ*". An approximate schedule will be as follows:

- 12:00- 12:30 pm: Lunch and fellowship. A freewill offering will be taken each day and given to the host church.
- 12:30- 12:50 pm: A brief worship/devotional service.

The schedule for the week is as follows:

- **Monday, January 16:**
  - First Baptist Church
- **Tuesday, January 17:**
  - First Lutheran Church
- **Wednesday, January 18:**
  - First Methodist Church
- **Thursday, January 19:**
  - St. Cecelia's Catholic Church
- **Friday, January 20:**
  - First Congregational Church



## KICK

Kids in Christ's Kingdom  
Grades 1-5



### Early Out Fun Days

- January 18:  
1:45-5:00 p.m.

## Upcoming Youth Fundraiser Dates

Soup-off ~ February 11  
Rummage Sale ~ March  
Easter Breakfast ~ April 8  
Mulch Sale ~ May 5

### IN BETWEEN SERVICE TREATS

Assignments to date are as follows:

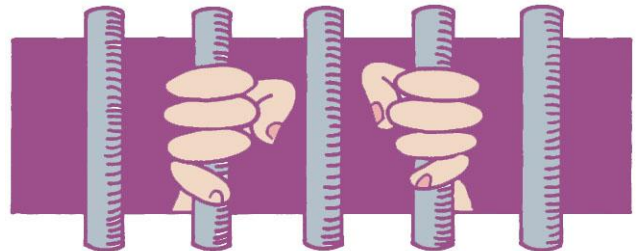
- January 1: R & J Davis family
- January 8: Cooper family
- January 15: J & A Davis family
- January 22: Meyerink family
- January 29: Merrill family



Grades 6-8

### January Meetings for Campaigners

- January 4: 7-8:00 p.m.  
*Chaperones & Snacks: Cooper family*
- January 11: 7-8:00 p.m.  
*Chaperones & Snacks: Bryant family*
- January 18: 7-8:00 p.m.  
*Chaperones & Snacks: Herbst-Ulmer family*
- January 25: 7-8:00 p.m.  
*Chaperones & Snacks: Merrill family*



## LOCK-IN

### YMCA Lock-in for BASIC & Campaigners!

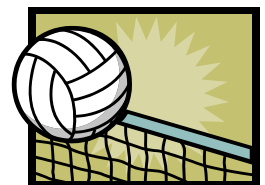
**Where:** Algona YMCA

**When:** Saturday, January 28  
10:00 p.m.-6:00 a.m.

**What:** Swimming, Basketball, Volleyball, Pool, Hoonting, etc.

**Cost:** \$5.00

**Bring:** Swimsuit,  
towel, hoonting gear,  
friends...



**RSVP:** By Wednesday, January 25, to  
Colleen at 281.701.4202 or

[youth@netamumail.com](mailto:youth@netamumail.com)

## Wisconsin Junior High Mission Trip

The date for the Middle School trip is August 4-11. Our trip will be through Camp Crossways Camping Ministries which will provide sleeping, food and equipment.

**Backpacking the Porkies:** Head up to the Porcupine Mountains of Northern Michigan for a few nights of backpacking and fun. Your week will begin at Imago Dei Village for some group-building time, and then you'll drive up to Michigan to spend some nights in the great outdoors. Crossways will provide all backpacks and other equipment; participants just need to bring a sleeping bag and clothes to wear on the trail.



### Adventure Opportunities:

- Bike Trip
- Canoeing
- Caving
- High Ropes/Rock Wall

Registration forms are in the office and on our webpage. (Go to Ministries/Youth & Family/Middle School trip). The cost is \$200 which is all inclusive. Friends are welcome to attend. Scholarships will be available please contact Colleen Teeuwe at 281.207.4202 or [youth@netamumail.com](mailto:youth@netamumail.com).



## BASIC

### Brothers & Sisters in Christ Grades 9-12

#### December Meetings for BASIC

- January 11: 7-8:00 p.m.
  - Snacks: Mechler family
- January 25: 7-8:00 p.m.
  - Snacks: Johnson family



#### BASIC Skiing/Tubing @ Mount Kato

**When:** Sunday, February 26, 2011

**Leave Church:** 10:30 a.m.

**Return to Church:** 8:30-9:00 pm

**Prices and options:**

**Lift Ticket & Equipment Rental\*:** \$20.00

**Tubing /Snowboarding\*:** \$20.00

*\*Includes dinner, beverages & snacks for our group.*

RSVP: By Wednesday, February 22, to Colleen at 281.701.4202 or [youth@netamumail.com](mailto:youth@netamumail.com). There are always scholarship funds for all youth events. Please contact Colleen for more information.



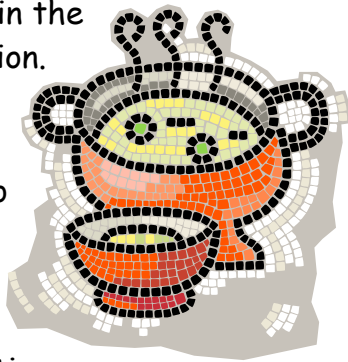
## Family Bowling

We had a great time in November and would like to do it again. All are invited to an evening of fellowship and fun at Sundance Lanes in Humboldt from 5-7:00 p.m. on Sunday, January 15. Cost is \$5.00 for two games, shoes and pizza. Meet at church at 4:30 p.m. to carpool. For any questions or to RSVP contact Colleen at 281.701.4202 or [youth@netamumail.com](mailto:youth@netamumail.com).

## Soup-Off

Mark your calendar for Saturday, February 11 for the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Soup-Off!! It'll begin right after worship at 6:30 p.m. with the Soup-Off first and a chance to bid for your favorite item in the Silent Auction. Afterwards is a Live Auction with many great items of which to bid.

So start thinking of your favorite soup to bring to this time honored competition and see your name on the coveted Soup-Off plaque! Sign-up sheets will be available in the narthex for bringing a soup, dessert, or donating an item for the Silent/Live Auctions. Items that have been donated in the past are: baskets, jewelry, sports themed items, bath items, etc.



Both Middle School & Senior High youth are participating in youth trips this summer which include the ELCA Youth Gathering, Urban Plunge, & Backpacking in the Porkies. It's a great opportunity for them to serve and build community.

## Family Skiing/Tubing Mount Kato

**When:** Saturday, February 18, 2012

**Leave Church:** 9:30 am

**Return to Church:** 6:30 pm

### Prices and options

**Lift Ticket & Equipment Rental\*:** \$35.00

**Snow/Tubing\*:** \$30.00

*In order to go tubing you must be a minimum of 42" tall. \*Includes dinner, beverages & snacks for our group.*

Additional food/beverages will be available from the main lodge if desired, but the additional cost will be the responsibility of the individual making the purchase.

### Recommended Attire:

Any warm, water resistant clothing will work just fine. Remember to dress in layers so you can easily add or remove layers depending on the weather conditions. Remember to bring your hat and water resistant gloves/mittens.

Sunglasses/goggles are highly recommended. We will have a central location in the Main Lodge for you to leave extra/personal items while skiing/tubing and non-skiers to help watch your personal belongings. However, please be aware that a lot of people will be using the Main Lodge so bring valuables at your own risk.

Contact: April Braun [jabraun@ncn.net](mailto:jabraun@ncn.net) or (515-679-4120) or Colleen Teeuwe at [youth@netamumail.com](mailto:youth@netamumail.com) (281-701-4202).

# Dinners for 8

## What are the details?

Eight people (couples or singles of all ages) form a group. Once you register, the Dinner for Eight Committee will assign you to a group. Groups are formed to begin in January 2012.

Group members take turns hosting a meal – Each couple (or combination of singles/couple) will take a turn being the host for your group. Each group meets four times during the year according to the availability of all group members.

## What is expected of each host?

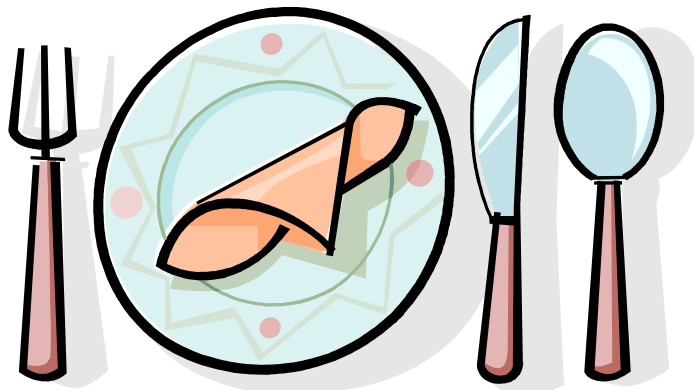
- The host(s) contact the other members of your group to set the date and time for your dinner,
- The hosts provide the main course in their home. Singles can team with another single or couple. Groups are encouraged to keep the meals casual and focus on the fellowship. Don't worry if you don't have a large dining area or are not a gourmet chef, it's the coming together that matters!

## How do we sign up?

To register to be part of a Dinner for Eight group signup on the sheet in the narthex or contact Colleen at 281.701.4202 or [youth@netamumail.com](mailto:youth@netamumail.com).

## Then what happens?

Look for your Dinner for Eight letter in mid-January telling you who else is in your group along with their phone numbers and email addresses. The host at the top of the list is responsible for contacting others in the group to set up the first dinner. Remember, look for new names, the point is to meet and/or get to better know other folks in our church family!



## THIS MONTH'S CALENDAR

**January 5:** 9:00 a.m. Quilt Work Day. Elaine Patterson is the hostess.

*Reminder: There will not be a meeting for the Women of the ELCA in January.*

**January 10:** 9:30 a.m. Rebecca Circle meets at the church. The group will discuss the lesson together.

**January 17:** 7:30 p.m. Priscilla Circle will meet. Sandy Peterson will be the hostess and Chris VanDeventer will lead the Bible Study.

**January 19:** 1:30 p.m. Sarah Circle will meet at the church with Laurie Gunder serving as hostess and Shirley Johnson leading the Bible Study.



### A NOTE OF



The Bruce Knudsen family has given money to be used to purchase needed items for the First Lutheran Kitchen in memory of their mother and grandmother, Faye Knudsen. We are now deciding how to best use this donation and thank the Knudsen family for their generosity.

Carol Merrill and Betty Holtz  
WELCA Mission: Service chairpersons.

## FIRST COMMUNION CLASSES

Coming up on Saturday, January 14 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. we will be offering training on First Communion. This will be for Second and Third graders primarily. If there are parents of younger grades that would like their child to take the training, they are more than welcome.

I would like **both children and their parents** to attend the class. I do this for a number of reasons. I have found the children learn more when their parents can reinforce the education following the class. Secondly, it helps the children focus better and allows me to teach more effectively. Finally, most parents say it was very helpful to hear again those basics of our faith.

The training will include learning about the history of Holy Communion, its roots in the Passover meal of the Jewish tradition as well as the practices of the church since its creation in the early church. It will include the meaning behind the elements and the steps of Holy Communion. It will also include some of the practices of other denominations and how they compare. Finally the children will have a chance to prepare unleavened bread for the worship service they will celebrate their First Communion.

First Communion has always been a special event in the life of a young Christian. Holy Communion is one of the essential things we do during worship therefore it is valuable to understand and appreciate it the best we can. I am excited to spend time with these young people and their families and help them learn about that important part of our relationship with God.

Please contact Pastor Marsha if you plan on attending or with any questions.

Holy Communion will be held on Saturday and Sunday, January 14 & 15 at all three worship services.

## WORLD HUNGER QUARTERS



12-4	\$29.00
12-11	\$10.75
12-18	\$17.25
12-25	NA

**TOTAL GIVEN IN 2011: \$853.75**  
**TOTAL GIVEN SINCE AUGUST 2001:**  
**\$9,060.50!!!**



I would like to take this opportunity to thank all my volunteers who have helped me throughout 2011. I couldn't do my job without all the help they have provided me in the last 12 months. Thank you for saying "yes" when I call. I appreciate you all *very much!*  
~ Jeanine Haack



## COMPASSION

I try to be good,  
But try as I would,  
Sometimes I slip and I fall...  
But God looks inside,  
And he knows that I tried,  
And forgives my mistakes one and all!  
~ Alice Joyce Davidson in *Reflections of Love*

As it says in Psalm 145:8, "The Lord is gracious, and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love."

## THE BLESSINGS OF WATER

A woman at Brandt (a village in the Southern Diocese our companion synod in Tanzania) shared how the well dug by our companion well drillers made a difference in her life. She and her husband and family have a shamba (a small farm of maybe 2 acres).

"Before the well I had to walk many places just to find water to bring back to my family. We needed water. Sometimes it wasn't clean. Someone in our family always had diarrhea. If it was bad we had to go to Chimala for a doctor or hospital...a walk of 15 km. If I was sick or the baby, I walked with the baby on my back."

Pr. Seth Mlelwa reports, "Since the well and clean water most hospital visits for the family have stopped. They all feel better allowing them to do more work on their shamba. Both have an economic impact. They produce more on their shamba and they hardly have any doctor bills!"

Anyone wishing to contribute to this vital well-drilling project may make checks payable to the WIS with 'well project' in the memo and mail to PO Box 577, Storm Lake, IA 50588, or donate on-line at our website, [www.wisynod.org](http://www.wisynod.org). Feel free to contact Cindy Wells, WIS Global Programs Coordinator ([wiscw@wisynod.org](mailto:wiscw@wisynod.org); 712-732-4968 Ext. 441) with any questions or needs that you may have."



## WORSHIP ATTENDANTS

This past month, we have begun a new 'worship attendant' program whereby a short checklist of items is prepared by a volunteer before each worship service. This allows our services to progress smoothly and for Pastor Marsha to greet members and guests and attend to additional tasks before worship.

We are in need of several individuals who are interested in serving as worship attendants so that a rotating schedule can be planned. The

Volunteer  
Opportunity



worship attendant volunteer would arrive 30 minutes prior to each worship service and complete the checklist (gathering materials, testing microphones, checking supplies, etc). A brief training session will be provided.

If you are attentive to details and have an interest in this type of ministry, please contact Julie Murphy (515-341-0109), Jeanine Haack, or Pastor Marsha for more information or to volunteer.

## WHAT THE NEW YEAR OFFERS

- A fresh start in the totality of our life.
- A chance to do good things for others, especially older members of our family.
- An opportunity to plan better for the future, including the use of our time, talent and possessions.
- A challenge to read helpful books about living according to God's plan.
- A chance to better control stress and anxiety in body and spirit.

## WHAT NOT TO TAKE INTO THE NEW YEAR

**Self-help books** — Trust in God first; don't turn to him as a last resort. (See Proverbs 3:5-6.)

**Tape measure** — Consider only God's standards; don't compare yourself to other people. (See Luke 18:9-14.)

**Rearview mirror** — Don't live in the past. You'll miss out on what God is doing in your life now. (See Philippians 3:12-14.)

**Gavel** — Stop wasting time judging others. Instead, pray for them, help them and team with them. (See Luke 6:37-38.)

**Life vest** — Don't be overly cautious spiritually. Peter experienced Jesus in a real way because he dared to step out of the boat. (See Matthew 14:22-33.)

**Garage-door opener** — We think we're networked but often isolate ourselves. God intended for us to live in community with one another. (See Hebrews 10:23-25.)

**Handcuffs** — Don't offer excuses about why you can't help out. God can do amazing things through — and despite — us. Just follow him, with no excuses. (See Mark 6:35-44.)

—Gregg McCaslin



- Cookies
- Cans of Chili  
Beans
- Carrots

Items may be placed in the grocery cart in the south hallway or delivered to the Algona Food Pantry.



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

- 1-1 Lisa Dunkley
- 1-3 Bethany Runge
- 1-4 Lori Hilsabeck, Annie Klepper
- 1-5 Eric Essary
- 1-6 Kylie Wiseman, Violet Bode
- 1-9 Betty Holtz, Tim Wiseman  
Myrna Foley
- 1-11 Treston Severson
- 1-12 Cody Weaver, Christi Reinking
- 1-13 Mike Kleineweber, Jacob Hefti
- 1-16 Anita Haase
- 1-17 Paul Johnson, Christy  
VanDeventer, Jacob Seebecker
- 1-18 Andrew Tran, Judy Hansen  
Tony Wiita
- 1-19 Lisa Arnold, Jerry Kissner,  
Janelle Pityer
- 1-20 Myrtle Strayer, Jenni Becker  
Kim Weaver, Eunice Hanson
- 1-21 Joseph Cook
- 1-22 Beverly Nordman, Cassie Onnen
- 1-23 Jeanine Haack, Betsy Knudsen  
Stacy Sundet, Elaine Patterson
- 1-25 Connie Farnham, Brenda Erickson  
Leaha McGruder
- 1-26 Gary Merrill
- 1-27 Chris Whitacre, Jordan Gates  
Weston Harris
- 1-28 Jim Carson, Landri Dunkley

- 1-29 Geraldine Peterson, Becky Johnson,  
Allie McGruder, Hollis Bode
- 1-30 Henry Runge
- 1-31 Kyle Schipper, Kara Garman

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO...**

- 1-2 Rick & Kate Atkinson (9 years)
- 1-14 Roger & Mae Long (56 years)
- 1-15 Kyle & Jessica Schipper (7 years)
- 1-22 Joanne & Beany Bode (12 years)



**A NEW YEAR'S BLESSING**

May God make your year a happy one!  
 Not by shielding you from all sorrow and  
 pain,  
 But by strengthening you to bear it as it  
 comes;  
 Not by making your path easy,  
 But by making you sturdy to travel any path,  
 Not by taking hardships from you,  
 But by taking fear from your heart;  
 Not by granting you unbroken sunshine,  
 But by keeping your face bright, even in the  
 shadows;  
 Not by making your life always pleasant,  
 But by showing you when people and their  
 causes need you most,  
 and by making you anxious to be there to  
 help.  
 God's love, peace, hope and joy to you for  
 the year ahead.

—Author unknown

## FROM LUTHERAN SERVICES OF IOWA

### **Poverty too often a reality for many Iowa families**

There are people in poverty across Iowa. These people are in your community struggling to get by day-to-day. You may not know who they are, but they are our brothers and sisters in Christ. Nearly 12 percent of Iowans are living in poverty, and as the economic downturn and job growth struggles continue, this will undoubtedly continue to rise.

January is National Poverty Awareness Month: a time to remember families and children affected by poverty. Throughout Iowa communities, Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) assists people through services that provide education and set goals that can lead to a more self-sufficient life. By bringing hope to families, LSI can help break the cycle of poverty, leading to healthier, happier families and stronger communities.

For more information on LSI, visit [www.LSIowa.org](http://www.LSIowa.org). Join us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa](http://www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa).

### **"We came a long way. A very long way."**

A single mother, Roycene juggles parenting, work and night classes so that someday she can help women and children affected by substance abuse issues.

"If there hadn't been people helping me along the way, I wouldn't be where I am today," she said.

Sober for over two years now, Roycene recalls when her then five-year-old son Lucas finally returned home after being placed in foster care.

"Lucas came home with a lot of behaviors," she said. "It was almost unmanageable. I went from not having a child with me for a year and half to this. It was a transition for him and for me."

For two years through LSI's behavioral health intervention services, LSI caseworker Heidi has helped Lucas learn anger

management, communication skills and coping skills. Heidi is also helping Lucas improve his social skills to make friends at school and helping Roycene find ways to talk to Lucas about his father's incarceration.

"She has helped me through that," Roycene said. "It's hard to know how to explain that his father isn't in the picture and what to tell him. It's not like he's going to be in his life."

They still have tough days, but ask Roycene if she's proud of how far they've come and she grows quiet.

"Yes, I am," she said softly. "We came a long way. A very long way."

## BRAND NEW

I am the new year. I am an unspoiled page in your book of time.

I am your next chance at the art of living. I am your opportunity to practice what you have learned about life during the last 12 months.

All you sought and didn't find is hidden in me, waiting for you to search it but with more determination. All the good you tried for and didn't achieve is mine to grant when you have fewer conflicting desires.

All you dreamed but didn't dare to do, all you hoped but did not will, all the faith you claimed but did not have — these slumber lightly, waiting to be awakened by the touch of a strong purpose.

I am your opportunity to renew your allegiance to him who said, "See, I am making all things new" (Revelation 21:5, NRSV).

—Author unknown





**HOLY COMMUNION**

December 31 & January 1, 2012  
January 14 & 15, 2012

Bake Bread  
Lynn Jenson

Preparation  
Karen Evenson, Sharol Hefti

Clean-up  
Kirsten Klepper

Communion Assistants for January  
January 1, 2012: (10:30): Larry Legore  
January 14 (5:30 pm): Rodney Meyer  
January 15 (8:00 am): April Braun  
January 15 (10:30 am): Jean Davis

Communion Assistants for February  
February 4 (5:30): Kevin Benschoter  
February 5 (8:00 am): Bill Lenz  
February 5 (10:30 am): Chris VanDeventer  
February 18 (5:30 pm): Jim Hefti  
February 19 (8:00 am): Keith Dwire  
February 19 (10:30 am): Ray Nielsen

**UPCOMING CONTEMPORARY  
WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES**

**January 14, 2012  
January 28, 2012**

**PRAY FOR OUR  
★ ★ ★ ★ ★  
MILITARY**

**Alex Habeger, in Iraq  
Erik Kloster, in Oklahoma  
Paul Lenz, in Washington (state)  
Brian Thacker, in Germany**



**SIXTY PLUS POTLUCK**

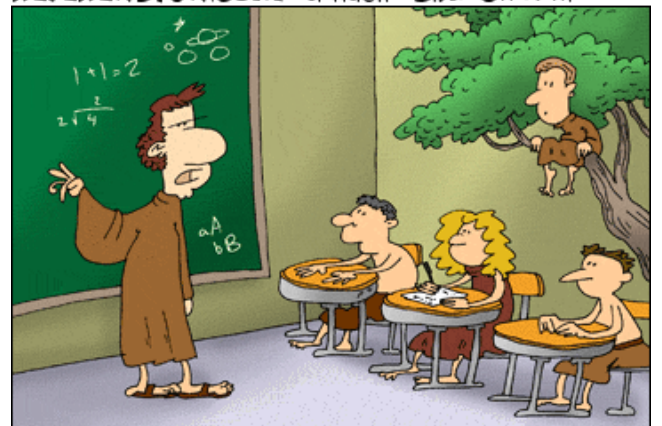
The next potluck for those "Sixty Plus" will be held on Friday, January 13 at 12:00 p.m. Chris VanDeventer will present a



*Sixty Plus*

program on her experience as a delegate at the ELCA churchwide Assembly in Orlando, Florida last August. If you would like to be a part of a friendly group, please join us during the noon hour on January 13! Please bring a dish to share as well as your own table service.

REVERENDFUN.COM COPYRIGHT BIBLE GATEWAY



(See Luke 19:1-10)

YOUNG ZACCHAEUS IN SCHOOL

11-28-2011

**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.

November 24 and 27, 2011: Larry & Susan Legore attended the Greeley Wesleyan Church in Greeley, Colorado.

December 4, 2011: Beverly Nordman attended the East Union Mennonite Church in Kalona, Iowa.

December 4 & 11: Chuck & Chloe Sheakley attended the Peace Lutheran Church in Peoria, Arizona.

December 11, 2011: Derald & Pam Goetz attended the Spirit Garage in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

December 11, 2011: Bruce & Marcia Sundet attended the Holmes Evangelical Lutheran church in Holmes, Iowa.



During the flu season, whenever you are greeting one another or when you're sharing the peace, if you're concerned about germs please feel free to refrain from shaking hands.

**WORSHIP CANCELLATION**

In the case of inclement weather this winter, any announcement regarding the cancellation of worship will be on KLGA. For the 8:00 a.m. worship, cancellation will be announced by 6:45 a.m. For Sunday School and 10:30 a.m. worship, cancellation will be announced by 8:30 a.m.



*The Quilt Work Group would like to thank those that purchased quilts or have donated money to our quilt fund. It is very much appreciated! We will also accept any cotton material for quilt tops.*

*~ Beryl Soderberg, Secretary*



*I would like to thank everybody that remembered me on my birthday by either phone or cards. It was a great birthday!*

*~ Beryl Soderberg*

# SATURDAY

## SERVERS

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### GREETERS

Jan. 7	Don & Beth Egel
Jan. 14	Mark & Joan Wiemann
Jan. 21	Vern & Kathy Nelson
Jan. 28	Bruce & Kim Knudsen

Feb. 4
Feb. 11
Feb. 18
Feb. 25

### GREETERS

Feb. 4	Dennis & Pam Schuttler
Feb. 11	Bill & Betty Holtz
Feb. 18	Frank & Carol Merrill
Feb. 25	Jim & Becky Gates

### ACOLYTES

Jan. 7	Hannah Sadler
Jan. 14	Rebekka Voss
Jan. 21	Morgan VanZante
Jan. 28	Rachel Meyer

Feb. 4
Feb. 11
Feb. 18
Feb. 25

### ACOLYTES

Feb. 4	Myra Meyer
Feb. 11	Ally Merrill
Feb. 18	Hannah Sadler
Feb. 25	Bekka Voss

### LECTORS

Jan. 7	Tom Lipps
Jan. 14	Rodney Meyer
Jan. 21	Jayne Lipps
Jan. 28	Mark Lenz

Feb. 4
Feb. 11
Feb. 18
Feb. 25

### LECTORS

Feb. 4	Lynn Jenson
Feb. 11	Clark Conner
Feb. 18	Gen Blumer
Feb. 25	Dan Peterson

### USHERS

Jan. 7	Bruce & Marcia Sundet
Jan. 14	Jim & Sharol Hefti
Jan. 21	Dave & Sandi Markla
Jan. 28	Gerald & Laura Zwiefel

Feb. 4
Feb. 11
Feb. 18
Feb. 25

### USHERS

Feb. 4	Brian & Sande Rodemeyer
Feb. 11	Al & Kirsten Klepper
Feb. 18	Larry & Gen Blumer
Feb. 25	Bruce & Marcia Sundet

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 December 13, 2011 for a Congregation Council meeting. Present: Al Buyck, Donna Meyerink, Brian Meyerink, Jim Hefti, April Braun, Keith Dwire, Bill Lenz, Tony Wiita, Jean Davis, Mark Meyer, Kevin Benschoter, and Colleen Teeuwe. Absent: Pastor Marsha, Nathan Countryman.

### Old Business

- **Nominating Committee Update:** The committee has three members for the ballot. Four positions are available, but eight members is the goal for the ballot.
- **Capital Campaign:** Tabled to a later date.
- **Performance Reviews:** These will be done at the end of the calendar year by the Executive Board. Research is being done on past procedures to complete the task.

### New Business

- **Endowment Board:** Paul Johnson and Kristie Brown visited the Council meeting to update us on their progress and procedures during the last few months. They plan to keep the congregation involved and informed of this important committee within our church. At the present time, the funds stand at \$109,300.
- **Committee Task Force:** All committee's are asked to have a checklist of month to month items to be completed. This will ensure that committees will stay on schedule with their tasks.
- **Christmas Break for Staff:** The office staff is planning to take vacation days the week after

Christmas. There will be contact information on the answering machine. The church doors will be unlocked by 9:00 a.m. during the week.

- **Newsletter change:** We will be trying something new with the distribution of the monthly newsletter. We will NOT be sending out paper copies to anyone who has an email and can get the newsletter via the internet. Shut-ins will receive their newsletter via the USPS and copies will be available for pick-up in the narthex.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Worship and Music

Five members present. Church decorating was completed and ideas for improvement will be made for 2012. Salaries in 2011 were not raised due to budget limitations. Inquiry as to if a raise in salary would be possible this year. Also, an inquiry on the use of contracts was made. A "Worship Ready" checklist has been developed by Julie Murphy to help ensure a smooth worship service. The committee is seeking people to help with this checklist prior to each church service.

### Property Committee

The closet door in one of the Sunday School rooms needs repair along with a light under the canopy. Some reports of the Youth Room needing to be picked up and the tables and chairs cleaned up after an activity. Update on the sign: the committee is currently checking into the city requirements and limitations to signage within city limits to make sure their proposed sign is within those guidelines. An Energy Audit will be done.

### Christian Education

Seven members were present. This committee has been working hard all month to lead the Sunday School Christmas program. The children have been practicing during the Sunday School hour and the production will be presented on Saturday, December 17 at 4:00 p.m. The committee will also be working on finishing the Messiah's Matinee room on December 28 with some painting and hanging of movie posters.

### Youth Ministry

Three members present. Live Greeting Card window participation went well. Next year a simple craft and some youth to help bring in participants will be sought. A skiing/tubing adventure to Mt. Kato in February is being planned. There is a Lock-In planned for January at the YMCA and chaperones are needed. Campaigners have chosen to go backpacking in Michigan in August 2012. Brainstorming was done on the ELCA's program "Milestones" which help equip families to pass on the faith.

### Stewardship/Finance

Seven members present. Reviewed the Stewardship campaign for this year. We received 84 total pledges which is down seven pledges from last year. A proposed budget has been put together and will be revised as final pledges are received.

### Evangelism/Social Ministry

Five members present. The adopted family gifts will be delivered to families on December 19 and 20. The committee will arrange sponsors for the new members being received.



### Attendance and Offering Report

### DECEMBER 2011

#### ATTENDANCE

<u>DATE</u>	<u>SATURDAY</u>	<u>SUNDAY</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
12-4	37	90	127
12-11	42 (CW)	131	173
12-18	49	90	139
12-24	NA	NA	NA
12-25	NA	NA	NA

#### 2011 OFFERINGS

12-4	\$4,094.00
12-11	\$4,757.75
12-18	\$4,728.25
12-24	NA
12-25	NA
Received in 2011	<b>\$248,523.02</b>
Pledged in 2011	<b>\$284,324.53</b>



"You've all heard that the church's computer system crashed Friday, and some of you may be hoping that I forgot to back up my sermon."

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**Family Ministries**

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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*

