

January, 2012



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From the Pastor's Pen

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Dear friends, The New Year is upon us. I think the older I get the faster the year goes by... Do you remember when we wished time away, like when we were kids how we would wish we were older, or old enough to drive or go to college, old enough to leave home or get married or retire? Good thing God does not answer all our prayers with a 'yes', for He knows what is best for us. When young we wish for time to speed up. Now, I find myself wishing for more time, so I could enjoy my daughter more, spend more time with family, have more time to get my to do list done, have more time to relax... It's all going so fast.

I think one reason of many that the Lord gave us the Sabbath Day, and made it a command, was to help us, help us take that time to be with each other & get to know Him better, time to relax, to slow down. If we won't take the day for ourselves, or in honor of God, maybe we will take time for the sake of our loved ones. It is meant to be a blessing day, not the day to get everything else done. My Webster's says this, 'to rest from labor' and 'a day of rest or repose'. If you feel over tired on Monday because of Sunday's activities – it might be time to re-evaluate. If your job covers Sundays, try and find another time or day to take a Sabbath rest. It is not only what God wants from us, God wants it FOR us, for our own physical, mental and spiritual well being.

I work on the Sabbath, so I try to find those moments that I can just be still in the Lord. Even though I often crave a nap, this is a different kind of rest. It includes

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more: a time of prayer, worship of my God, honoring Him, physical rest, and a break from what we do every other day; it might include getting your mind off of a worry or off of that 'to do' list. Maybe it's finding a quiet place to read and think on scripture and for prayer. Sometimes if the day allows for it, I will lay in bed a bit longer in the morning contemplating what needs to be done, who needs to be visited, but also thinking about new ideas and praying for those who have come to mind. Nothing can replace a group held worship service, yet some form of worship is better than no worship, no Sabbath at all. Our God knows we need that Sabbath Rest. It is healing, keeps us grounded in God, and gives focus for the rest of the week. It sounds simple, a day of rest, but the benefits are **hefty** & glorify God! The Sabbath Day is a gift.

"If you keep your feet from breaking the Sabbath and from doing as you please on my holy day, if you call the Sabbath a delight and the Lord's holy day honorable, and if you honor it by not going your own way and not doing as you please or speaking idle words, then you will find your joy in the Lord..." Isaiah 58:13-14a.

The Joy of the Lord,
Pastor Skildum



P.S. Thank you for all the birthday wishes last month!

Our Christian Sympathies

are with Bishop Burnside and his family with the loss of his wife Cynthia. Cynthia lost her battle with cancer.

Book Alert

ELCA Bishop Herbert W. Chilstrom has written an autobiography entitled, 'A Journey of Grace'. If you recall his wife published a book a while back, after the suicide of their son, 'Andrew, You Died too Soon'. The profits from this autobiography will help fund the Herbert Chilstrom chair in New Testament at the Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago. Order online at www.lutheranupress.org/books/A_Journey_of_Grace.

Other Church News:

We wish Godspeed to James Kenneth Echols, who for 14 years gave great leadership and served in ministry as President at the Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago, one of our ELCA seminaries. May the Lord continue to bless his footsteps wherever they may go!

Committee Reports

A reminder that all committee reports for the Annual report are due in the office no later than January 9th.

Cards for Soldiers

Thank you to all that helped send 173 Christmas cards out to our soldiers serving all over the world.

Bi-Annual Meeting

This year's January meeting will take place at 9:15 am on Sunday, January 29th. Copies of the annual report will be available in the narthex on January 15th.

Pictorial Directory

We are still in the proofing stage with LifeTouch. Hopefully towards the end of January we'll have the completed directory ready to be picked up.

Hannah Circle

The next meeting will be held January 17th at Terri Soley's home at 7:00 pm. Any women who would be interested in Bible Study and sharing with other woman, are welcome.

Property Committee

The next meeting will be held Monday, January 30th at 6 pm.

Council Meeting

The next meeting will be held Wednesday, January 4th at 5:30 pm.

Bad Weather

In case the weather is bad, check with Channel 9 news out of Wausau and the church answering machine, #564-7920. Please, don't be afraid to call Pastor Terri at her home before setting out, #339-6536. If in doubt, be safe and stay home.

Special service times this month

New Year's Day: 9 am only with no Sunday School.

Sunday, Jan. 29th: 8 am only with no Sunday School. The Bi-Annual meeting will follow service, movie provided for the kids.

January 1st – 9:00 am

Ushers: Hank Sauer
Liturgist: Paul Brown
Lector: Mike Kuss
Greeters: Bud & Judy Hatlevig
Acolyte: Jamar Wertjes
Comm. Bearers: Bud & Judy Hatlevig

January 8th – 8:00 am

Ushers: Scott & Karen Soley
Liturgist: Tom Guzman
Lector: Dianna Steigerwald
Greeters: Ray & Karen Groskinsky
Acolyte: Zach Kuchta
Comm. Bearers: Bud & Judy Hatlevig

January 15th – 8:00 am

Ushers: John & Jim Stormoen
Liturgist: Darlene Hovorka
Lector: Darlene Hovorka
Greeters: Fritz & Norma Riese
Acolyte: Stacey DeMunck
Comm. Bearers: Ray & Karen Groskinsky

January 22nd – 8:00 am

Ushers: Allen Hendrickson/Tom Guzman
Liturgist: Karen Soley
Lector: Edith Quinnell
Greeters: Patsy Manning/Kathy Laskowski
Acolyte: Liz DeMunck
Comm. Bearers: Allen Hendrickson/Lloyd Hovorka

January 29th – 8:00 am

Ushers: Bud Hatlevig & Al Laskowski
Liturgist: Dianna Steigerwald
Lector: Edith Quinnell
Greeters: Joe & Myrna Baumel
Acolyte: Alyssa Kuss
Comm. Bearers: Al & Kathy Laskowski

January 8th – 10:15 am

Ushers: John Pavelec/Craig Irey
Comm. Asst.: Dana Peterson
Lector: Joyce Pavelec
Greeters: Peter & Shalan Larson
Acolyte: Emma Hamilton
Comm. Bearers: Craig & Roxanne Irey

January 15th – 10:15 am

Ushers: Ann Bassan/Patty Schaumburg
Comm. Asst.: Joyce Pavelec
Lector: Garrett Gould
Greeters: Lianna Glavin/Debbie Hagen
Acolyte: Alisha Prasalowicz
Comm. Bearers: Peter & Shalan Larson

January 22nd – 10:15 am

Ushers: Steve & Danna Peterson
Comm. Asst.: Louise Thomas
Lector: Dave Bassan
Greeters: Becky Pease/Karen Romell
Acolyte: Kyler Bork
Comm. Bearers: Craig & Roxanne Irey

If you are unable to be here when you are scheduled, please find your own replacement and call the office at 564-7920 with the changes.

KFC - Kids For Christ

- Road Trip! There is a concert in Madison on Saturday, Feb. 4th Mercy Me, Tenth Avenue North, LeCrae Hawk Nelson, Disciple and Sidewalk Prophets will be performing. Speaker will be Bart Millard! Cost is \$10!! Concert at 6pm at the Coliseum at the Alliant Energy Center. Sign Up sheet for ride sharing is in the narthex. Let's Rock and Worship!!
- Sunday School's next topic is Holy Communion and will be on Jan. 8, 15, and 22. Sign up sheet for teachers is in the Narthex.
- Memory verses: Acts 2:42 'They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.' And 1 Corinthians 11:26 'For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.' Holy Communion has many names such as Sacrament of the Altar and the Breaking of Bread.
- Thank you to Roxy Irey, Lenna Hamilton, Michelle Puerling and all others who made our Christmas program so wonderful this year!!
- 5th graders: First Communion – will be held Sunday mornings after SS opening in January, except Jan. 29 (Bi-Annual Meeting), and will also meet on Feb. 5.
- NO classes on Jan 1st nor on Jan. 29th for Sunday School or for Confirmation. A movie will be available in the basement for youth during the Bi-Annual meeting.
- Super Bowl Sunday: Youth will collect monies in soup pots for the Food Pantry, Feb. 5. Volunteers are needed for this Soup-er-Bowl Sunday! Talk with Pastor.

Bible Moment:

Bible Moment

Matthew 5: 43 "You have heard that it was said 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy'. 44 But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, 45 that you may be sons of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. 46 If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? 47 And if you greet only your brothers, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that?" Here we are looking at the difference between believers in Christ and pagan unbelievers.

1. Read verse 47. What makes us different?
2. Verse 46. What makes us different?
3. Verse 44. What makes us different?

Yep, our love; more specifically, who we love. We are asked by God to love those who hate us, those who hurt us, those who may not love us back. This kind of love is different than all others. It does not mean we condone the behavior of others or agree with them. It means giving respect, making sure human needs are considered such as food, shelter, water, like the man in the Bible who stopped to help a stranger who had been beaten and left for dead.

Present: Joyce Pavelec, Monica Wallendal, Peter Larson, Don Peterson, Pastor Terri Skildum, Garrett Gould, Roxie Irej and Karen Soley **Excused:** David Bassan and Ruth Check **Unexcused:** Larry Warren

- ❖ Meeting called to order by President Peter Larson
- ❖ Opening Devotions by Pastor
- ❖ November 8, 2011 Treasurer's Report Joyce/Don passed
- ❖ November 8, 2011 Council Minutes Garrett/Joyce passed with the addition of Don Peterson added to last month's council attendance.
- ❖ Pastor Terri's Report
 - Visitations
 - One funeral – Cleon Schieffer
 - Two weddings in November – Ostby/Meyer and Garcia
 - Two baptisms – Jackson Schneider and Evelyn Stainbrook
 - Sunday school Program – Sunday, December 11th.
 - Pastor will be gone on Sunday, January 1st. Mark Teslik will be in the pulpit.
 - An Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service took place with about 50 in attendance.
- ❖ Next council meeting will be Wednesday, January 4, 2012 at 5:30 pm. Roxie made motion to start all future meetings at 5:30. Joyce seconded. Motion passed.
- ❖ Advent Dinner – Everything is ready for Wednesday, the 7th. 47 have signed up – not including council members. Will plan on 75 attending. Spaghetti, Meat Sauce, Salad, Bread and council bring desserts. Dinner at 5:30.
- ❖ Benevolence Giving – Currently have designated funds totaling \$1,500. Garrett made motion to send the \$1500 benevolence monies (and any December monies) to go to the Adams County Food Pantry. Roxie seconded. Motion passed.
- ❖ Audit Committee - Currently consists of Nate Quinnell, and Dale Malm. Amber Bruce has agreed to serve on this committee. Joyce made motion to accept these three on committee. Roxie seconded. Motion passed.
- ❖ Discussed possible members to replace Don Peterson, as he will be resigning from council January 1st. Executive Committee will look at possible replacement members.
- ❖ Internet and Phone Options – Wildblue vs. US Cellular and Frontier. Roxie made motion to start trial period with Frontier in January. Garrett seconded. Motion passed.
- ❖ Three new computers would cost roughly \$2000 if we purchase this year. Karen made motion to authorize pending purchase of three new computers. Joyce seconded. Passed.
- ❖ Don motioned to purchase new software to replace ACS. Joyce seconded. Passed.
- ❖ Budget Review – Reviewed line items and consensus of dollar amounts.
- ❖ No Committee Reports were given.
- ❖ Motion to adjourn Garrett/Don passed
- ❖ Closed with the Lord's Prayer

January 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 - New Year's -9:00 Worship, No Sunday School	2	3 8:00 am Quilting	4 5:30 pm Council 6:00 pm Choir and Confirmation	5	6	7
8 8:00 am Worship 9:00 am Fellowship 9:15 am Education 10:15 am Worship & Baptism 12:00 pm SWF	9 - 6:15 am Worship com. @ Friendship Cafe - Committee reports due	10 8:00 am Quilting	11 6:00 pm Choir and Confirmation	12	13	14
15 8:00 am Worship 9:00 am Fellowship 9:15 am Education 10:15 am Worship 11:00 am Baby Shower	16 1:00 pm Dorcas Circle	17 8:00 am Quilting 7:00 pm Hannah Circle @ T. Soley's	18 6:00 pm Choir and Confirmation	19 12:00 pm Newsletter Articles Due	20	21 National Hugging Day!
22 8:00 am Worship 9:00 am Fellowship 9:15 am Education 10:15 am Worship	23	24 8:00 am Quilting	25 6:00 pm Choir and Confirmation	26	27	28
29 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Annual Congregation Meeting No Sunday School, movie provided during meeting	30 Property 6:00 pm	31 8:00 am Quilting				

Collectables:

We collect here at the church:

- v AF County Market receipts. The WELCA uses the funds received to help with youth projects and trips.
- v Campbell soup labels. These are donated to the Roche-A-Cri school; points from the labels add up to acquire needed school equipment.
- v Aluminum pop cans. These funds are for youth and used for events and activities. *Crushed cans bring a better price.*

Cans can be dropped off in the trailer behind the church. And there are collection boxes in the narthex near the elevator for Receipts and labels.

Soup for your bowl!

The youth will be taking orders for soup in January. There will be a variety to choose from. Money raised will go towards the New Orleans trip in 2012. Stay tuned for further details!!!

“Claimed by Christ, we are called and empowered to make Christ known through worship, education, and service both locally and to the world.”