

WANDERINGS AND WONDERINGS

Thank you for the many ways you share your words and appreciation and support this past month. Thank you for the appreciation potluck – the cards and kind words – that we had before the Thanksgiving Eve worship. Thank you for the Christmas greetings - cards, kind words, and gifts that you have shared. And thank you for the support you have shared this past week – over the miles and in person – in the flowers, cards, in your understanding, and by your prayers – in light of my mother’s death. Thank you.

I apologize if any of you think what follows is too personal – it may be, but I have a feeling it is also rather universal. And you will find yourself remembering, grieving, and giving God thanks for all that God has done.

I want to say that you can never know how much all that has been appreciated, needed, and sustaining – particularly this past week. But I can’t say that, because you do know. Because I have seen our faith community at work around you – time and time again. I am not the first one among us to lose one’s mother in death. In fact, over the past couple of months (and years), I have grieved with a number of you as you have lost a parent. Either we have lost a parent/spouse/friend to death, or we will. You, like I, know that pain. And you, like I, also know what the faith community brings to this event. We don’t go through this alone. I’m not sure we can, and I definitely know we do not want to. There are words spoken...and presences felt and observed...hugs received...tears shed... all that come and surround us in the midst of a greater presence that comes to us through our God.

There are moments we think we are alone, but we not. God promises that “neither life, nor death, nor...anything else will ever separate us from the love of God” – I have never felt that any more real than this past week. But what I learned this past week was that that passage from Romans 8 is not just speaking about Jesus Christ, but about those who call themselves Christ followers as well. We might not always think we can see the Almighty all around us,

but through his faithful followers we certainly feel and know His Presence as being “real” in every senses of the word.

The faith community – the hand of God – it carries us when we can’t. It is a “faith” shared. Whether it be the faith shared by my mom – for I had the privilege of knowing that my mom knew whose she was, and knew where she was going, and where home really is. She had no fear and no regrets.

It was a faith shared – by those who called or texted and shared the collective sentiments of the many of you who were felt in spirit but could not be there at that moment. By those who greeted us in the name of Christ and his promises at worship Saturday night. A faith shared by flowers that shared a message of hope and comfort. A faith shared by those who came to the visitation – a long day, but powerfully moving as those who could shared how a faith in Christ was shared with them. A worship that proclaimed a living and a life-giving God – whether it be by the music (Mom didn’t want her service to drag –she wanted marches, so we came in to “Battle Hymn of the Republic” and went out to “When are the Saints come Marching In”. One old friend of my mom said to me, “Your mom knew I didn’t like that (Saints marching) song. She always said, doesn’t it jst pep you up. She was right, sometimes that is what we need.), or the Word of God, and simply by those who gather in the promise and hope of the resurrection. And then the meal – Communion and the meal that followed.

I was never alone, just as God promised. So it was, and is, and will be forever. As I said before, many of you already knew that, so did I. But thanks for teaching that to me again.

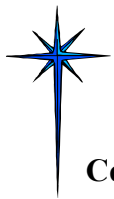
It is a peace of God that passes human understanding, but not a peace that passes human experience. Thanks be to God.

Wanderings and Wonderings,
Pastor Bill Peters

WORSHIP – EDUCATION – SERVICE – FELLOWSHIP

WORSHIP

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SCHEDULE



Christmas Eve Worship

4:00 pm Monday, December 24th

(6:30 pm at Bethany)

“The Christ-mas Gift!”

Celebrated with Candlelight and Holy Communion.



Christmas Day Worship

10:30 am Tuesday, December 25th

“Rejoice!”

Celebrated with Holy Communion



Pastor’s Vacation Times & Pastoral Needs

Pastor Bill and family will be gone on vacation from December 26th – January 2nd.

Please contact Pastor Baldwin via his cell phone - this is the most effective and efficient, especially at this time. **Pastor Randy Baldwin #590-0727**

Sunday, December 30th – Christmas 1

Service of Carols and Scripture

Kermit Singelstad will be leading worship.

Sunday, January 6th – Epiphany

Celebrated with Adult Choir & Holy Communion

This is the day we lift-up the arrival of the wise men to see and worship Jesus the Messiah. As the wise men followed the light of the star, during the season of Epiphany, we lift up Jesus as the Light of the World. Epiphany is the 12th day of Christmas and has traditionally been the day to celebrate the Christmas story in the tradition of the Eastern Orthodox Christian Church.



Sunday, January 13th – Baptism of our Lord

Sunday, January 20th – Epiphany 2

“Alive” worship team will be leading worship.

Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, January 20th following worship

Agenda items to be voted:

Congregational Elections

Approval of congregational budget

Approval of parish budget

Distribution of Estate (*interest*) gifts

Congregational Dinner will follow the meeting in the fellowship hall.

Friday, January 25th – Guatemala “Sending”

A short worship of prayer, blessing and sending.

Time and place to be determined

Pastor Bill be in Guatemala the Sundays of Jan. 27th & Feb. 3rd.

Sunday, January 27th – Transfiguration

Sunday, February 3rd – Lent 1

Celebrated with Adult Choir & Holy Communion

Ash Wednesday Worship

7:15 pm Wednesday, February 6th

Holy Communion & Imposition of Ashes

At Winnebago Lutheran Church

Sunday, February 10th – Lent 2

Installation of Congregational Leaders

WINNEBAGO YOUTH

Taking Down Christmas Decorations

Noon Sunday, January 6th

Lunch provided

ONE IN CHRIST LUTHERAN PARISH

Parish-wide Thanksgiving Eve

Thank You!

Our Thanksgiving offerings included over 203 food items (some cash) for the food banks in Worth and Winnebago counties. We also collected over \$1,000 cash for



supplies and medicines for the Guatemala trip.

One in Christ confirmation classes, along with Salem and the Leland congregations collected 1197 food items for our local food banks the week before.

Well Done!

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve Worship

Monday, December 24th

4:00 pm – Winnebago

“The Christ-mas Gift!”

Celebrated with Candlelight and Holy Communion.

5:30 pm – Silver Lake

6:30 pm – Bethany

“The Christ-mas Gift!”

Celebrated with Candlelight and Holy Communion.

7:30 pm – Immanuel

Christmas Day Worship

Tuesday, December 25th

9:00 am – Sion/Silver Lake

Festival Communion Service

10:30 am – Immanuel

Festival Communion Service

10:30 am - Winnebago

“Rejoice!”

Celebrated with Holy Communion



THANK YOU FROM THE PASTORS

Thank you for the pastor's appreciation potluck before our parish-wide Thanksgiving Eve worship. Thank you for the kind words of appreciation, the cards, and various gifts of appreciation. We both are very appreciative of all your support and concern throughout the year as we partner together in the mission and ministries of our Lord. Thank you. God's blessings to you all.

Pastors Randy Baldwin and Bill Peters



Harmony Ranch Service Project Planning Meeting

Plans are being made to develop a couple of Biblical sites along the walking trail over the winter. We will plan a work day/fellowship event sometime in late May – early June.



PARISH FAMILY FELLOWSHIP EVENT

Bowling

Sunday, January 6th

3:00 – 6:00 pm

Meet at SuperBowl, Forest City
Cost \$6.50 – bowling (2 games/shoes)

Pizza afterwards – we will decide at the bowling alley who and how much pizza – pick them up and some pop – re-gather at Winnebago to eat and fellowship.

Bring a dessert or chips to share.

ONE IN CHRIST LUTHERAN PARISH

Natural Church Development

A VISIONING PROCESS

The Parish Council has received the results from the sample group taking the Natural Church Development survey, and have begun working to interpret and apply the results. The information will be shared with congregational councils soon.

Some of our stronger areas as a parish proved to be the areas of empowering leadership, functional structures, and loving relationships. The areas of growth showed up along the lines of passionate spirituality, gift-oriented ministry, and holistic small groups.

In time we will address each of these in more depth, but for the time being I would like to highlight the one area – passionate spirituality – that was identified as a growth area for the parish and was one of the two most needy areas in every individual congregation profile.

Passionate Spirituality – it is probably the most abstract of the areas measured. It is not addressing the style of spirituality or the way it is expressed, but the fact that faith is actually lived out with commitment, fire and enthusiasm. This is the energy and excitement that makes everything move. What good is the most modern engine when the gas tank is empty? Not much. So we need to find ways to fill the “spiritual gas tank”.

Some of the areas in which this is measured is in one’s prayer life, Bible reading, and other areas of personal faith development. The amount of time spent in these things is not as important as whether prayer or the Scripture is viewed as an “inspiring experience”. It’s about learning to live one’s understanding of the faith with a contagious enthusiasm and a willingness to share it with others.

It is not so much about knowing the “right things”, but knowing the one thing – in Martin Luther’s words, that everything God/Jesus has done was done “for you (me).” Taking it personal, to the heart, to your/my heart. It is understanding the life of faith as a genuine relationship with Jesus Christ. And then finding ways to share it.

That will be our task in the near future, and it will be exciting. More to come.

Confirmation Ministry

Confirmation Classes

Wednesdays after-school at Sion Lutheran Church

No classes during Christmas break

December 26th and January 2nd.

Classes resume on January 9th.

Ninth Grade Discipleship Class

Wednesday, January 23rd at 7:00pm

at Salem Chapel

Bible Reading: A Personal Devotion Life Part 1

Pastor David Jordon

WOW

Midweek Christian Education for
1st- 4th Grades

3:15pm to 5pm at Salem Lutheran
Church

Winter Session begins January 9th

Adult Education

The Lutheran Course: Part 1

Two sessions remain

1:30 pm Wednesday – January 16th & 23rd at Sion

7:30 pm Thursday – January 17th & 24th at Wbg

- How to Read the Bible
- How to Share your Faith with Someone

New Adult Education Opportunities will be offered in February –March.

**PARISH Sr. High YOUTH
Bible Study**

6:30 – 7:30 pm Sunday, January 13th

Meet at Winnebago

All High School youth are invited.

ONE IN CHRIST LUTHERAN PARISH

FIFTH GUATEMALA TRIP – January 25th – February 4th

PERSONALE - We have thirty-five people from the Lake Mills area or with Lake Mills connections who will be going to Guatemala. They are Bill/Jeff Beebe, Michael/Rita/Josie Biddle, Don/Mary Frisbie, Dorothy Gesme, Andrew/Philip Hanna, , Ann Hartley, Kari Haugsdal, Bruce/Gabriel Kesler, Chad LyBarger, Dennis/Darlene Madson, Ron/Phyllis Moen, Britta Nelson, Paige/Lauren Nelson, Roger/Amy/Katie/Jack Olson, Pastor Bill/Anita Peters, Barb/Kelly Renshaw, Jim Sletten, Janet Vinson, Ellyse Volz, Joanne Wetjes, and Ester Ziemer. This group will meet up with another sixteen people from Independence, Cedar Rapids, Gilbert, and Waterloo. The total group will be 51 people.



Guatemala

PROJECTS - We plan to have a medical team (3 doctors and a nurse practitioner) that provide basic health care to those in need, build desks for the “School of the Saints” and work on the new school outside of Reu.

***Guatemala Mission Trip Is Coming Up...
Your Support Makes The Difference!!***

PRAYER SUPPORT – We have not gathered prayer partners for this trip, but that doesn’t mean we don’t need your prayers. **Please include us in your prayers on a daily basis** – for making God known, seeing God at work, for community, for safety, for health, for effectiveness, for the blessings of God we can share, the blessings of God that are shared with us, plus more. We need your prayers, and they make a world of a difference.

The “Sending Service” will be on Friday, January 25th – place and time to be determined

CASH DONATIONS – are needed to help make possible our two primary projects. Medical mission – to help cover the cost of prescription medications. Construction – to pay for the building materials for the school desks and new school. ***Cash donations can be placed in the offering plate and labeled “Guatemala.”***

“IN-KIND” DONATIONS - The following donations are being received to support the Guatemala Mission Trip. Collection boxes – check your bulletin for the location at your church.

- Tylenol (Acetaminophen) and Advil (ibuprofen) —regular tablets/capsules and chewable
- Vitamins of any type—tablets/capsules, chewable, AND liquid children’s
- School supplies, children’s clothing, shoes, small toys (balls, cars, stuffed animals, etc.)



Other items we could use:

- Reading glasses (sometimes as little as \$1 per pair at Dollar General, etc)
- Children’s Clothing – (*as we have room*)
- Dental care items (toothbrushes, toothpaste, etc)
- Other hygiene items (soap, shampoo, lotion, etc)



Other items may also be appropriate. Talk to Pastor



Peters if you have something you are

wondering about donating.

Packing day is Saturday, January 19th 4:00 pm at Bethany Lutheran. If items come after that day, and we cannot squeeze them in, we will share them with another group going at a later date.

Check the One in Christ web page - www.wctatel.net/web/oneinchrist
for a daily log of events and insights.

January Birthdays

- 3 – Hailey Stutzman
- 4 – Danial Twait
- 6 – Brooke Wilkinson
- 7 – Truman Knudtson
- 8 – Britta Nelson
- 13 – Elaine Charlson
- 15 – Jack Ramaker
- 16 – Suzy Wilkinson
- 17 – Tanner Beier
- 17 – Mindy Twait
- 21 – Zarren Egesdal
- 23 – Becca Seglem
- 24 – Jerry Fjeld
- 24 – Scott Pederson
- 29 – Ashley Egesdal
- 30 – Bonnie Charlson
- 31 – Chris Hesse

January Anniversaries

- 28 – Maynard & Marilyn Tweeten

WORSHIP & SUNDAY SCHOOL TIMES

9:00 am Worship at Bethany Lutheran Church,
Joice

10:15 am Sunday School at Bethany

9:00 am Sunday School

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

DECEMBER 23rd OR 30th

10:30 am Worship at Winnebago Lutheran Church

“ONE IN CHRIST” LUTHERAN PARISH” PASTORS’

JANUARY PREACHING SCHEDULE

for Winnebago and Bethany

January 6th – Pastor Bill Peters

January 13th – Pastor Bill Peters

Pastor Bill Peters

January 20th – Annual Meeting

Pastor Bill Peters

January 27th – ???

YEAR BOOK INFORMATION

Any information, report, or schedule for the 2008 Year Book should be to Sandy by Thursday, January 17th, 2008. We will be putting the Year Book together on Thursday, January 24th or Friday afternoon, January 25th. Thank you.

CHOIRS PRACTICE & PERFORM

The Adult Choir

Practice – *Wednesdays* at 8:00 pm

January 2, 9, 23 & 30

Sundays – January 6, 13, & 27 at 10:00 am.

Sing during Worship

Sunday, January 6th

The “Alive” Choir

Practice

Wednesday, January 16th at 8:00 pm

Sunday, January 13th at 7:00 pm

Sing during Worship

Sunday – January 20th

Cherub & Youth Choir

Practice – Every Sunday at 9:10 am

Cherub Sing

Watch your bulletins for information

Youth Sing

Watch your bulletins for information

WELCA

The Winnebago Women of the ELCA does not meet in January.

CIRCLES

The *Esther/Ruth Circle* does not meet in January.

THANK YOU!

A Big Thank You to Gib and Anita Grunhovd for supplying the apples and candy canes given out at the Sunday School Christmas Program.

A Big Thank you to *Anita Peters, Linda Saxton, and Amber Egesdal*, our dedicated workers who put this program together, they work hard each week to get the program to come together. It was great.

*God Bless you from the Winnebago
Sunday School*

2007 GIVING DUE

If you would still like to contribute any 2007 offering, it is due by Sunday, January 6th. Thanks you.

JANUARY DUTY ROSTER

Altar Guild.....Dagmar Sletten

Acolytes.....JR Hauge

JJ Durgin

Ushers.....Richard Lindflott

Dan Twait

Jerry Fjeld

Glenn Fjeld

ATTENDANCE AND CONTRIBUTIONS

(Benevolence includes Missions, Missionary, World Hunger)

	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Contributions</u>
November:		
18 –	90	\$5155.06
	<i>(plus \$5412.00 to Benevolence)</i>	
21 –	154	Thanksgiving Eve Service at Zion
25 –	102	\$2940.99
	<i>(plus \$170.00 to Benevolence)</i>	
December:		
2 –	0	\$ 0
	<i>(Winter Weather)</i>	
9 –	102	\$4310.68
	<i>(plus \$35.00 to Benevolence)</i>	
16 –	201	\$4481.48
	<i>(Of that \$387.60 went to Lutheran Services in Iowa) (plus \$1172.43 to Benevolence)</i>	

NARTHEX ADDITION OFFERING

Recorded since June 2, 2005

This is included in the above giving!

November:		
18 –		\$1134.00
25 –		\$1210.00
December:		
2 –		\$ 0
9 –		\$ 890.00
16 –		\$ 367.90
Total Given to Date		\$103,721.59

Thank you.

PARISH UPDATES OFFERING

This is included in the above giving!

November:		
18 –		\$ 184.00
25 –		\$ 0
December:		
2 –		\$ 0
9 –		\$ 212.00
16 –		\$ 0
Total Given to Date		\$6,798.00

SNOW REMOVAL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Parking Areas – an equipped tractor/truck is needed & Sidewalks – equipment is at the church. **There are two sign-up sheets in the Narthex.** Thank you.



PASTORS ON VACATION

Pastor Bill and his family will be on vacation from Wednesday, December 26th through January 2nd. If you have a Pastoral emergency please contact Pastor Randy Baldwin (590-0727).

Pastor Randy and his family will be on vacation from Wednesday, December 26th through Saturday, December 29th. He will be in the area and on call for any pastoral emergency.

ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting for Winnebago this year will be held on Sunday, January 20th

The meeting will follow the Worship Service.

2008 ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

- Reports
- Voting on Congregational Leaders and Committee Member
- Approve Congregational Budget
- Approve Parish Budget
- Distribution of Winnebago Estate and Gift Fund

Congregational Dinner will follow the meeting in the fellowship hall.

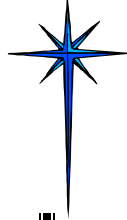
WINNEBAGO'S GIVING TOTALS FOR 2007 (through December 16th)

	<u>Year-to-date</u>	<u>2007 Budgeted Goal</u>
ELCA Bible Camps	\$ 0	
ELCA Domestic		
Disaster Relief	\$ 2335.67	
International ELCA		
Disaster Relief	\$ 1000.00	
Local Benevolences	\$ 4813.00	
Lutheran Services of IA		
	<i>Includes: Beloit & Bremwood</i>	
	\$ 887.60	\$ 1000.00
Luth World Relief	\$ 0	
Misc. Benevolences	\$ 5574.12	
Missionary	\$ 63.00	\$ 2000.00
Mission Support	\$10,842.57	
	\$11,000.00	
Waldorf	\$ 216.00	
World Hunger	\$ 3495.54	\$ 1600.00
WOW	\$ 150.00	\$ 300.00

As you take a moment to reflect upon how God has provided for you this past year, also reflect upon the above numbers as a means of how we extend God's provision to others. It would be exciting if we could meet and even exceed a number of our goals for this past year. Thank you for sharing what God has shared with you!



CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SCHEDULE



Christmas Eve Worship

4:00 pm Monday, December 24th

"The Christ-mas Gift!"

Celebrated with Candlelight and Holy Communion.

Christmas Day Worship

10:30 am Tuesday, December 25th

"Rejoice!"

Celebrated with Holy Communion



Winnebago
Annual Congregational Meeting
Sunday, January 20th
Following worship

