

WANDERINGS AND WONDERINGS

Does God embarrass you?

That's an odd question in a way. But truly, does God embarrass you?

Now don't be too quick to answer that question, because your actions might speak louder than your words. Now we can talk about this along the following lines. Do we shy away from talking about God? Or "to God" in some settings? Do we pray aloud at a restaurant? Are we willing to bring God into our discussions about business, politics, and the like?

The above is one side of the question, but I want to dig a little deeper – into our heart, the way we think, what we want – the personal side of things. I'm not so concerned today about the public side of this question, but the personal side of this.

Last Sunday our gospel reading begins with the observation, that Jesus was embarrassing some of the folk. *"Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, 'This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.'*" (Luke 15:1-2)

The issue at hand is that the "righteous", the "good people", were embarrassed by whom Jesus was eating with. As we know, eating is a very personal matter. We don't eat with just anyone, we eat with people we know, people we are comfortable around, people like us. When we go to a restaurant, we don't just sit alongside anyone, we either find an empty table or somebody we know (well). If we go to a party, we don't sit at any table, but we find somebody we know, and sit with them. We rarely eat with strangers, and even more rarely eat with people we struggle with.

And Jesus is eating with people the others are struggling with. Jesus, the answer their prayers, maybe the Messiah even, a marvelous teacher, a miracle worker indeed, a person from and of God...and he is eating with "them." That was embarrassing.

How Jesus responds is even more embarrassing (for some), and enlightening for others. Jesus doesn't work to defend his actions. He tells them three stories – about a lost sheep, a lost coin, and two lost sons – all in the 15th chapter of Luke. The stories are not there to defend Jesus per say, but to simply say that "this is what the

kingdom of God is like." Like what is presented in the last story to the elder son, this is what the father (God) is like and is going to do – either you can come in and join the party, or stay out here and pout. But if you are out here, realize that you are outside the household (kingdom).

What is so embarrassing about God? When you get right down to it, it is **grace**. God's grace is embarrassing to us. Grace is embarrassing because it supersedes justice. It is embarrassing because at times it seems to look past the right and wrong a person does and simply embraces the person. It is embarrassing because it sometimes seems as if God's way of doing things in this world are being made fun of. Grace seems to love without regard to the consequences of people's actions.

And there is where we have "to pull the rug out from under" this way of thinking. God's grace does not love without paying attention to consequences of those actions. God pays closer attention than any of us. I think that is what made the movie "The Passion" so overwhelming. For the first time, some of us got a really good glimpse of just how much God gave up to love us like he does. And the movie made us sit up and take note that **we, we** had more than something to do with what happened to Jesus.

When we finally realize that, it is then that God's grace becomes really embarrassing. Because it is for me. Undeserved, yet forthcoming to me. Jesus embarrassed the Pharisees by eating with these folks, because God wasn't suppose to love like that. And it became really embarrassing when the Pharisees came to realize that they too needed to be loved like that.

Read the story of the two sons and the loving father – Luke 15:11-31, and re-discover which son may have finally came to realize this point. The clue is – who is eating at the father's table at the end of the story.

Yes, God sometimes does embarrass us, but it is for our own good. When it comes down to the bottom line, I think I want to be eating at Jesus' table. How 'bout you?

Wanderings and Wonderings,
Pastor Bill Peters

WORSHIP – EDUCATION – SERVICE – FELLOWSHIP

WORSHIP

Sunday, September 30th – Lectionary 26

Pictures to be submitted for directory are due
September 30th.

Sunday, October 7th – Lectionary 27

Celebrated with Holy Communion
Pastor Baldwin will be leading worship.

Sunday, October 14th – Lectionary 28

Mission Festival Sunday

Sunday, October 14th

10:30 am Worship –

Preacher/Speaker – Pastor Diane Dardon
Campus Pastor at Northern Illinois University
And Estuardo Dardon

*Pastor Diane will share God's Word and together
they will reflect on the work being done in
Guatemala where we have been sending mission
groups each year.*

11:45 am Congregation Potluck Meal

*Please bring a main dish and either a salad or
dessert to share. Beverages will be provided.*

1:00 pm Conversational Presentation

Sunday, October 21st – Lectionary 29

“Alive” worship team will be leading worship.

Sunday, October 28th – Reformation Sunday

Celebrated with Holy Communion

Affirmation of Baptism – Dylan Davis
Conclusion of Listening to God's Word – 40 Days
Special Offering - Audio Bible for the people of
Liberia who speak Bassa.

Sunday, November 4th – All Saints Sunday

Celebrated with Adult Choir & Holy Communion

Sunday, November 11th – Lectionary 32

“Celebration of Youth” Sunday

Our worship service will celebrate and give
thanks for the gifts that our children and youth

bring from God to our congregation.

EDUCATION

**First Day of Sunday School
Sunday – September 23rd**

We are going to try a new format for Sunday School
this year – a rotation center based format.

Theme: **Back to the Basics**

Six theme stories will be used throughout the year:

Creation, Exodus, Christmas, Easter,
Jesus' stories, and Pentecost.

Classes will be divide into 3 primary groups (and a
high school class using a separate curriculum.)

The class structure will have a four week cycle:

1 week – Theme story – drama, lesson, etc.

2 week – Craft – to lift-up the story

3 week – Catechism – age appropriate lesson with
tie ins to the stories learned.

4 week – Mission/Outreach – structuring the class
to reach out with Christ's love i.e. singing
in the care centers, writing to our
Compassion kids, etc.

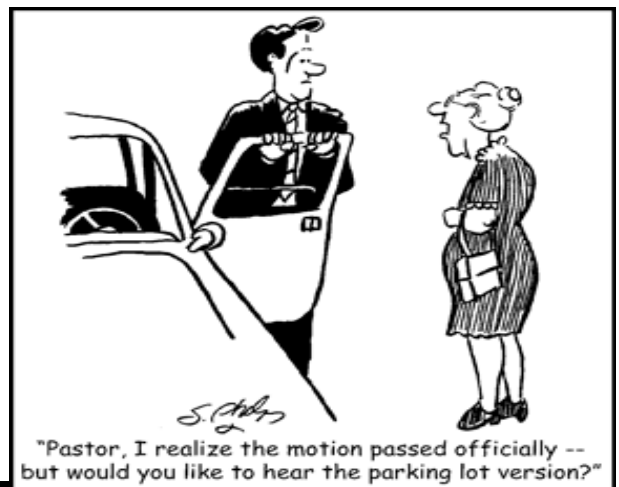
Youth Hayride

Sunday, October 7th

**Senior High and Junior High Youth
At the Nyhus Farm**

Enjoy a hayride and conclude with a bonfire,
devotions, supper, s'mores and hot chocolate.

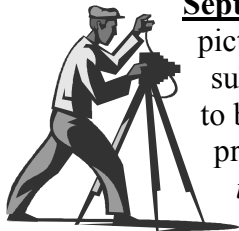
Invite a friend and join in the fun!!



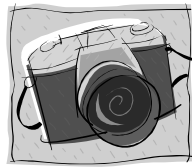
ONE IN CHRIST LUTHERAN PARISH

NEW PICTORIAL DIRECTORY ONE IN CHRIST LUTHERAN PARISH

If you have not had your picture taken, **please submit a picture by September 30th**. The



picture can be submitted electronically or hard copy to be scanned – taken personally or professionally taken (*If professionally taken we need a copy-write release form from the photographer*).



Natural Church Development A VISIONING PROCESS

Congregational councils have asked a cross-section of people in our congregations – 30 people from each congregation – to take the inventory (asking them questions about life in their congregation) for this process.

Many of the congregations have set the first test date on Sunday, September 23rd during fellowship/Sunday School time. A follow-up test date will be September 30th during fellowship/Sunday School time.

After all the inventories are completed, they will be scored, compared to the results compiled from thousands of churches throughout the world, and then reported back to us. Our reports will speak to our congregations, and to our parish.

We will then process this information and begin to address one or two areas in our life together to improve and grow.

Parish-Wide Thanksgiving Eve Wednesday, November 21st

7:30 pm

At Zion Lutheran Church

Offering

Monetary – Guatemala trip projects.

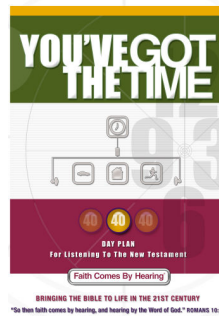
In Kind - non-perishable food offering

Will be divided between Worth and Winnebago County food banks.

“You’ve Got the Time”

Listening to the New Testament in 40 Days
Did You Know?

- 65% of Bible-believing Christians have never read the entire New Testament.
- 43% of American adults function at or below basic literacy levels – making them incapable of meaningful Bible reading.
- In a survey of more than 500 pastors, 47% cited “lack of time” as the main reason more Christians don’t read the Bible.
- 58% of the U.S. adult population will never read another book after high school.
- Over 50% of teens in America believe that Jesus may have committed sins.
- Many Americans are biblically illiterate!



Everyone in our congregations have received a copy of the New Testament in audio form. (If not, DVD audio copies are at your church.) **The New Testament is divided into sections to be listened to over the next 40 days.**

We will complete the 40 days around October 28th – Reformation Sunday. On that day we will celebrate God’s Word and take an offering that day that will go to translating and making an audio Bible for the people of Liberia who speak Bassa.

The Bassa is one of many indigenous African tribes that constitutes 95% of the Liberian population. Numbers vary but about 38% are literate. The Bassa language has its own alphabet and is tonal. That is, the word for freedom may be the same as the word for tea. The difference is in the pronunciation. This makes reading more difficult even with the help of pronouncing marks. The language is recognized as a trade language.

Many Bassa embrace the Christian faith while practicing rituals belonging to African Traditional Religion. Low literacy means many are not familiar with God’s Word. And without this rudder the ship of life easily gets off course.

Your Church can fulfill the Great Commission for an entire people group of people!

Listen to the entire New Testament in the upcoming months and discover what God is saying to you.

ONE IN CHRIST LUTHERAN PARISH

Confirmation Ministry Confirmation Ministry

Seventh & Eighth Grade Confirmation

Wednesdays after-school at Sion Lutheran Church
4:00 pm Snack Time
4:15 – 5:45 pm Class

There will be no confirmation classes on October 10th and on October 31st we will take a confirmation trip to the Twin cities (leaving at 7:30 am).

Ninth Grade Discipleship Class

Youth participate in this class with a mentor (approved by the student, parent and pastors).

Wednesday, September 26th at 7:00pm

The 10 Commandments: Living as God desires

Wednesday, October 17th at 7:00pm

Worship: Because God is God

Parables of Jesus

Crossways Bible Study

The Study of the Parables of Jesus! Hear the Parables the Jesus' crowd heard them. Class meets 7:00 pm on Thursday evenings at Immanuel. There is a cost for materials.

WOW

Midweek Education Opportunity for 1st- 4th Grades

WOW – a midweek afterschool Christian education opportunity - **will begin September 12th from 3:15pm to 5pm.** We will be holding WOW at Salem Lutheran Church due to convenience and its closeness to school.

Family Night – Tuesday, November 14th

New Bible Study Opportunity.....

No Experience Necessary

Part Three: On The Job Training

Seven week study beginning...

Wednesday, September 12th

Two times: **1:30 pm at Sion**

The evening class is cancelled.

.Cost of materials - \$10

One in Christ Lutheran Parish Guatemala Trip 2008



Guatemala

**Guatemala Trip 2008 Meeting
2:00 pm Sunday, October 14, 2007**
at Winnebago Lutheran Church
Lake Mills, Iowa

There is a Trip 2008 Information Meeting scheduled for Sunday, October 14, 2007 at 2:00 pm at Winnebago Lutheran Church (40029 210th Avenue, Lake Mills, Iowa 50450)

Trip Dates:

Friday, Jan. 25, 2008 thru Monday, Feb. 4, 2008.

The plans are to assemble a medical team to serve the area and a work crew that will work the newly constructed school.

The cost will be \$1,300. A commitment and deposit of \$650 is needed by October 31, 2007.

If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Bill Peters –

email
pastorbill@wcta
tel.net, phone
#641-567-3675.



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

3 – Ruth Johnson
4 – Brynn Rognes
5 – Brad Holtan
7 – Geneva Brackey
8 – Alan Johnson
9 – Amber Egesdal
10 – Tim Hanna
11 – Jared Thompson
12 – Molly Kastner
13 – LaVerna Charlson
13 – Ryan Sletten
15 – Willard Charlson
16 – Brenna Fjeld
22 – Anthony Swank
23 – Bradley Bondari
23 – Luke Stutzman
23 – Jack Woodward
23 – Peter Woodward
24 – Wanda Haugland
24 – John Johnson
25 – Matthew Fjeld
25 – Noel Holtan
28 – Gilbert Grunhuvd
30 – Pastor Bill Peters

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

3 – Valere & Elaine Nelson
4 – Mark & Suzy Wilkinson
7 – Jeremy & Rachel Rognes

PARISH CALENDAR on PARISH WEB PAGE

Check out the Parish calendar on the Parish web page at www.wctatel.net/web/oneinchrist and click on One In Christ Parish Event and Schedule to get an update.

“ONE IN CHRIST” LUTHERAN PARISH” PASTORS’

OCTOBER PREACHING SCHEDULE

for Winnebago and Bethany

October 7th – Pastor Randy Baldwin
October 14th – Pastor Bill Peters
October 21st – Pastor Randy Baldwin
October 28th – Pastor Bill Peters

CHOIRS PRACTICE & PERFORM

The Adult Choir

Practice – Wednesdays at 8:00 pm

October 3rd, 10th, 24th and 31st

Sundays – October 7th, 14th, and 28th
at 10:00 am.

Sing

Sundays, October 7th during Worship

The “Alive” Choir

Practice

Wednesday, October 17th at 8:00 pm

Sunday, October 14th at 7:00 pm

Sing

Sunday – October 21st during Worship

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 will meet on October 25th for their Meeting and Bible Study at 1:30 pm. The Esther/Ruth Circle will give the Devotions. Pastor Bill will lead the Bible Study. The Hostess is Elaine Nelson.

CIRCLES

The *Esther/Ruth Circle* will meet Wednesday, October 10th at 7:00 pm at the Church. Becky Fjeld will lead the Bible Study. Everyone bring a snack to share.

PASTOR BILL’S OFFICE HOURS

Bethany

9:00 – 11:30 am Wednesdays

Winnebago

9:00 – 11:30 am Thursdays

OCTOBER DUTY ROSTER

Altar Guild.....Becky Fjeld
Acolytes.....JR Hauge,
Jared Thompson
Ushers.....Mark Thompson
Ben Beier
Dale Gerdes
Luke Gerdes

ATTENDANCE AND CONTRIBUTIONS

(Benevolence includes Missions, Missionary, World Hunger)

Attendance Contributions

August:

26 - 250 \$ 205.00
 (Parish Joint Outdoor Worship)
(plus \$20.00 to World Hunger)

September:

2 - 49 \$1605.09
 9 - 69 \$1791.00
 16 - 117 \$7032.00

NARTHEX ADDITION OFFERING

Recorded since June 2, 2005

This is included in the above giving!

August:

26 - \$ 0

September:

2 - \$ 28.00
 9 - \$ 28.00
16 - \$5078.00

Total Given to Date \$94,225.31

Thank you.

Loan Balance is \$56,174.55

PARSONAGE UPDATES OFFERING

This is included in the above giving!

August:

26 - \$ 0

September:

2 - \$ 28.00
 9 - \$ 128.00
16 - \$ 28.00

Total Given to Date \$ 6,006.00

Thank you.

There are a couple of projects that still need to be completed – basement walls, shingles, etc.

CHRIST IN OUR HOMES

The October, November, December *Christ in Our Homes* are here. They are on the table in the Narthex. If you are unable to pick one up but would like to receive one, please let Pastor Bill or Sandy Lindflott know and we will get one to you. We have both large print and regular print copies; please specify which print you would prefer.

THANK YOU

Thank you for *Marilyn Tweeten, Juli Kvale, Nancy Johnson* and *Linda Johnson* for graciously volunteering to take pictures for the Parish Pictorial Directory.

Thank you to those who continue to work of the bathrooms in the parish hall. The tile is being laid at this time.

PASTOR'S FALL CONFERENCE

Pastor Bill and Pastor Randy will be attending the Pastor's Fall Conference Sunday afternoon, October 14th through Tuesday, October 16th. If you have a pastoral emergency please call them on their cell phones: Pastor Bill #641-590-2737, Pastor Randy #641-590-0727.

DEPLOYED TO KOSOVO

Erin (Thompson) Jackson's husband Glenn is being deployed to Kosovo. He left for Germany last Sunday, September 9th. He will be in Germany for one week for more training and then flying on to Kosovo. Their mission is peace-keeping. He will be in Kosovo, they tell him until July 2008. Originally, they had said October 2008, but with the armed services, you never know because things change day to day. We would ask everyone to keep him (and all the members of his group) in your thoughts and prayers as he serves the US there in Kosovo. *We are so proud of him!! Mark & Vicki Thompson*

JUST A REMINDER

Remember to save you Grocery slips from Bill's Family Foods and David's Super Foods. Please bring them to the church and put them in the collections cans in kitchen. We receive cash back from all the money spent at these stores. Also we



receive a donation from Cambel's Soup labels. There is a can in the kitchen for the soup labels. *The company needs the whole label to collect.* Thanks!

One In Christ Lutheran Parish Council
Tuesday, September 18th, 2007 at 7:00 p.m.
Winnebago Lutheran Church

Meeting came to order,
Pastor Randy led the
group in devotion.

Members present: Pastor
Randy, Pastor Bill,
Harlan Nyhus, John
Johnson, Randy
Holstad, Vicki Zobel,
Nancy Fjelstad, and
Homer Peterson.

The secretary's report was
approved as read.

The financial report: Rich Wirt was absent but we
reviewed the report that was submitted.

Administrative:

Discussion on the "Natural Church

Development Program: Many congregations
have their dates set and their members
selected for taking this survey. The survey
will be completed this month.

Discussed the Pictorial Directory program:

Will look over pictures taken to see what
remaining members may need and would
like their picture submitted for the directory.

Budget for the coming year: Will work on that
at the October meeting. Than submit it to
each congregation for their review by the
November meeting. Final approval will be
ready for the January 2008 meetings.

Discussed a Parish secretary, discussed
Stephen Ministry of \$1500, and discussed
EWALU day camp. The thought of a Parish
secretary, it was suggested presenting this
item to each congregation for more input.

Worship:

Discussed holding a Parish Thanksgiving
service. A made by Homer, seconded by
Vicki to hold it at Sion, November 21st at
7:30PM. Offering was discussed with a
motion by Vicki, seconded by John, having
a food donation for food bank. Also a



special offering would go
towards items for Guatemala.

Discipleship:
October 31st has been set for the
confirmation youth to travel to
Minneapolis for a field trip,
stopping at the Seminary,
another stop would be a large
church and maybe some other
points of interest.

Harmony Ranch:

Plans are to ask members from
each congregation to help on the project. We
than can make some items over the winter so
that next spring we can work installing our
projects at the ranch.

Outreach:

A meeting will be held September 30th at
EWALU camp, Strawberry Point. Meeting
starts at 3PM for those interested in
attending.

Youth:

Discussed thinking and working on events for
the coming year.

No other business was brought forth, a motion by
John, second by Randy was made to adjourn.
We than closed with the Lords Prayer.

Next Parish Council meeting will be held at
Bethany, October 16th. This meeting will start
at 8PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Homer Peterson

One In Christ Lutheran Parish Council
Tuesday, August 28th, 2007 at 7:00 p.m.
At Sion Lutheran Church

Meeting came to order, Pastor Randy led the group in devotion.

Members present: Pastor Randy, Harlan Nyhus, John Johnson, Randy Holstad, Vicki Zobel, Nancy Fjelstad, Rich Wirt, and Homer Peterson.

The secretary's report was approved as read.

The financial report: Rich Wirt presented the report.

Administrative:

Discussion on the "Natural Church Development Program": All congregations have selected those that will serve on this survey. Each congregation will hold a meeting, maybe during fellowship, to go over the questioner. The Synod will then evaluate the results and each congregation will get a report on this survey.

Discussed the Pictorial Directory program: Would like to have all pictures submitted by the end of September.

Discussed the Web Calendar: Up and running. Good progress on the development of the program.

Worship:

The joint service held in the park at Joice, Sunday, August 26th. The weather cooperated with being a warm sunny day. Approximately 220 attended this event and \$479.00 was collected that will be given to New Hope Mission church in Farley, IA.

A DVD, "You've Got Time" was handed out following the services. More DVD's will be handed out again on rally Sunday to those that have not received one. This program will begin September 16th.

September 5th, 7PM, Milton Creagh a World – Renowned Motivational speaker, will be at the



Lake Mills Community School. His topic will be "Parenting is Prevention".

Youth:

The mission trip found some interesting sites while working on an Apartment cleaning project located in North Chicago. They also had some fun attending the Global Mission event in Columbus, Ohio

Other items:

Day Camp: There were 30 – 35 kids that attended this event along with 4 EWALU camp personal and many local helpers to make this a successful event. Different activities were held each day. A day camp celebration rally will be held September 30th at Camp EWALU.

Harmony Ranch: Discussed a couple ideas we could work on at this site. One idea was the 12 stones at the entrance of the Promised Land. The second idea was the Gates of Jericho. We will spend the next few months gathering information as to material needed, shape and size of this project.

Another item brought forth and will study it in more detail, about setting up a rental price for the Immanuel and Winnebago Parsonages through "One in Christ". We will probably use CCC numbers as guideline.

No other business was brought forth; we closed with the Lords Prayer.

Next Parish Council meeting will be held at Winnebago, September 18th.

Respectfully submitted,
Homer Peterson

One In Christ Lutheran Parish Council

Tuesday, July 17th at 7:00 p.m.

Silver Lake Lutheran Church

Meeting came to order,
Pastor Randy led the
group in devotion.

Members present:

Pastor Randy,
Harlan Nyhus,
Randy Holstad,
Vicki Zobel and
Homer Peterson.

The secretary's report
was approved as read.

The financial report,
reviewed.

Administrative:

Discussion on the "Natural Church
Development Program": Each church
council will request up to 30 members to
serve, filling out the questioner in early
September. The Synod will than evaluate the
results and each congregation will get a
report on this survey.

Discussed the Pictorial Directory program:
Rebecca Lynn will be taking pictures for
this directory. Dates have been set for
pictures.

At Winnebago: August 22, 23 and September
5th. At Sion: August 29, 30th. Pictures can
be taken following services September 9 and
16th.

Also, anyone with a digital camera can e-mail
their picture to their church. Will need some
volunteers to help coordinate the picture
taking, times will be announced.

Discussed the Web Calendar: Program will
require a link to the web page because of
space requirements. Pastor Bill states also
that we may be able to color code events for
each congregation.



Worship:

The summer joint service will
be held in Joice at Bethany,
Sunday, August 26th with
services at 10:30AM. This
service will be held in the city
park along with the noon meal
at the Fire station. We would
like choir members from all
congregations to participate at
this event as well.

Fellowship:

The Minnesota Twins baseball game August 21.
Just a few tickets remain to be sold.

Other items:

Day Camp: Will need volunteers to house staff
members that will be coming. Events have
been scheduled at Oakwood Park in Lake
Mills. The fitness center in Lake Mills has
been reserved in case of rain. Will also be
advertise this event in the papers, radio and
by other means.

Harmony Ranch: Parish council members and
more if interested will take a tour August
20th for ideas to help. Stop at Culvers at
6:15PM, pick up a lunch to go, join us at
Harmony Ranch. Pastor Bill is the contact
person.

No other business was brought forth; we closed
with the Lords Prayer.

The August Parish Council meeting will be August
28th at Sion.

Respectfully submitted,

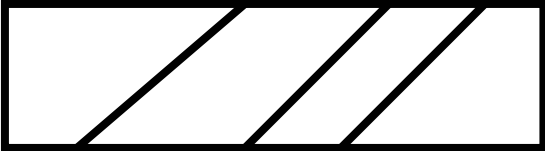
Homer Peterson

WINNEBAGO WITNESS

Winnebago Lutheran Church
40029 210th Avenue
Lake Mills, Iowa 50450
#641-567-3675

Address service requested

**Non-Profit
Organization
US Postage
PAID
Lake Mills, Iowa
Permit No. 24**



Mission Festival Sunday
Sunday, October 14th
10:30 am Worship
Speaker: Pastor Diane Dardon
*Campus pastor at University of Northern Illinois
Co-organizer of the Guatemala Trips
All offerings go to Congregational Mission Designations*
11:45 am Congregation Potluck Meal
**1:00 pm Conversational Presentation
w/Pastor Diane and Estuardo Dardon**

Parish Pictorial Directory
**Please submit family pictures by
September 30th to the church office.**
If you are submitting a professional picture,
please include a copywrite release.

Guatemala 2008 Trip Information Mtg
2:00 pm Sunday, October 14th
Winnebago Lutheran Church
Date of trip: January 25th - February 4th

