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At Fish Lake Lutheran Church

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Harris, MN 55032

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Office Hours: Mon.-Fri. 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Fish Lake Lutheran Leadership & Staff

Pastor

Dale Stiles

Director of Youth and Family Ministry

Carrie Stiles

Administrative Assistant

Nicole Linder

Financial Administrator

Lorrie Bauer

Director of Music Ministry

Sister LaDonna Olson

Pianist

Cindy Blesener

WELCA

Barb Sauer

Custodians

Robin Graham &

Tom Anderson

Church Council Members

Nancy Bengtson—President

Mary Crawford

Sue Kane

Jennifer Kroschel

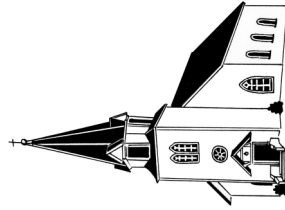
Tom Lofboom—Secretary

Floyd Pinotti

Paula Rehder

Joel Santjer—Vice President

Jason Wilking—Treasurer



VINE & BRANCHES

A Monthly Newsletter of Fish Lake Lutheran Church

April 2011

On Living in Community—A Lesson from the Japanese

In a recent *New York Times* article, columnist Nicholas Kristof wrote:

"Maybe we (Americans) can learn something from Japan – where the earthquake, tsunami and radiation leaks haven't caused society to come apart at the seams but to be knit together more tightly than ever. The selflessness, stoicism and discipline in Japan these days are epitomized by those workers at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant, uncomplainingly and anonymously risking dangerous doses of radiation as they struggle to prevent a complete meltdown that would endanger their fellow citizens."

Kristof continues,

"The most famous statue in Japan is arguably one of a dog, Hachiko, who exemplified loyalty, perseverance and duty. Hachiko met his owner at the train station when he returned from work each day, but the owner died at work one day in 1925 and never returned. Until he died about 10 years later, Hachiko faithfully went to the station each afternoon just in case his master returned. I hope that some day Japan will erect another symbol of loyalty and dedication to duty: a statue of those nuclear plant workers."

And after living in Japan for five years Kristof shared this personal story,

"My wife and I saw this collective ethos drummed into children when we sent our kids to Japanese schools. When the teacher was sick, there was no substitute teacher. The children were in charge. When our son Gregory came home from a school athletic meet, we were impressed that he had won first place in all his events, until we realized that every child had won first place. And for Gregory's birthday, we invited his classmates over and taught them to play musical chairs. Disaster! The children were traumatized by having to push aside others to gain a seat for themselves. What unfolded may have been the most polite, most apologetic, and least competitive game of musical chairs in the history of the world!"

Us Americans can be pushy at times can't we? When *the music stops*, it's sometimes all or nothing! But is that how Christ calls us to live and behave towards our neighbor? It seems that long before the Japanese learned and modeled this healthy way of living in community, *Jesus himself* modeled such a lifestyle, saying, in response to one of the teachers of the law who questioned which commandment was of most importance, "*The most important one is this: Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these.*" (Mark 12:29-31) And the apostle Paul, reiterates this in his first letter to the Corinthian Church when he speaks about each person being a vital, necessary, and beloved member of the Body of Christ, where no one person is more important than another. (Chapter 12). So as Kristof concludes in his article, let's not just *sympathize* with the Japanese people, let's also *learn from them*, as they model what it means to live in communion with one another - especially in the midst of such hardship. Because if you ask me, the Japanese people sound a bit like someone else who selflessly subsumed to his own interest for the common good. But instead of erecting a statue, we erected a *cross*, that continues, to this day, to serve as a symbol of loyalty and dedication like no one else (*even Hachiko the dog*) has ever displayed - our *resurrected* Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.



Upcoming Events at Fish Lake Lutheran



Don't miss all of the fun events happening at Fish Lake Lutheran church!
Mark the following dates on your calendar:

LENTEN MID-WEEK WORSHIP/SOUP SUPPER

Wednesday's, April 6-April 13
Soup 6:00 pm and Worship 7:00 pm

F5@5

Sunday, April 3, 5:00 pm

SPAGHETTI DINNER

Saturday, April 9, 4-7:00 pm

F55

Wednesday, April 13, 11:00 am

BLOCK OF THE MONTH/CRAFT DAY

Saturday, April 16, BOM 8:30 am
9-2:00 pm Craft Day

SEDER MEAL

Sunday, April 17, 3:00 pm

MIND/BODY SKILLS WORKSHOP

Saturday, April 23, 9-5:00 pm

PRIME TIME

Tuesday, April 26, 11:00 am

SPRING CLEAN-UP

Saturday, April 30, 9:00 am

Holy Week Services

Maundy Thursday, April 21, 7:00 pm

(includes First Communion and Stripping of the altar)

Good Friday, April 22, 7:00 pm Tennebrae Service

Easter Sunday: April 24, 6:30 am Sunrise Worship with Holy Communion
10:00 am Festival Worship with Holy Communion

Easter Sunday Celebration Breakfast will be served from 7:30-9:30 am Easter Sunday morning.



WELCA Meeting—March 2, 2011

The meeting was opened by our president, Barb Sauer.

- a. The secretary's report was read and approved.
- b. The treasurer's report was read and approved.

Communications-

- a. Thank you notes were read from Pathways (food pantry donations), Loren & Kelsy Colliander and Kari, Justin & Stella Rose Sawyer for quilts.
- b. A motion was made and seconded to send \$50.00 to the Women of the ELCA at the Synod's annual convention.
- c. Discussion-to put a request into the church office to have Vine & Branches in the church for pick up and then mail after the first Sunday to help defray postage expense.

Old Business

- a. WELCA Sunday, March 27th, 2011. Members are asked to bring a green desert.
- b. Quilts- 1. Graduation Quilts-4 nearly done, 1 in process.
2. Wedding Quilt-one needed for June
3. Baptismal Quilts- Up to date.
- c. Updates-1. Anniversary Quilt-discussed ideas.
2. Bread for Visitors-March-Donna
3. Kitchen supplies-need right size coffee filters, Mary Kay to monitor kool-aid.
- d. Updates: 1. Block of the month-March 19th @ 8:30 a.m.
Challenge block drawing.
2. Ceiling fan-Barb to contact Chris Yelle to purchase & install with switch on post.
3. Quilt Bingo Inventory for 2011-23 quilts in various stages of completion.
4. Two more quilts to be donated.
5. Sewing chairs are purchased and ready to use.
6. Sewing machine to be donated to Historical Society if not sold.

New Business

- a. Charter Review will be conducted in February, 2011.
- b. The Grandview Birthday Party Celebration begins at 1:30 pm on Thursday, May 19, 2011. The program begins at 2:00 pm. We will ask Pastor Dale to play his guitar.

Next meeting will be March 2, 2011. The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectively submitted, Nancy Bengtson

Balance brought Forward-
\$3,661.00

Income:

Coffee-56.00
LCW Offering-6.00
Food Shelf-65.00
Block of the Month-148.00
Funeral Lunch-200.00
Total: \$475.00

Expenses:

Camb. /NB Food Shelves-
165.00
Post Master- 180.00
BOM Breakfast- 81.16
BOM Speaker- 40.00
Cub- 145.00
Equal Exchange Coffee- 198.90
Supplies (Sharon)- 10.79
FDIC charge- .50
Cards for Shut-Ins- 10.61
Chairs, cutting board, cutters,
kool-aid- 103.70
Quilt Rack- 10.00
Total: \$945.66

Balance on Hand- \$3,190.34

2011 FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP AT FISH LAKE LUTHERAN					
Date	Actual Offering	Budgeted Offering	Percent	Above/Below Budget	Worship Attendance
February 6	\$2,723.50	\$3,375.00	81%	-\$651.50	162
February 13	\$4,195.65	\$3,375.00	124%	\$820.65	146
February 20	\$1,804.00	\$3,375.00	54%	-\$1,571.00	103
February 27	\$2,744.00	\$3,375.00	81%	-\$631.00	112
Watch the May Vine & Branches for a quarterly income/expense report.					February Total
YEAR TO DATE	\$22,578.64	\$30,375.00	74%	-\$7,796.36	523

We give God thanks and praise for such faithful worship attendance and financial stewardship at Fish Lake Lutheran!

MEMORIAL

Fish Lake Lutheran gives many thanks for gifts received:

In memory of *Amy Graham* for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation given by Robin Graham.

In memory of *Margaret Nelson* given by Hazel J. Tossey, Greg & Connie Smegal, Delores Olson, and Marcie Whitman.

In memory of *Clarence Burda Jr.* given by Delores Olson and Cecilia Fenner.

Praise be to God for the lives and memories of loved one's lost!

BAPTISM

We celebrate the baptism of *Josie Kay Hubbling* on March 27th. We welcome her into the Lord's family and take serious our promise to help nurture her in the Christian faith!

Vision and Mission — “You Can’t Teach an Old Building New Tricks!”

Have you tried to find a place to hold a meeting on a Sunday morning or Wednesday evening at church lately? If not, you’re fortunate, because your options would be limited.

If you’ve noticed, our *Sunday School*, *Confirmation*, and *Music* programs are utilizing basically every available place in our building to meet for class or rehearsal during those times. And it’s not *just* at those times, but depending on the size of the group it could be *anytime*. At our last Denver Mission Trip meeting (50 people total) on a Sunday evening, you had to be careful where you walked as we had ten small groups of 4-5 students each, spread throughout the entire church – in the balcony, in the stairwells, in the kitchen, in the library, in the sanctuary and even in the nursery!

This *is* a problem at times. But it’s a *wonderful* problem to have!

Of course, every group that meets in the church deserves to have an adequate meeting space reserved and prepared for them and shouldn’t have to meet in less than adequate spaces for their purposes. However, in our old church building, which wasn’t designed for such extensive programming, one needs to be creative and resourceful. It’s been said, that “*You can’t teach an old church building new tricks*”. Except for Fish Lake Lutheran!

Perhaps our old church building doesn’t adequately meet our everyday ministry needs the way we would *prefer*, but the *people* in the building, *the people doing the ministry* of the church, *have found ways* to meet our needs in exceptional ways despite the limitations! And for that, we are grateful!

It’s also been said, that “*If a building can’t minister, than what purpose does it serve?*”

Obviously the person who originally said that or thought that, did not have a clear understanding of the church building as a *tool* for ministry. Think about it, just like any other tool – a wrench cannot repair a faucet and a word processor cannot write a book – but in the same way, as tools, they can help the plumber and the writer do their jobs better.

We’ve done well at Fish Lake Lutheran with our faithful old building haven’t we?

It has provided space well-suited over the years for the ministries it has provided. It has helped people feel comfortable and welcomed. It has been accessible to the community. But as we continue to G.R.O.W., we, as partners in ministry who call Fish Lake Lutheran our church home, will need to be diligent in teaching this old building some new tricks, remembering that the one thing a church building can *never* do is – to *minister*.

Only *people* can do that. And the community of faith at Fish Lake Lutheran does that very well. And we will continue to. Press on!

Stewardship at Fish Lake—A Special Gift

On Sunday, March 6th, Tom Lofboom, our Church Council Secretary, made a special announcement at the beginning of our worship service.

Long-time member, Bernice Engmark, who passed away last October has gifted her home and property in Cambridge to Fish Lake Lutheran Church. Praise the Lord!

This is a wonderful gift and one filled with *so much love and commitment* of Bernice's towards our old church. She particularly loved this old church building and grounds and was always impressed with how well maintained it had been. Having been a previous custodian at Fish Lake, Bernice's father, George, surely had a hand in the upkeep of our building over the years and would be pleased to see how that's continued.

The church council invites any questions you might have in regards to this gift via email, phone, or in person. Members may contact Pastor Dale or any council member with questions. All of the council members' contact information can be obtained by contacting the church office or in your church directory.

However, for now, we ask you to say a special prayer of thanksgiving for Bernice Engmark and her family, and for this wonderful gift given and received in her name. Also we pray that God directs us in making sure to honor Bernice in the best possible way with this gift.

Bernice's example of stewardship in this way is a wonderful example to all of us as we think about ways to continue giving to our church even after we're gone – assuring that ministry will continue to transform lives in this place for generations to come!

Thanks be to God again for the life and legacy of Bernice Leona Engmark!

In addition, Bernice has also given Fish Lake Lutheran Church a bookshelf, made by her father in 1940, out of leftover organ casing. Bernice describes this gift in her own handwritten words in a letter that was attached to the back of the bookshelf:

"To Fish Lake Lutheran Church – from Bernice Engmark,

My father, George Hawkinson, was janitor of the church in 1940. He helped move the pipe organ from the balcony to the main floor. All the outside casing of the organ was not needed on the main floor. He made this bookcase out of the unused casing as a wedding present for me in 1941. Now I give this back to the church – if they wish to have it.

From, Bernice Engmark, March, 2008"

News 4 Kids

KIDS KLUB IN LENT

WED., March 30-April 13
**6:00-6:30 plan to eat soup with
your family**
**6:30 until worship meet in the
Youth Room**

Come to the Youth Room to hear the end of the story "*Wind in the Willows.*" Find out what happens to our friends Toad, Mole, Ratty, and Badger.

Sun. April 3 –

Jesus Visit with Mary and Martha

Sun. April 12 –

CELEBRATION SUNDAY

Come sing and hear the story of Journey of the Road to Emmaus

Sun. April 17 –

Journey of the Road to Emmaus

Sun. April 24 –

EASTER-NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sun. May 1 –

Journey of the Road to Emmaus

SUNDAY MORNING from 9am-9:45am

SUNDAY SCHOOL

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

MARK THE DATE

Sunday, Aug. 7th -Thursday, Aug. 11th

Children age 3 and up join us from
5:30-8:00 pm.

Supper will be served at 5:30pm.
Cost: \$8 per child or \$15 per family

VBS Co-Coordinator needed.

See pg. 5 and contact Carrie if interested.



coming4confirmation

Wednesday, April 6

Soup Supper with your mentor and Lenten Worship

Wednesday, April 13

Soup Supper with your mentor and Lenten Worship

Wednesday, April 20

HOLY WEEK— Plan to worship on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday with your family

Wednesday, April 27

FINAL PARTY-Bring a snack to share

Schedule during Lent

*Set a time to meet with your mentor between 6:00-6:15 on Wednesday nights.

*Have soup and talk about the given topic until 7pm.

*Worship together with your mentor or your family.

MISSION DENVER



Meeting for all Mission Trippers

Sunday, April 17

6:00-7:30pm

NO GUITAR LESSONS in LENT



During Lent we will not be having guitar lessons. Come early for soup and stay for worship instead!



GOD IS...

SUMMER STRETCH 2011

IT'S COMING!!!

Wednesday, June 15-July 20, 9:00am-4:30pm

Valleyfair on Thursday, August 4th

Cost: \$75

(includes all activities for the summer and a T-shirt— youth will be asked to bring a bag lunch)

REGISTRATION DEADLINE OF MAY 8th

(After May 8th cost will increase \$10)

Carrie's

People of God, do you promise to support this child and pray for her in her new life in Christ?

One way that members of Fish Lake have been following up on this promise that they make each time a child is brought to the font for baptism, has been the time that they have spent with our Confirmation students on Wednesday night.

Thirty-one confirmation students have been meeting on Wednesday nights with adults from Fish Lake to eat soup and talk together about faith.

Studies have shown that behind parents, other adults in an adolescent's life is one of the leading factors that help students develop faith. Adolescents need different adults in their life that they trust, that they can ask questions, and that encourage and support them.

This is the second year of the Mentor program at Fish Lake Lutheran and again it has been wonderful to see the members of Fish Lake taking time with the Confirmation students to talk about things such as:

- What is/was your favorite subject in school?
- Have you ever had a pet? What was one great thing about your pet?
- What do you think that 1 Corinthians 13 says about the importance of love in our lives?
- How do you feel about what happened to Jesus on the cross? How do you show your thanks?

So thank you to all the mentors this year for continuing to share your faith with our confirmation students and support and pray for their faith journey.

Even if you are not a mentor this year, keep the confirmation students in your prayers for new, different, and amazing ways that they might experience God in their lives.

We do, with joy!

corner

VBS Coordinator Wanted- We are looking for someone willing to co-coordinate Vacation Bible School this summer. This would involve planning the different elements, gathering supplies, and leading volunteers. Pray about how God can use you to help in this important summer program. Contact Carrie if you are interested.

Church Council Minutes—March 1, 2011

Council members present: Pastor Stiles, Floyd Pinotti, Jason Wilking, Jen Kroschel, Joel Santjer, Paula Rehder, Sue Kane, and Tom Lofboom.

The March Church council meeting was called to order by President Nancy Bengtson. Nancy read a devotion from Mark 9:2-3 "How do we lead by God's light?" Discussion and prayer followed.

Affirmations: Jonelle and the youth committee for the "lock in" and movie night. Prayer Chain--So faithful in praying! Congratulations to Emma Gustafson for doing so well in the music competition.

Pastor's Report: Many activities were shared by Pastor Dale. He was excited about the "Mindful Stress Reduction" workshop March 5, led by Paula Rehder and Nicole Linder.

Committee Reports:

WELCA--Five graduation quilts and several quilts for "Quilt Bingo" are being prepared. May 19--will lead birthday party at Grace Pointe Crossing in Cambridge.

Social ministry: March *Mission of the Month* is *Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation*. SCRIP program-- there will be a June payment. It will also be the June *Mission of the Month*.

New Business: Summer event and dance update - *Rockin' Hollywoods*, will *not* be hired this year. An ice cream social and talent show was discussed to take its place. A Wild River State Park family camping weekend was also discussed.

Membership roster is 493. This is accurate and reflects new members received in January and inactive members removed at our annual meeting.

We will discuss insurance quotes at our April meeting.

Special gift by the family of Bernice Engmark. Family would like to donate her home in Cambridge to Fish Lake Lutheran. Discussion followed: Shall we accept the home? The vote was unanimous to accept it. Tom Lofboom will inform the congregation on Sunday, March 5. Tom's e-mail addresses are tom_lofboom@hotmail.com and lofboom@gmail.com.

Old Business: Joel reported on smoke detectors. EGAN Electric came out to give us an estimate for a new panel and smoke detectors to meet building codes. More information to follow.

Three maple trees have come down. Jake still will be grinding the stumps when the ground thaws. He will not clean up the extra branches as the cost would be much higher. Church clean up day was set for April 30. Grounds will be cleaned up at that time.

Stained glass windows were brought up as to why so much cold air is coming through some of the windows in the library. We may have to do some extra insulating to some of the windows.

Financial Report: Year-to-date *expense* line will be added in the bulletin and Vine and Branches on a quarterly basis.

Next Council meeting on April 5, 2011. Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted, *Tom Lofboom*--Secretary

Congregational Health and Wellness Committee

Calling all Health Professionals and like minded people! We are looking for interested volunteers to start a "Congregational Health and Wellness Committee" Please contact either Jen Kroschel (kroscheltj@aol.com) or Paula Rehder (mrehder@frontiernet.net) and we will set up a date to explore Fish Lake's possible needs.

Spring has sprung!

The Spring Flower Fundraiser is beginning with many beautiful hanging plants, perennials and outdoor decorations available just in time for Mother's Day. This year, in order to keep the price competitive with other gardening stores, *we have cut the prices by as much as 20%*. You may order plants at the information table downstairs. Payment is needed when you place your order. Deadline for orders is **April 25th**, with deliver on May 5. If you would like to take orders from co-workers and family or friends, extra order packets are available. Proceeds go toward the Africa Mission Trip fund.

Senior Citizen Recognition Sunday – May 1!

One of the great blessings of our congregation is that we are a *multi-generational* congregation – meaning that we have significant numbers of members among both the younger and older generations. This provides for some very meaningful inter-generational ministry to occur in ways that it might not be possible in larger churches. So on Sunday, May 1, Fish Lake Lutheran will design our morning worship service to celebrate, recognize and honor our senior citizens among us. The service will include some old-time hymns and liturgy and a special guest preacher who grew up in Stark and at Fish Lake Lutheran, Pastor Conrad Warner. Pr. Warner is known for his wonderful ability to tie stories of his childhood into meaningful and applicable proclamation of the gospel. Mark your calendars today and invite friends and family to join you on this special day. You can participate in the planning of this special service simply by emailing or calling Pr. Dale with a favorite hymn you'd like to sing!

First Communion Orientation – Saturday, April 16th, 10:00 am

If you or your child are interested in First Communion please plan on attending the First Communion Orientation on Saturday, April 16, at 10:00am. Please contact Pastor Dale for more information as well as the church office to let us know how many will be attending. First Communion will be received during Maundy Thursday evening worship on April 21, at 7:00pm.



FAMILY-FRIENDS-FOOD-FUN-FAITH

Come play

"Minute to Win It"

Fish Lake Style!

Sunday, April 3rd, 5-7pm

If you have never this TV Game show, check it out to get ready for some laughing together!

Enjoy a night of Chili Dogs with all the fixings (or Chili and a dog if you prefer) Bring a dessert, salad, or side dish to share.

We will end by worshipping together. All ages invited for all of the "F's" of F5!

"My Legacy for Spiritual Dignity"

F55

On April 13, at 11:00am we welcome Pastor Ron Gerl, Chaplain at Parmly LifePointes in Chisago City, as he leads us in a presentation entitled, "My Legacy for Spiritual Dignity".

Pastor Gerl explains,

"Making decisions regarding the preparation for death can be foreboding. Realistically, however, we are always making plans for the future. Why not make dignified choices that truly represent our beliefs and our style of life. These decisions also assist our children from entering into conflict as they respect carefully laid out plans made by those they love. This presentation will help everyone understand and provides a means to leaving a legacy of spiritual dignity."

As always, we'll follow his presentation up with a potluck lunch.
We hope you can join us!

Wednesday, April 13th, 11:00am—1:00pm

FAMILY · FRIENDS · FOOD · FUN · FAITH



Mind-Body Skills Workshop

Saturday, April 23, 9-5:00 pm

An educational and experiential day that will help empower your growth through effective research proven skills such as:

- **Meditation** learn to live a content and mindful life
- **Guided Imagery** use your imagination to help your mind and body heal
- **Breath Work** enhance your health by breathing more fully
- **Movement** become aware of your body's natural responses, release stress and increase energy
- **Mindful Eating** cultivates the possibility of freeing yourself of reactive, habitual patterns of thinking, feeling and acting

Mind-body skills are the single most important and best documented way to deal with the stress that contributes to chronic illness.

NO COST to attend- Please register by email, telephone, or by contacting the church office – *space is limited.* **Phone:** 651-674-4252 or 763-227-4539

Email: office@fishlakelutheran.org or nittyliner@aol.com

The activities are based on the Center for Mindy Body Medicine model.

Workshop facilitated by **Paula Rehder, M.D.** & **Nicole Linder**, both completed the Professional Advanced Training Program at the *Center for Mind Body Medicine.*

***Note: For those who attended the first workshop there will be several new skills covered on this day, so please come!**



Annual Spring All-Church Clean-Up Day Saturday, April 30

We will begin at 9:00 a.m. and work on a variety of indoor and outdoor projects until we are done. Come help at any time and for any length of time. *We'll work rain or shine!*

Contact Tom Lofboom with any questions. Thank you!



Quilt Bingo Stories



(Winners at the Quilt Bingo were asked to share how their quilt would be used and where it would end up. Here are some stories that have been sent back to us.)

Quilt #1, Set I- Peach Delight

I am proud of winning my quilt. I have never won a nice item in my life! I wish to keep it for my guests for that reason. It has a place of honor in my guest room. I am proud to show it to my guests and tell them how I was "chosen" to win it! This quilt has a local history, just as I do!!

~Anonymous

Quilt #2, Set I- Half Square Triangles

This quilt will be used by a little girl, my great granddaughter, as a wonderful keepsake in her White Bear Lake home. It was so beautiful with great choices of colors- a real thrill to win!

~D. Elmstrand

Order Easter Memorial Flowers Now!

As part of our Easter celebration, we will have a garden of flowers grace our altar. We encourage you to donate a plant in honor or memory of a loved one. Please fill out an order form (available in the Sunday bulletins, Narthex, or call the church office) and have your check to the church office by **Wednesday, April 13.**



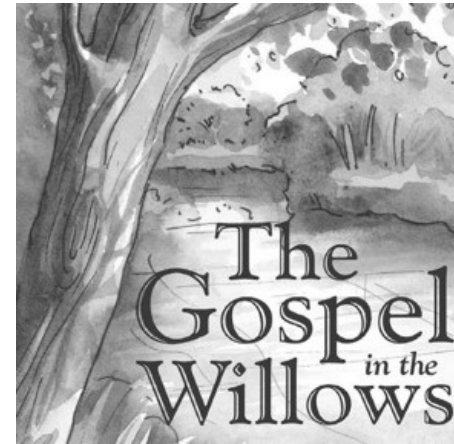
Orders are subject to availability and an equal exchange may be made if a variety becomes unavailable. **Substitutions of like value may be made in the event of crop failure or deficiency.** The plants may be removed from the altar after the 10:00 a.m. Easter service.



Thank You! Thank You!



Thanks and gratitude to our church family for your kind words of support, prayer and generosity after the loss of Jill's brother. Love, The Gustafson Family



Lent 2011 at Fish Lake "The Gospel in the Willows"

This year's Lenten theme at Fish Lake Lutheran is "The Gospel in the Willows" based on the book by the same title by Leslie Francis.

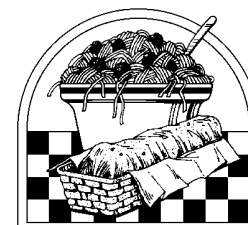
In 'The Gospel of the Willows' the author highlights moral and spiritual challenges and encouragements from the original writing, "The Wind in the Willows" which was written in 1908 by Kenneth Grahame for his son.

The theme of our Lenten mid-week worship, within the frame of *Holden Evening Vespers*, continues to lift up, celebrate, and encourage us while taking us on a challenging journey through our own Lenten "willows". Remaining themes include:

Shaping the Future with Mr. Toad, Wednesday, April 6
Learning from Toad's Adventures, Wednesday, April 13



All mid-week services begin at 7:00pm and are preceded by a soup supper at 6:00pm.



Annual Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser Saturday, April 9th

Be served a restaurant-style Italian meal by our youth on **Saturday, April 9th from 4:00-7:00 p.m.** at Fish Lake Lutheran Church.

Tickets are \$7 for adults, \$5 for children 10 and under and can be purchased from any of Fish Lake's middle/high school aged youth, the Church Office, or downstairs after worship. So, please come and let our youth pamper and serve you for an evening of fine food and fellowship!

Proceeds from this fundraiser go toward helping with summer camp experiences.

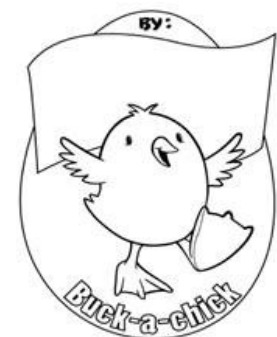
Please see the donation board downstairs if you would like to donate any supplies for the dinner. Thank you!

Mission of the Month – A Buck a Chick

The April mission of the month supports the **ELCA World Hunger Relief Appeal**.

For just \$1.00, you can purchase a chick to be given to a family living in poverty, to provide much needed food and income.

Throughout the month, there will be a table set up during coffee hour to purchase paper chicks to decorate.



We will hang the paper chicks on a display board, to represent the impact our congregation has on those living in poverty.

The chicks will be able to be purchased in honor of yourself, or in honor of a loved one.

This offering will be sent to the ELCA Good Gifts "Buck-a-Chick" Project.

With this offering you can help a family escape hunger for good!

A Traditional Seder Meal

On the night before his death Jesus met with his disciples in the upper room to celebrate the Passover and the Seder Meal. This meal is one of the most sacred and solemn holidays of the Jewish faith. It also has much symbolism to Christians as they journey through Lent, Holy Week, and ultimately celebrate Easter and the resurrection of Jesus.



Palm Sunday, April 17, 3:00pm

\$7 per person or \$28 per family

Reservations are required no later than April 10th for planning purposes.

Please sign up after church downstairs or by calling the church office at 651-674-4252.

Members and friends of Fish Lake Lutheran will have the opportunity to reflect on the Jewish rituals, the story from Exodus, and the various parallels to the Christian faith again this year. There will be traditional seder foods and a full meal. We will end by worshiping and sharing Holy Communion with one another. You and your family and friends are invited to make this evening part of your Lenten journey this year.



A Message From Sister LaDonna

For those of you who have taken the Strengths Finder assessment and have done some work with the themes of strength, you will understand that when I say I have Learner as one of my themes it means that I love to study and read and experience new things. That is one of the reasons I loved studying to become a certified spiritual director. I wanted to learn as much as I could about spirituality, stages of faith and particularly about prayer.

It became apparent pretty early on in the course that reading about prayer and reading about saints was a good thing. But more important than reading *about* prayer was *actually praying*. Through prayer we find a compass to our lives.

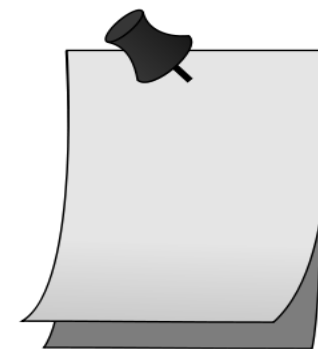
Our fervent prayers take us to a place of realization that we are not in control. We are submitting ourselves to God, and although we may be praying for a particular result, we ultimately know that our lives are in God's hands. There may be times in our prayers when we feel that God has abandoned us. Why doesn't God come to our aid or give us some sign? This is a very painful place. Yet we are promised by Jesus that he will not forsake us. As we continue to put our prayers before God we are transformed by grace.

I have loved reading about the many types of prayer. But the one common thread in the different forms of prayer is that **prayer is relationship**. Being faithful in prayer leads us closer to recognizing God at work in our lives. Prayer continually draws us to the place of humility and raw trust. Interestingly, this is not some deep insight, it is just common sense. You don't need to read countless books about prayer or attend training sessions or seminars. I'm reminded of a quote from Abbot John Chapman, "*Pray as you can, not as you can't.*" You just need to talk with God.

What are your experiences with prayer? I would love to hear your stories. You can connect with me at ladolson@msn.com.

Spring Spruce-Up Fundraiser

Need a yard raked, windows washed, brush pile cleaned up, shed moved, fence painted.....? You name it, and the 2011 Denver Youth Mission Trippers will do it! Call the church office today to add your name to their "to-do" list. The first dates that are scheduled for work are **Saturdays, April 16 & 23**. Other dates will be added as needed and if neither of these work for you. Specific times/dates can be scheduled as well. All donations for these spruce-ups will benefit the 2011 Summer Youth Mission trip to Denver, Colorado.



April 2011

Sunday Morning Schedule

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 5:30 pm Wedding Decosse/ Maeckelbergh	2
3 <i>Fourth Sunday in Lent</i> Holy Communion F5@5 5:00 pm	4	5 Church Council Meeting 7:00 pm	6 WELCA 9:00 am Play & Pray – 9:15-11 am Soup Supper 6:00 pm Choir/God's Chimers Worship 7:00 pm	7	8	9 Spaghetti Dinner 4:00 pm
10 <i>Fifth Sunday in Lent</i>	11	12	13 Play & Pray – 9:15-11 am F55 11:00 am Soup Supper 6:00 pm Choir/God's Chimers Worship 7:00 pm	14	15	16 Block of the Month 8:30 am Craft Day 9-2:00 pm First Communion Instruction 10:00 am
17 <i>Palm Sunday</i> Holy Communion <i>Vine & Branches items due</i> 3:00 pm Seder Meal 6:00pm Denver Mission Trip Meeting	18	19	20 Play & Pray –9:15-11 am	21 Maundy Thursday Worship 7:00 pm Celebration of First Communion	22 Good Friday Worship 7:00 pm Tennebrae Service	23 Mind/Body Skills Workshop 9-5 pm
24 <i>Resurrection of Our Lord, Easter Day</i> WELCA Food Shelf Sunday-bring donations!	25	26 11:00 am Prime Time	27 Play & Pray –9:15-11 am Confirmation Final Party 6:30 pm God's Chimer Practice 6:30 pm Choir 7:15 pm	28	29	30 Spring Clean Up @ the Church 9:00 am

9:00 a.m. Adult Ed
9:00 a.m. Sunday School
10:00 a.m. Worship
Refreshments and fellowship

Ushers

3rd Joel & Stephanie Hughes
10th Joel & Stephanie Hughes, and Kelli & Sami Klein
17th Lee and Lisa Lane
24th Jonelle, Mike, Tina, Maranda Nelson

Offering Counters

3rd Rick & Debbie Lofboom, and Cindy Blesener
10th Joel & Katie Santjer, Mary Kay Linder
17th Julie Osborne, Jami Wilking, and Wendy Norling
24th Nancy Bengtson, Nicci Elmer, and Mary Crawford

Coffee Hosts

3rd Tony & Marilyn Wicklund
10th Sunday School- Scott & Carol Douglas, Dave & Jennifer Groh, and Noelle Strohecker
17th Leap of Faith- Doug & Carrie Mlinar, Chris & Patty Yelle, and Eric & Nicole Linder
24th WELCA