



VINE & BRANCHES

A Monthly Newsletter of Fish Lake Lutheran Church

December 2011

Light and Love

A brand new church year. The start of Advent. We're looking forward to Christmas. But people often miss the point when it comes to Advent and Christmas. For some, this season of the year is simply an opportunity to throw parties and to exchange gifts. They see it as an opportunity to eat, drink and be merry. For merchants it is a time to salvage a lackluster year of retail sales. Many consumers joined in the free-for-all nearly a week ago on "Black Friday". All of this misses the point of Advent and Christmas, of course. Advent and Christmas are the coming of *Light and Love*.

Little Joey asked his mother at Christmas time: "Mom, why do people put lights on their houses?" "They are celebrating Jesus' birthday," she replied. "When is Jesus' birthday?" asked Joey. "He was born on Christmas," his mother replied. "Jesus was born on Christmas?" Joey exclaimed. "What a coincidence!"

Little Joey is one of the reasons we have all those signs that say, "Jesus is the reason for the season." And, of course it's true. He *is* the reason for the season. He brought light and love into the world. To help us get the real point of the Advent season, let's go back about 750 years before Christ to a prophet named Isaiah. Isaiah was both a prophet of *judgment* and a prophet of *hope*.

We hear many familiar words from the second chapter of Isaiah. We hear that we shall walk in the ways of the Lord. We hear about peace – the beating of swords into plowshares and spears into pruning hooks. But verse five will be a theme that carries throughout Advent and Christmas as Isaiah proclaims, "...come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!"

A theme that is appropriate for this season of the year, and that carries over into Epiphany, is *light*. Some of you have already gotten out the lights for your Christmas tree. Some of you will perhaps light up the entire inside and outside of your house. A few people go all out when it comes to Christmas lights. They will strain every utility plant for miles around with their addiction to brightening up their homes. That's all right, as long as we understand what Isaiah meant when he said, "Let us walk in the light of the LORD." And what Paul meant when he wrote: "The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light."

So why not celebrate the birth of Jesus this year a bit differently – try adding a few more lights on your house or tree – and when you admire them, think of Jesus, our Light of the world.

P. Dale



ADVENT & CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE



Mid-week Soup Suppers & Worship

(See additional information on page 5)

Wednesdays, December 7, 14 & 21

Soup Suppers – 6:00 p.m.

Worship – 7:00 p.m.

Sunday School Christmas Program

Sunday, December 18

10:00 a.m.



Christmas Eve

Family Worship Service – 4:00 p.m.

(designed for families with youth and young children)

Reflective Candlelight Worship Service with Holy Communion

10:30 p.m.

Sunday, December 25

Festive Christmas Day Service w/Holy Communion

10:00 a.m.

Sunday, January 1

Service of Lessons & Carols

10:00 a.m.



Stewardship at Fish Lake—The Gift of ... Computers!

At Fish Lake Lutheran Church, it seems that the generosity just keeps flowing.

You've by now likely noticed the computer lab that is gradually coming together in the church basement. When all is said and done this gift of *donated* time, expertise, equipment, software and hardware will easily equal an approximate value of \$7000! And for this generous example of stewardship we have *Paul Stewart, Noel Petit, and Kent Saylor* to thank.

Paul is such a dedicated and committed friend of Fish Lake Lutheran, who also happens to be a Certified Microsoft Technician and Chief Technology Officer at Worthington Aviation Parts, Inc. in Eagan. Noel is committed to the teaching and study of Computer Science at Augsburg College in Mpls, and Kent is obviously our very accomplished cabinet maker – in residence at Fish Lake. The three of them have come together to share their gifts in order to provide an effective and user-friendly work space and state-of-the-art technology that will allow for our congregation to provide a new element of ministry, for all ages, which hasn't existed before at Fish Lake Lutheran.

As we know, technology has changed so quickly and dramatically in recent years with the wide-spread use of the internet, social media, word processing, and electronic learning. Our congregation is more and more relying on tech-savvy means of communication and learning when it comes to evangelism ministries and outreach opportunities.

With the addition of this generous gift of a networked computer lab we will now be able to offer computer related classes to members of all ages, ranging from learning the basics of word processing to navigating the internet and the use of social media outlets like Facebook and Twitter. Paul Stewart has offered to teach these classes on a recurring basis as the need or interest presents itself.



Carrie Stiles is also excited to use the computer lab as part of the on-going rotation Sunday School model that we are using. This model of Sunday School provides lessons designed for computer labs and workstations that we have been unable to use before.

It's also important to note that use of the computer lab, for all ages, will be closely monitored and supervised at designated times only, for safety and security purposes.

Our congregation is so fortunate to receive such a generous and unique gift that will only enhance our mission and ministry as we seek to continue to G.R.O.W. at Fish Lake!

Vision & Mission at Fish Lake—Recommendations & Findings Summary

On Sunday, November 13, immediately following worship, Pr. Dick Wehrs, a pastor at *Faith Lutheran Church* in Coon Rapids and a Development Consultant for *Miller Architects & Builders* in St. Cloud, presented his final *Report of Findings & Recommendations* following a two-month long *Mission, Ministry & Facilities Needs Study* involving nearly 100 members of Fish Lake Lutheran. The meeting was well attended. The Report will be available in a bound printed format to anyone who was unable to be at the meeting. Here is a *very* brief summary of some of the highlights of the Report:

Congregational Identity, Self-Perception, and Purpose

- ◇ Recognized and acknowledged where Fish Lake Lutheran has been, what it has become, what it is no longer, and what it certainly can be – if it's true to the mission to which Christ calls it.
- ◇ Continue to take seriously the call to love and serve others
- ◇ Take seriously the call to make – and become – disciples, accepting the variety of sacrifices this very well may require
- ◇ Take seriously the demands and expectations placed on staff and members alike
- ◇ Recognize and acknowledge the diverse, sometimes competing, and often equally valid values within the congregation

Recommended Ministry Priorities

- ◇ Continue to cultivate and build upon Youth & Family Ministry
- ◇ Be intentional about the need for stronger Senior Adult Ministry
- ◇ Be intentional about the need to disciple and include new members

Equipping Ourselves for the Task

- ◇ Expect to gradually expand Fish Lake's staff as a means to increase skill base, efficiency, and effectiveness
- ◇ Create, maintain, and regularly revisit comprehensive position descriptions with clear expectations for pastor, staff, council, committees, and members

Facilities, Facilities Use, and Meeting Current & Future Space Needs

- ◇ Continue the excellent care being given to the facility currently
- ◇ Preserve and protect the historical integrity of the original building
- ◇ As worship attendance grows, consider additional worship opportunities
- ◇ Explore the creation of more effective education and fellowship space

Contact the church office to read the entirety of the Findings and Recommendations Report.

SACREDSPACE

“All Will Be Made New”

Once again, this year, you’re invited to make sacred space in your days and weeks throughout the **Advent** and the **Christmas** Season.

Our Advent mid-week worship opportunities are always designed to help you prepare for the birth of Jesus in the midst of the usual busy and often hectic holiday season.

This year, these four mid-week worship opportunities will be *sacred space* for us as we reflect and contemplate on the theme, *“All Will Be Made New”*, based on the brand new, beautiful song, *Kingdom Come*, by Christian songwriter and recording artist, JJ Heller.

The services will be designed to be quiet and reflective in order to allow our hearts and minds to slow down and be silent while we wait for the light of the Christ Child to come again.

Guest musicians will be with us each Wednesday evening as well to help set the tone of the service. Instruments will include a harp, violin, hammered dulcimer, and guitar.

Again this year our confirmation students will be serving a soup supper prior to each mid-week service.

2011 Advent Mid-Week Service Schedule

6:00 p.m. Soup Supper; 7:00 p.m. Worship

Wednesday, November 30

“All will be made new...in LOVE”

Wednesday, December 7

“All will be made new...in MERCY”

Wednesday, December 14

“All will be made new...in GRACE”

Wednesday, December 21

“All will be made new...in HOPE”

*“Life is but a dream at best. Morning’s coming soon.
Kingdom come will bring us rest.
All will be made new.”*

Church Council Minutes—November 10, 2011

Members present: Nancy Bengtson, Tom Lofboom, Mary Crawford, Floyd Pinotti, Sue Kane, Paula Rehder, Jen Kroschel, Joel Santjer, Pastor Dale. **Absent:** Jason Wilking.

Devotions were led by Nancy Bengtson titled--"Generosity"

Pastor Dick Wehrs led us through his *Findings and Recommendations Report* that he will share with the congregation on Sunday, November 13. Here is a brief summary.

1. He loved the "Grow at Fish Lake" theme.
2. We have a heritage we can be proud of, but some do not have that heritage.
3. Church is doing well--Family ministry is a key to success.
4. Ministry to improve--Youth movement is good but can't lose the elderly.
5. Can we handle growth?
6. Questions: Is there a need for additional staffing? Do we need more time to keep up the building? Are we informed on church matters?
7. Expectations of our members? Yes, Pastor Dale reminds us at least twice a year when we receive new members.
8. How adequate is our facility? Extraordinary, can't find anything neglected. We don't have adequate space for youth. A gym is not the answer but maybe something built outside the kitchen for multi-purpose needs.

There will be a *Findings and Recommendations* booklet available for the congregation to read. Please find time to read this material. The council thanked Dick for his time and for putting together a professional booklet and report.

Affirmations: Terry Olson for mounting a fire safety lock box on the east side of the church and for raking and reseeding part of the front lawn. Judy Nelson for decorating the altar and tables. WELCA for putting on the pork dinner.

Pastor's Report: Fish Lake hosted North Branch Ecumenical Ministerium. Fall clean up, welcomed back Terry Esau, F55, Kids Klub, Weekly text studies, etc.

Committee Reports

Safety: Joel will look into First Aid Kits.

WELCA: Looking into a fundraising event for Pastor Dale's sabbatical. A correction from last month – the ladies will be working on quilts for the *confirmation* kids not graduation.

Property Committee: A new property committee will be set up in January. Joel will organize the committee.

Church Council Minutes—(cont'd)

Thrivent: Would like a list of items we can use Thrivent money for. Cost of Mural, Parking lot, interim pastor, mission trips, etc.

New Business:

Carrie Stiles asked the council for one month salary to write curriculum for the Sunday school volunteers during her leave in 2012. Council approved \$588.25.

Nicole Linder submitted an application for a Fish Lake Lutheran college scholarship. Council approved \$200.

Possible honorary youth council member: We will see if any of the youth are interested and go from there.

Nicole Linder and Pastor Dale are looking at the 2011 Membership Removal list. A list of 28 inactive members will be contacted about their membership status.

Old Business:

Sabbatical/ Interim pastor: Question was raised regarding whether or not a portion of Carrie's salary (\$3000) should go toward funding the interim pastor during Pr. Dale's sabbatical? Tom made motion not to use it and to leave it in general fund. Motion passed. It is likely we can go with a part-time interim pastor, which will cost less than the initial \$15,000 we were planning for with a full-time interim. Pastor Dale will look into it. Minus the portion of Carrie's salary we initially intended on using, a total of \$4,375 has already been contributed towards the interim pastor expense.

2012 Summer Event: Looking for members to help with the planning and organization. Contact Pr. Dale or Floyd Pinotti. The date is Saturday, June 30. A square dance caller is already booked and we're looking into horse back riding, wagon rides, a meal, etc.

Cemetery: Cemetery Board would like the council to look into church constitutional changes that would clarify/acknowledge the relationship between the Church and the Cemetery. Pastor Dale will check with other church constitutions and their wordings on this matter, and report back to us.

Financial Report: We are roughly \$1,000 down in financial giving from last year at this time.

Respectfully Submitted,
Tom Lofboom, Secretary

Live From Bethlehem

*Oh star of wonder, star of night,
Star with royal beauty bright.
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to thy perfect light.*

Jackie: THE PERFECT LIGHT? You mean, the light from the star, right? And what do you expect to find there? Gold?

Magi Mike: Definitely not.

Magi Melissa: No way! Something much more valuable.

Magi Mark: Something that's value CANNOT be measured!

Jackie: But, Magi, what could possibly be SO valuable?

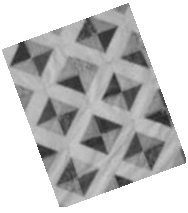
All three: A BABY!



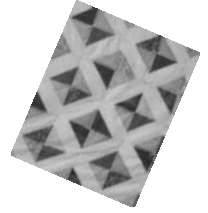
In this year's Sunday School Christmas program the children of Fish Lake will share the mystery of the Christmas story by reporting on the crazy and unexpected things that happened in Bethlehem on that night so very long ago. It wasn't an easy time to be faithful to God. The Roman rule meant that God's people were mostly poor, had very few freedoms and were pretty much at the mercy of whatever the king or emperor wanted. Like this crazy census that made people travel all over so they could be counted and taxed even more than they already were. The people of Israel were looking for a savior, but not in the form of a baby.

Even today, we are also a people searching for something. We too might feel like the world we live in is out of our control. We can't control the economic problems, we can't help those we care about find jobs, we can't make someone we love who is dealing with illness healthy, we can't fix our friends marital problems, we can't even seem to find peace for ourselves. We are looking for a savior—just like they were in Bethlehem that night. Will we be able to let go and run to the manger like the shepherd did when they heard? Will we find that peace in the baby, even if it is not the way we expected?

corner



5th Annual Quilt Bingo Stories & Updates



“Our lives are like quilts – bits and pieces, joy and sorrow, stitched with love.”

(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 #6- Lilac Garden

- ◇ “After admiring all the beautiful quilts on display, my mother-in-law, Lorraine, said if she gets a bingo she would love to have Lilac Garden because of the cozy colors used. I was fortunate to win a Bingo early, so I chose Lilac Garden to give to her. We opened up the quilt and she laid the quilt over her lap and we continued to play Bingo the rest of the afternoon. I know Lorraine will use the quilt daily in her home in Hinckley, MN. She loves to wrap up in a quilt when she is watching TV or reading.” ~*Marilyn Wicklund*

Quilt #15- Building Blocks

- ◇ “This quilt will probably be given as a gift to a special child. Thank you for a fun day. This is the first time I’ve won!” ~*JoAnn Wyatt*

Quilt #21- Strawberry Shortcake

- ◇ “This quilt will be for new baby Zoe! She will be born in October, so this will be her first quilt. I’m hoping this quilt will be loved every day! It will be used in their Richfield, MN home to cuddle in when stories are read, for picnics in the backyard, and for making tents in the living room for her and all of her animal friends. “Strawberry Shortcake,” what little girl wouldn’t love this!! Thank you!” ~*Barb Jennrick*

Christmas Poinsettia Memorials

Poinsettia Memorial Order Forms are available in the narthex and the basement. You can order poinsettias this year in honor or in memory of a loved one, the plants will be delivered to church and displayed throughout the holiday worship services. Plants may be taken home after the services on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. The due date for these orders are December 11th. You may also call the church office or mail in an order request. The cost is \$12.00 with the choice of color: pink, white, red.



POINSETTIA ORDER FORM

If you would like to order poinsettias this year in honor or memory of a loved one, complete this form and return it with your check to the church office by **Sunday, December 11.**

The plants will be delivered to church and displayed throughout the holiday worship services. Plants may be taken home after the services on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day.

Your Name: _____

Phone #: _____ Email: _____

In honor of:

In memory of:

of plants _____ at \$12.00 each = \$ _____

_____ Pink _____ White _____ Red

Return to the church office by Sunday, December 11.

Announcements, Events & Activities

Holiday/Poinsettia fundraiser

It is that time of year again! These plants and some beautiful outdoor swags, wreaths, and mixed green deck plants will be available this year at *below suggested retail*. The proceeds will go to help fund the Africa Mission Trip. You can place your order at the table in the basement, or by contacting LaDonna Olson at 651-674-8526.

The Gift That Keeps On Giving

This is the best time ever to shop with scrip! Retailers are pulling out all the stops this season and are eager for your EARLY sale. Many of the retailers are offering BONUS contributions on their gift cards, in addition to never before seen sales events. Whether purchasing cards for gifts, or to buy items for yourself, help out the Companion Village Project in Iringa, Tanzania by purchasing cards after worship, downstairs, or through Sister LaDonna at 651-674-8526 or ladolson@msn.com.

Are you a family in need of some financial assistance, or do know of a family that is?

Members of Fish Lake Lutheran volunteer their time at the *Shalom Thrift Store* in Cambridge; because of the generosity of their time, Fish Lake Lutheran receives funds each month to help families with financial struggles. Shalom also donates \$10 vouchers to Fish Lake Lutheran to give to families who are struggling financially to be used at the Shalom store. Please contact Pastor Dale or the church office if you, or someone you know, could benefit from either one or both of these services.

Need time to finish your Christmas gifts?...the Fish Lake Knitters are gathering **Thursday, December 15th at 7:00 pm** in the church library for knitting, fellowship, devotions, and for those interested in working on projects such as hats, buntings, blankets



to donate to hospitals. If you're new to knitting, it's a great way to pick up new tricks and always have someone at the ready to help you through difficult parts of patterns or explain a new-to-you technique. If you are an experienced/expert knitter this is definitely the place for you! Please contact the church office at 651-674-4252 or email of-fice@fishlakelutheran.org.

December 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
				1
<p>4 <i>Second Sunday in Advent</i> Holy Communion</p> <p>F5@5</p>	5	<p>6 7:00 pm Council Meeting</p>	<p>7 WELCA 9:00 am Play & Pray – 9:15-11 am</p> <p>Soup Supper 6:00pm Advent Worship 7:00pm</p>	8
<p>11 <i>Third Sunday in Advent</i></p> <p>Preliminary 2012 Budget Meeting following worship</p> <p>Faith4Life 6-8pm Senior High Christmas Party</p>	12	13	<p>14</p> <p>Play & Pray – 9:15-11 am</p> <p>F55 Christmas Party—1:00pm</p> <p>Soup Supper 6:00pm Advent Worship 7:00pm</p>	15 Knitters 7:00pm
<p>18 <i>Fourth Sunday in Advent</i> Holy Communion Sunday School Christmas Program</p> <p>Family Caroling 5-7pm</p>	19	20	<p>21 Play & Pray – 9:15-11 am</p> <p>Soup Supper 6:00pm Advent Worship 7:00pm</p>	22
<p>25 <i>Nativity of Our Lord, Christmas Day</i></p> <p>10:00 a.m. Festive Worship w/Holy Communion</p> <p>WELCA Food Shelf Sunday-bring donations!</p>	26	27	28	29

Monday	Friday	Saturday
	2 Parents Night Out! 5pm	3
	9	10 Scrapbooking 8:30am-6pm <i>Christmas Program</i> <i>Rehearsal 9:30-11:30am</i> <i>God's Chimers Rehearsal</i> <i>11:30am</i>
10pm	16	17 Block of the Month 8:30 am <i>Christmas Program</i> <i>Rehearsal 9:30-11:30am</i> <i>God's Chimers Rehearsal</i> <i>11:30am</i>
	23	24 Nativity of Our Lord, Christmas Eve 4:00 p.m. Family Worship Service 10:30 p.m. Reflective Candlelight Worship Service
	30	31

Sunday Morning Schedule

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

Ushers

4th Arnie Ricke, Chuck & Bernie Strauss
11th Jerry & Karen Lodin
18th The Mlinar Family
25th The Mlinar Family

Acolytes

4th Kyle Groh & Jarett Zemek
11th Zack Pilz & Colton Bauer
18th Marissa Johnson & Colton Bauer

Offering Counters

4th Cindy Blesener, Rick & Deb Lofboom
11th Joel & Katie Santjer, Mary Kay Linder, Candy Twingstrom
18th Julie Osborne, Diane Solberg, and Wendy Norling
25th Mary Street, Bill/Michelle Young

Coffee Hosts

4th
11th Sunday School- Trent & Jennifer Kroschel, Julie Pilz, Deb Robinson
18th Leap of Faith- Mark & Paula Rehder, Rick & Amy Johnson, Cory & Lisa Nephew
25th WELCA

FAMILY · FRIENDS · FOOD · FUN · FAITH



An Advent Party!

Craig and Jonelle Nelson and family will be making "Krupp Kakor"

Bring a Swedish or Non-Swedish dish to share.

Sunday, December 4th, 5-7pm

Advent crafts and games for all ages.
We will end with a worship of Advent Reflections.

Celebrate Christmas with your Friends at Fish Lake!

F55 A Christmas Party

Wednesday, December 14, 1:00pm

We'll do a White Elephant Gift Exchange
(bring a wrapped, goofy gift to exchange)

Wear your most interesting Christmas sweater
to show off.

Bring a Christmas treat to share.



We'll celebrate Christmas with friends, yummy treats, songs, laughter and love.

Hope you can make it! Bring a friend!

FAMILY · FRIENDS · FOOD · FUN · FAITH

A Message From Sister LaDonna

There seems to be a theme weaving through my life these days. I've been *reading* about, *hearing* about, *thinking* about **purpose** – specifically *my* purpose. My spiritual director tells me that this is normal for my stage of life. My children are becoming more and more independent. Jenni bought a house so she probably won't be moving back home anytime soon. Matt is settled in the city and Chris makes more and more decisions for himself. So here I am, still needed



but not enough to fill that void or answer those questions. *"Why am I here?" "How can I make a difference in the world?"* Or to quote from a book I've been reading lately, *The Power of Purpose*, *"What gets me out of bed in the morning?"* or *"What exciting thing keeps me awake at night?"*

I've started work on answering those questions but now I need to figure out how to implement the answers. With the gifts that God has given me, how do I live out the command to love God and love my neighbor? Another book that I've started is called *Falling Upward: A Spirituality for Two Halves of Life* by Richard Rohr. His insight about the two halves of life is based on his own experience. But of course I was most interested in his second half of life discussion.

"In this second half, people know they will suffer, that they will enter the 'shadowlands', that this part of life can be about suffering and diminution. This author outlines how this half of life can be about joy, about falling upward in a spiritual sense, about the second half of life being about opening yourself. A book like this can help center a reader on the need to get past embarrassment, get past a concern for the material, and begin to understand what faces you, and who you are..."

No matter where we are in life's stages, we are all concerned with our purpose, our *raison d'être*. Where are you in that search? How is God drawing you closer to him? How are you opening yourself to what God is doing?

I am always excited to hear your experiences, your questions and/or comments. You can reach me at ladolson@msn.com or 651-674-8526.

December Mission of the Month— Children's Home Society & Crisis Nursery of North Branch Giving Tree



Again this year we are collecting gifts for needy families in the area. Fish Lake Lutheran Church is supporting five different local families who need our help. The “giving tree” is located in the church basement. Tags on the tree will have the gender, age, and needs of a family member.

Take a tag (or two or three) and purchase a gift! Bring the unwrapped gifts to the church by *December 11th*.

There are also basic needs for laundry supplies, socks, underwear, food, paper products, etc. Gift cards are also needed and welcomed (they can be purchased at the resource table in the basement during coffee hour. The Fish Lake Lutheran Social Ministry Committee thanks you for your generous support for local families!

GROW in Outreach



Nominating Committee

The Fish Lake Lutheran Nominating Committee is currently seeking names to place on the election ballot for our annual meeting in January. Position openings this year include: 3-three year terms on **church council**; 3-three year terms on the **Cemetery Board**; 1-three year term on the **Audit Committee**; 1-one year term for **Head Usher**

If you would like to find out more about these positions or have an interest in being nominated for any of them, please contact anyone on the Nominating Committee (Rob Anderson, Jenny Niedzielski, Katie Santjer) or Pastor Dale. Thank you!



Attention families with younger kids!

Friday, December 2nd, 5:00pm

Fish Lake Lutheran's Parents Night Out!

Some of the F55 gang has offered to watch our kids so we can all go out and enjoy the evening together.

On *Friday, December 2nd* drop your kids off in the church basement at *5pm* for games, songs and pizza. We will be reserving lanes at JJ's bowling for the adults to have some fun too.

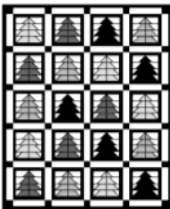
Sign up in the church basement or contact Jen Kroschel for more information at (651) 674-0855 or by email at kroscheltj@aol.com

Tanzania, Africa – A Mission Trip Opportunity

Fish Lake Lutheran will be sending its fourth delegation of its members to Tanzania to visit our partner congregation, Wasa, the beginning of October, 2012. Pastor Dale and his family will also be there on their sabbatical! Contact Pr. Dale or LaDonna Olson if you are interested in participating in this life-changing mission opportunity!



FLL Block of the Month HOLIDAY QUILT drawing!



Tickets are being sold for \$5 each. They may be purchased from any *Block of the Month* participant, or downstairs after worship.

All proceeds will benefit equally the North Branch Crisis Nursery & the North Branch Senior Center. The goal is to raise \$500 for each of these missions.

The drawing will be held on December 17 during Block of the Month (*need not be present to win.*) The quilt is on display in the Fish Lake Lutheran basement or online at www.fishlakelutheran.org

CONFIRMATION NEWS4U

Wednesday, November 30 Advent Worship at 7pm
TIM Team will serve the Soup Supper

Wednesday, December 7 Advent Worship at 7pm
Brian and Julie's Class will serve Soup Supper

Wednesday, December 14 Advent Worship at 7pm
Holly's Class will serve Soup Supper

Wednesday, December 21 Advent Worship at 7pm
Joel and Amy's Classes will serve Soup Supper

Wednesday, December 28 CHRISTMAS BREAK



For All in
Grades
6th-12th

Come watch movie clips
and talk about how they
tie into our faith.
Sundays 9-9:45am

- Dec. 4 "God Grew Tired of Us"
- Dec. 11 *The Grinch*
- Dec. 18 *Christmas Fun*
- Dec. 25 Christmas Day
- Jan. 1 New Year's Day

Faith4life Faith4life Faith4life



SR. HIGH
CHRISTMAS
PARTY

Sun, Dec. 11th 6-8pm

Hang out, play
games, and worship
together.

Bring a friend, a Christmas
snack to share and a
White Elephant Gift.

What is a White Elephant
Gift? something you find
in your house. You can't
pay for it and the more
funny-the better!

News4Kids sundayschool

Sunday, December 4
Saturday, December 10
Sunday, December 11
Saturday, December 17
Sunday, December 18

Work on the Christmas Program
Rehearsal from 9:30am-11:30am
Work on the Christmas Program
Rehearsal from 9:30am-11:30am

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Final Rehearsal at 9am

Please come before 9am to get into costumes

Program during 10am Worship

Sunday, December 25
Sunday, January 1

CHRISTMAS DAY- NO SUNDAY SCHOOL
NEW YEAR'S DAY- NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

SUNDAY SCHOOL WILL RESUME ON JANUARY 8th with CELEBRATION SUNDAY
TO LEARN ABOUT "DAVID AND GOLIATH"

Caroling Party



For Families of all ages!

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18

5:00-7:00pm

Dress warm and ready to sing

*If you know of someone who would like to
be caroled to, please call the office to let
them know.*

God's Chimers Practice

Sat., Dec. 10 at 11:30am

Sat., Dec. 17 at 11:30am

**NO Kid's Klub in
December
NO Guitar Lessons
in December**

SUNDAY SCHOOL is from 9:00-9:45 Sunday mornings

WELCA Meeting Minutes—November 2, 2011

The meeting was opened by our president, Barb Sauer.

I. Reports

- A. The secretary's report was read and accepted.
- B. The treasurer's report was read and accepted.
- C. Thank you notes were read from The Refuge for the contribution from Quilt Bingo, The Harris American Legion for a monetary donation, and Sara Morawski, Cody Anderson's grandmother for his graduation quilt and the two quilts she won at Quilt Bingo.
- D. November 27, WELCA will serve something cranberry for coffee hour.

Old Business

Baptismal Quilts: We have 2 girl's and 4 boy's on hand.

Wedding Quilts: We have 3 on hand.

Graduation Quilts: 1 top is ready to tie. Even though there is only one graduate at this time for 2012 we will work ahead for 2013

Global Health Ministries: 4 tops were tied today for mission projects.

Kitchen Supplies: Tinfoil, Kool Aid and paper towels were replenished.

Ceiling Fan: The fan has been purchased and Barb will contact Chris Yelle to install it.

Quilt Bingo-2012: 15-16 quilts are already in progress.

Block of the Month: November 19 at 8:30 am. Sale of tickets for the Christmas Quilt drawing began in October by B.O.M members. Tickets will be sold at church by WELCA members beginning November 6. The drawing will be held at the B.O.M. Meeting December 17.

Bundles of Love: A request was made to Social Ministry Group that this organization be made the Mission of the Month in the month of March 2012. For more information or knitting/crocheting patterns see the WELCA bulletin board.

(WELCA Minutes cont'd on pg. 21)



Balance brought Forward-
\$3,959.50

Income:

LCW Offering-21.00

Food Shelf-61.30

Block of the Month-168.50

Coffee-40.00

Donation/Baptismal Quilt-
25.00

Swedish Choir-66.00

Ornament Quilt Drawing-
40.00

Total: \$421.18

Expenses:

Camb/North Branch Food
Shelf-261.30

Chips for Quilt Bingo lunch-
56.24

Habitat for Humanity-200.00

Kitchen Supplies-92.28

Stamps-26.40, 23.94

BOM fabric-450.84

Conf. Stoles fabric-23.94

Fall Cluster-100.00

Machine Quilting-65.00

Ceiling fan & bulbs-32.01

Ginny Tharm (BOM)-25.00

Box of Checks- 21.45

FDIC charge- .50

Total: \$1,290.96

Balance on Hand: \$3,090.34

WELCA Meeting Minutes—*cont'd*

Pork Dinner: November 8, Mary Kay and Connie are coordinating. Volunteers are needed for the dinner and craft and baked goods are needed for the sale.

Thrivent Request: for Quilt funds, \$400.00 was received in today's mail. Thank you to Thrivent for this gift.

Tapestry/Dignity Quilt: for Suite Living Nursing Home is at the machine quilters and should be ready this coming week. It will be presented to a representative of the nursing home at the BOM meeting.

New Business

-The \$2,000.00 pledge for the interim pastor's salary was discussed.

-givemn.org was discussed.

-A request from Children's Hospital was received for child friendly. 100% cotton, hemmed fabric to be used in neonatal and pediatric intensive care units to address special care needs of skin breakdown and wound prevention for young patients.

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Sharon Petit, Secretary

Our Women of the ELCA at Fish Lake are in need of Knitters, Crocheters, & Quilters/Sewers for work from home projects.



All Knit and Crocheted items are for our *Bundles of Love* Mission Project. Patterns for these are available on the WELCA Board in the church basement. If you need yarn, we have some in our sewing room. This is an ongoing project with no specific time to complete. Return to designated bin in the church basement when done.

And for our Quilters/Sewers, we have two kits prepared to complete two quilts for Quilt Bingo. Most of the cutting has been completed and now need to have the blocks sewn together. Pattern included in the kit. Kits are on the table under the WELCA Board, please let one of the sewing ladies know when you pick them up and if you need to review the directions prior to sewing.

Please return to WELCA when completed. We would like these done and returned by end of March. We are grateful for any work you can do for these projects and thank you for all your time.

A COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS!

“Journey to Bethlehem” *A Live Nativity*

Friday, December 2nd, 6-9pm
Saturday, December 3rd, 2-5pm

This is more than a live Nativity...



It's the village of Bethlehem as it might have been the night Jesus was born. Stroll the streets of Bethlehem and visit with shopkeepers and citizens of Bethlehem.

This is a **FREE** community event to benefit the North Branch food shelf and “*Food for the Poor*” international relief agency. Non-perishable food donations will be accepted and appreciated. Any free-will cash donations will go to “*Food for the Poor.*”

This event is sponsored by Living Branch Lutheran Church, North Branch, MN.

At Living Branch's former building
38180 Hemingway Ave. S., North Branch- watch for signs!



“Christmas Time in Sweden” *presented by* *The American Swedish Institute*

Friday, December 2nd, 12:00 p.m.
at Trinity Lutheran Church, North Branch

All friends age 55+ are invited to join Trinity Lutheran Church in North Branch for their annual Christmas Luncheon. There will be a catered Swedish meatball meal followed by the “Christmas Time in Sweden” program.

The cost is \$10.00 and tickets can be purchased in the office at Trinity or call 651-674-7047 for more information. Join us as we welcome Christ “Swedish style!”

2011 FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP AT FISH LAKE LUTHERAN					
Date	Actual Offering	Budgeted Offering	Percent	Above/Below Budget	Worship Attendance
October 2	\$2,831.00	\$3,375.00	84%	-\$544.00	156
October 9	\$3,314.01	\$3,375.00	84%	-\$60.99	143
October 16	\$3,325.00	\$3,375.00	99%	-\$50.00	157
October 23	\$2,859.00	\$3,375.00	85%	-\$516.00	104
October 30	\$3,953.50	\$3,375.00	117%	\$578.50	120
YEAR TO DATE	\$137,097.86	\$148,500.00	92%	-\$11,402.14	

MEMORIALS

Fish Lake Lutheran gives many thanks for gifts received in memory of *Oroville Anderson*.

CONGREGATIONAL PRELIMINARY 2012 BUDGET MEETING

As usual, there will be a congregational preliminary budget meeting after worship on *Sunday, December 11* to review next year's proposed budget. We will then make any necessary changes to the proposed budget and present the final budget at the annual meeting on Sunday, January 22.



Thank You! Thank You!



- ◇ Thank you to Rick and Tom Lofboom for taking care of the fields surrounding the church this past year. In addition to their contribution of time and effort, the monetary donation received from the field is also very much appreciated. Thank you, Rick and Tom! ~*The Fish Lake Lutheran Family*
- ◇ Thank you to Nancy Bengtson and the Elmer Family for donating a portable DVD player for use in the youth room. Your generosity and thoughtfulness are appreciated! ~*The Fish Lake Lutheran Family*

GROW

At Fish Lake Lutheran Church

43353 Cedarcrest Trail

Harris, MN 55032

Phone: 651-674-4252 Fax: 651-237-1190

Online: www.fishlakelutheran.org

Office Hours: Mon.-Thurs. 8:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m.

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Director of Youth and Family Ministry

Carrie Stiles

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Nicole Linder

Financial Administrator

Lorrie Bauer

Director of Music Ministry

Sister LaDonna Olson

Pianist

Cindy Blesener

WELCA

Barb Sauer

Custodians

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Mary Crawford

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