

GROW

At Fish Lake Lutheran Church

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Harris, MN 55032

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Online: www.fishlakelutheran.org

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

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Fish Lake Lutheran Leadership & Staff

Pastor

Director of Youth and Family Ministry

Administrative Assistant

Financial Administrator

Director of Music Ministry

Pianist

WELCA

Custodians

Dale Stiles

Carrie Stiles

Nicole Linder

Lorrie Bauer

Sister LaDonna Olson

Cindy Blesener

Barb Sauer

Robin Graham &

Tom Anderson

Church Council Members

Nancy Bengtson—President

Mary Crawford

Sue Kane

Jennifer Kroschel

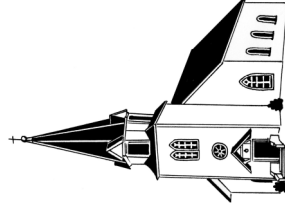
Tom Lofboom—Secretary

Floyd Pinotti

Paula Rehder

Joel Santjer—Vice President

Jason Wilking—Treasurer



VINE & BRANCHES

A Monthly Newsletter of Fish Lake Lutheran Church

May 2011

Jesus, Mary, Me, and...Joe Mauer!

I love baseball. We all know that. And I love Jesus. We all know that as well.

So you can imagine the intensity of my delight on Easter Sunday morning, when nearly three hundred people were gathering to worship the resurrected Jesus at our 10:00am Festival Worship – when in walks the Minnesota Twins All-Star Catcher Joe Mauer's *Grandpa*, Jake Mauer.

Was I star struck? You *bet* I was! It's not *every* Sunday that Major League Baseball's *highest paid Catcher's Grandpa* is sitting among one's congregation.

Was I star struck? Of *course* I was! It's not *every* Sunday that a pastor has the Major League Baseball's *best defensive and offensive Catcher's Grandpa* sitting among his congregation.

Was I star struck? You *better believe it!* It's not *every* Sunday that a pastor has the Major League Baseball's *2009 American League's Most Valuable Player's Grandpa* sitting in his congregation!

Was I star struck? *Absolutely!* It's not *every* Sunday that a pastor has a Major League Baseball *three-time Gold Glove award winner's Grandpa* sitting among their congregation!

It was an honor and privilege to be a part of such an encounter that morning – an experience I readily and eagerly shared with others throughout that day and in the days to follow!

I wonder if *Mary* was star struck when the resurrected Jesus appeared before her that *first* Easter morning? After all, it's not *every* day that a dead man, whom she loved deeply, emerges from his tomb full of life again, is it? After all, it's not *every* day that a previously dead man addresses us by name (*Mary!*) and comforts us in our grief, is it?

Imagine the intensity of *Mary's* delight on that first Easter morning when out of the tomb walks her beloved Savior, Jesus Christ. I'm sure it was an honor and a privilege for Mary to be a part of such an encounter – an experience that *she too*, readily and eagerly, shared with others throughout that day and in the days to follow.

Sure, I'll continue to tell of the Easter service that Joe Mauer's *Grandpa* attended at little old Fish Lake Lutheran back in 2011, but *more importantly*, I'll continue to *tell the old, old story of Jesus and His love* – expressed in His *glorious resurrection* way back in the first century! And I hope you will too!

Save the Date!

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

CHURCH CLEAN UP DAY

Saturday, April 30, 9:00 am

SENIOR CITIZEN RECOGNITION SUNDAY

Sunday, May 1, 10:00 am

F5@5 (last F5 until Fall)

Sunday, May 1, 5-7:00 pm

F55

Wednesday, May 11, 11:00 am

STAINED GLASS WINDOW DEDICATION

Sunday, May 15, 10:00 am

KIDS KLUB (last KIDS KLUB until Fall)

Wednesday, May 18, 5-6:30 pm

LADIES NIGHT OUT

Thursday, May 26, 7:00 pm

(At the home of Christine Meagher)

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

Sunday, May 22, 2:00 pm

BLOCK OF THE MONTH

Tuesday, May 21, 8:30 am

PRIME TIME

Tuesday, May 24, 11:00 am

MEMORIAL DAY HAM DINNER

Monday, May 30, serving starts at 11:30 am

GRADUATE RECOGNITION SUNDAY

Sunday, June 5, 10:00 am

WELCA Meeting—April 6, 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: Thank you notes were read from Pathways (food pantry donations) and Mr. & Mrs. Don Bolter (Veteran Quilt).

Old Business: WELCA Sunday April 24, 2011 falls on Easter so WELCA will not be serving because of the Easter Breakfast. Quilts- *Graduation*: three complete and two in process.

Wedding: one needs to be selected for June.

Baptismal: up to date. One baby girl quilt tied today.

Global Health Ministries: Ruby Dike is working on three quilts.

At the June 5th Worship Service the graduation, Children's Hospital, and ornament quilts will be blessed.

Updates

1. Bread for visitors: April-Violet (none needed), May- Ruby 2.
2. Kitchen Supplies: The search for the right size coffee filter continues. Creamer, Kool Aid etc. were restocked Coffee prices are going up again but it does not affect the types we generally buy.
3. Block of the Month April 16th at 8:30 a.m. Fat Quarter Drawing and Sign Up for next year.
4. Ceiling Fan for Kitchen: Chris Yelle will evaluate after the smoke detectors are redone. The fan will operate from a switch on the post.
5. Quilt Bingo inventory for 2011 stands at 25. The quilt sponsorship letter was discussed and accepted as revised.
6. Antique sewing machine donated to Marcie Whitman. Marcie has many fond memories of working with Bernice Engmark on this machine.
7. Confirmation Stoles: Judy Nelson is working on these.
8. Birthday Party at Grandview: Song sheets- Nicci Elmer will ask Brandon to look into "Old time" songs online. Date: May 19th 1:30 p.m. Further discussion at next meeting.

New Business: Ornament Quilts: It was discussed and decided to display and sell raffle tickets during coffee on Sunday, April 10th. Proceeds from this BOM/WELCA fund raiser will be divided between Pregnancy Resource Center of Cambridge and Crisis Nursery of North Branch. Next meeting will be Wednesday, May 4, 2011. The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer. ~ Sharon Petit

Balance brought Forward-
\$3,190.34

Income:

Coffee-8.00
LCW Offering-11.00
Food Shelf-101.91
Block of the Month-109.00
Maggie's CD- 16.00
Funeral Lunch- 250.00
Altar flowers- 100.00
Total: \$595.91

Expenses:

Camb.Food Shelf-100.95
North Br. Food Shelf-100.95
Altar plants/flowers- 21.35
BOM Breakfast- 74.29
Batting/soup bowls/BOM fabric- 206.82
Cub- 138.04
Kathy (cards)- 3.99
Machine quilting- 58.00
FDIC charge- .50
Total: \$704.89

Balance on Hand- \$3,081.36

2011 FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP AT FISH LAKE LUTHERAN					
Date	Actual Offering	Budgeted Offering	Percent	Above/Below Budget	Worship Attendance
March 6	\$4,461.50	\$3,375.00	132%	\$1,086.50	148
March 9-Lent	\$1,086.38	N/A	N/A	N/A	122
March 13	\$2,421.00	\$3,375.00	72%	-\$954.00	157
March 16-Lent	\$473.00	N/A	N/A	N/A	104
March 20	\$1,739.07	\$3,375.00	52%	-\$1,635.93	124
March 27	\$2,999.00	\$3,375.00	89%	-\$376.00	158
YEAR TO DATE	\$35,758.59	\$43,875.00	82%	-\$8,116.41	March Total: 813
First Quarter YTD Income: \$36,292.34 Expenses: \$42,284.41 Net Income: -\$5,992.07					

MEMORIAL

Fish Lake Lutheran gives many thanks for gifts received:

In honor of beloved parents, *Pastor William & Myrna Nordeen* and husband, *Robert Nygaard*, from Linnea Nygaard.

In memory of *Margaret Nelson* given by Anita Ryberg and Marilyn Ramberg.

In memory of *Mindi Scheibe* given by Barb & Dale Sauer, and Michael & Sharon Sauer.

In memory of *Clarence Chapman* for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation.

WEDDING

Holly Ann DeCosse and *Thomas Gerard Maeckelbergh* were married on April 1st, 2011. May God bless their life together!

IN HONOR OF

Fish Lake Lutheran gives thanks for the gift received in honor of *Josie Hubbling* in celebration of her baptism.

Vision and Mission — Provisions and Promises

It's been said, "Faith can move mountains, but don't be surprised if God hands you a shovel."

In our corporate life as a congregation here at Fish Lake Lutheran, we are a people of strong faith in God. We, and those who *built* and *sustained* the foundation of this church for many years before us, have *trusted in God to provide*, have *celebrated God's provisions*, and have *been confident in God's promises* for their future.

As we seek to continually be a people of God in this community of faith, let's *also* commit to *trusting, celebrating*, and remaining *confident* in God's *provisions* and *promises*.

We do this well already here at Fish Lake, thanks to the models of faith and trust that have been laid before us and your willingness to learn from those models. *But we can always do better* – both as individuals *and* as a gathered community of faith.

So, as we continue to be faithful to our Statement of Vision and Mission—*G.R.O.W. at Fish Lake!*, the staff and elected leadership of Fish Lake Lutheran would like to "*hand you a shovel.*"

Of course, metaphorically speaking, you are being asked to simply *be open to God's renewing and fulfilling Spirit* that continues to move among us by seeking to learn more about, understand better, get to know, support, encourage, and uplift the brothers and sisters in this community who walk beside you in *fellowship*, in *worship*, in *mission*, and in *love*.

The individual table blessings during Holy Communion around our altar railing paint this picture pretty well. Brothers and sisters in Christ, gathering together for a common purpose—to be *renewed* and *fulfilled*—*hand in hand*—*united in mission*. It's almost as though every time you receive Holy Communion you're being handed not only our Lord's Body and Blood, but also *a shovel*, to take with you as you leave, so that, in *faith*, you can *move the mountains that are set before you!*



We have faith that God will continue to do great things among us here at Fish Lake Lutheran when we remain committed to our vision and mission—when we *pick up our shovels and begin to dig*.

Let's get to work!



Stewardship at Fish Lake—How Much Do We Need?

As a young man, John Wesley reportedly earned thirty pounds at his first job; he kept 28 pounds, and gave two away. Later, when his salary had doubled, he still kept 28 pounds but now gave 32 away. Eventually, he was earning 120 pounds, still living on 28 and giving away the rest. Wesley's motto regarding his finances was, "Gain all you can, save all you can, give all you can."

Many of us today live in great material comfort, possessing far more than we need. Prosperity is a good thing, but we must weigh *our* surplus against the *needs* of those who are in want. John Westerhoff says that when he considers the needs of the poor compared to his own relative affluence, the question becomes not "What do I need to give?" but "What do I have a right to keep?"

Jesus tells a parable of a rich man who dresses in purple linen and dines sumptuously while a poor beggar lies at his gate (Luke 16:19-31). The point is not that there is anything sinful about eating good food and wearing nice clothes, but to do so without a care for the one in rags and hunger is simply mean and perverse (see also James 2:15-17).

Jesus says that this rich man would have known better if he had "listened to Moses and the prophets." Moses said to love your neighbor as yourself (Leviticus 19:18). The prophets got more specific, rebuking those who lived in luxury while others dwelt in poverty (Amos 6:1-6).

So what should we do? Those who live in great material comfort must listen to Moses and the prophets and to Jesus as well! They must search individually and as communities for the balance between enjoying the material blessings God has bestowed and sharing this bounty with the neighbors they are called to love.

Each must make up his or her own mind (2 Corinthians 9:7), but this advice from scripture may guide them:

"As for those who in the present age are rich, command them not to be haughty, or to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but rather on God who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life." -1 Timothy 6:17-19

(article written by Rev. Dr. Mark Alan Powell, Trinity Lutheran Seminary, Columbus, OH)

News 4 Kids

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

SAFARI into AFRICA



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

BRING A FRIEND!!

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sun. May 1 –

Journey of the Road to Emmaus

Sun. May 8 –

Journey of the Road to Emmaus

Sun. May 15 –

END OF THE YEAR PARTY

GAMES AND TREATS TO CELEBRATE A
GREAT YEAR OF SUNDAY SCHOOL

Don't miss out on the chance to...

Cook Resurrection Rolls

Create unique art with beads and an iron

Experiment with ways that your brain
plays tricks on your eyes.

SUNDAY MORNING from 9am-9:45am

KIDS KLUB

End of the Year Party
Wednesday, May 18th

5:00-6:30

Come play outside games with the TIM Team, sing together, and celebrate a great year of Kid's Klub.

No need to sign up-just come and have fun!



NEWS 4 YOUTH coming 4 confirmation

Wednesday, May 4

8th Graders Spiritual Gifts Workshop
Bring the results of your spiritual gifts assessment

Wednesday, May 4

8th Graders Continue Spiritual Gifts Workshop
Decorate stoles for Confirmation Sunday

Sunday, May 15

5:30-6:30pm Rehearsal and Pictures for Confirmands
6:30 Celebration Dinner for Confirmands and Families

Sunday, May 23

2pm— Service of Confirmation



**GOD
IS...**

SUMMER STRETCH 2011

IT'S COMING!!!

**Note— Register by May 1st
to guarantee your shirt size!**

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)

MISSION DENVER WEDNESDAY, MAY 18th



6:00-6:45pm Parents and Youth
All information of the Summer will be given
6:45-8:00pm Youth and Trip Leaders

Pastor Dale's 2012 Sabbatical—The Journey Begins

As a way of keeping you informed about my 2012 Sabbatical, I will use this space in upcoming editions of the *Vine & Branches* to explain and help understand my goals and hopes and dreams for myself and our congregation. First off, an overview of *Sabbatical*, according to the *Synod's Sabbatical Guidelines*.

It is important for both pastors and the congregation to realize the importance of the pastor's life-long continuing education through workshops, seminary courses and personal study. Congregations of the ELCA have long been encouraged to provide time and financial assistance to enable ministers to maintain and improve their skills. From time to time, however, pastors need and require an extended period of time for study, personal growth, reflection and renewal without the demands of one's regular employment – a sabbatical leave. Experience has shown that the congregation's ministry directly benefits from such study, growth, and renewal. Long-term ministry is revitalized and stimulated. All parties benefit. The following guidelines are provided to assist pastors and congregations in the contemplation and implementation of such sabbatical leaves.

Purpose

Sabbatical leaves are granted to pastors in order to provide an opportunity for the pastor to take an extended period of time for renewal, enrichment, study, spiritual growth, travel, skill development, research, and/or experimentation.

Eligibility

- Full time pastors, Associates in Ministry, and Diaconal Ministers.
- A sabbatical may be taken after every sixth full year of service in a given parish.
- Planning should begin the calendar year before the sabbatical so the congregation and minister can plan for financial and ministry adjustments involved.

Duration

A sabbatical will normally be for 12 weeks (including the two continuing education weeks normally granted).

Cost to the congregation

- The congregation will continue to pay full salary and benefits (base salary, housing allowance, pension and insurance coverage). Auto allowance, a ministry expense, is normally not paid during sabbatical time.
- Pastor's accrued (up to three years) continuing education dollars can be used for the educational costs of the sabbatical.

(cont'd. on next page)

Pastor Dale's 2012 Sabbatical—The Journey Begins—cont'd.

- c. *The congregation will need to provide for their ministry needs to be covered during the sabbatical time. In most cases, these needs are met in ways other than finding full-time replacement during the sabbatical. Considerations involve:*
- (1) *Sunday worship/preaching. Normally done by a pastor engaged at the normal supply preaching rate of reimbursement.*
 - (2) *Teaching, visitation, occasional services (funerals, weddings, etc.). The minister, congregational leadership, and the synod office can work together to arrange for these needs to be met during the sabbatical time. Another minister can be contracted for certain responsibilities, other staff may adjust responsibilities, and/or neighboring ministers may agree to cover certain responsibilities.*
- d. *The congregation is not responsible to fund the sabbatical in any other way. However, it may choose to provide additional financial assistance.*

Planning

- a. *Planning should begin at least a year before the sabbatical is to take place.*
- b. *Normally the minister provides an outline of the planned use of time to the Council or responsible committee for final approval and recommendation.*

Commitments following the sabbatical

- a. *The minister will submit a report of the sabbatical time, and find occasion to share with congregational members reactions, learnings, insights, etc.*
- b. *The minister is expected to remain at least one year in the parish following a sabbatical.*

Now, with that understanding, **my family and I have begun preparing for this three month sabbatical and are busily making plans to travel to Iringa, Tanzania in the Fall of 2012.** I have already been formally approved both by Bishop Rogness and by the Iringa Task Force of the St. Paul Area Synod to serve as a Pastor/Teacher in the Theology Faculty of Iringa University College, Tumaini University, most likely teaching Old/New Testament.

During this time my family and I will also be able to make multiple and extended stay visits to our partner congregation, Wasa, helping to further develop and strengthen our combined mission and ministry that we've been partnering in together since 2003.

I, along with four other members (*including two council members*) of Fish Lake Lutheran (*Barb Sauer, Noel Petit, Paula Rehder, Nancy Bengston*), are currently working on a proposal for a grant from the *Lilly Endowment, Inc.* that would cover all sabbatical expenses for myself as well as for the congregation.

(cont'd. on next page)

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.

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!

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. All donations for these spruce-ups will benefit the 2011 Summer Youth Mission trip to Denver, Colorado.

Summer Coffee Servers Needed

We need people to serve the first and second Sundays of the month. Treats are provided. Hosts need to set up, serve, and clean up. People interested can either sign up on the bulletin board downstairs or contact Julie Osborne 763-689-2222 or Marilyn Wicklund 651-674-2085. Thanks to those who have helped out in the past. We really appreciate it!

Ladies Night Out in May – SPRING HAS SPRUNG!! The trading begins **Thursday, May 26th, at 7:00 p.m.** as the Ladies Group at Fish Lake Lutheran have their **SEEDS & PERENNIAL TRADE**. It's the perfect time to really dig into the garden. How many times have you picked up a seed packet and were unable to use the 50 seeds they gave you? Now you can! Bring the remainder of your seeds packets, dig up and split your perennials. Bring them all on over to the Seed and Perennial Trade this month at the home of Maggie Hubbling. Annuals, perennials, seeds, vegetables...we all want to share! As always, everyone is welcome to attend and there is no cost. Please contact the church office or Christine Meagher with any questions.



FAMILY-FRIENDS-FOOD-FUN-FAITH
End of the Year Bonfire
 Sunday, May 1, 5-7pm

Come celebrate a great year of F5 by:

Roasting a hotdog

Making a smore

Playing outdoor games

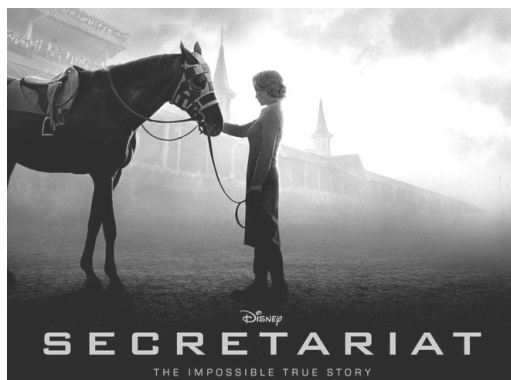
Bring a dessert, salad, or side dish to share.

We will end by worshiping around the campfire.

All ages invited for all of the "F's" of F5!

We're Watching a Movie at
"SECRETARIAT"

F55



Come and watch on a big screen in the church basement, Disney's depiction of the impossible true story of how Penny Chenery Tweedy and colleagues guide her long-shot but precocious stallion to set, in 1973, the unbeaten record for winning the Triple Crown.

There will be no potluck this month.

Instead you're invited to bring a snack to share while watching the movie, which will begin at 11:15. The movie is two hours long.

Wednesday, May 11th, 11:00am—1:00pm

FAMILY · FRIENDS · FOOD · FUN · FAITH

Pastor Dale's 2012 Sabbatical—The Journey Begins—cont'd.

Each year the Lilly Endowment, Inc., as part of their Clergy Renewal Project, awards grants to 150 pastors and congregations across the country. We will be notified in September of this year if we receive this grant or not. If we happen *not* to be awarded a grant, other ways of congregational funding during the interim will be explored and discussed by the church council. Throughout this process of planning and preparing, feel free to contact myself or Barb, Noel, Paula, or Nancy with any questions, ideas, and/or concerns. In the mean time, please pray that we get this grant! It would be such a blessing to our congregation!

Even though I won't begin my sabbatical until seventeen months from now, much of the planning and process and figuring out details has already begun. Ministry coverage for not only myself will need to be in place, but also for Carrie, since she is our Director of Youth & Family Ministries. She too, will make sure to have the people and plans in place to ensure a seamless and smooth continuation of our youth programs throughout the duration of our absence. The congregation is *not* expected to continue to pay her salary during my sabbatical. In addition to me serving as pastor/teacher, we also hope that Carrie will be able to serve in a minimal teaching role, either at the University or at the International School that we potentially will enroll our children in while we are there. Other exciting family experiences will include a safari and a potential (*partial*) climb of Mount Kilimanjaro!

So as you might imagine, as a family, we are excited and grateful for this opportunity. In my nearly sixteen years of ordained ministry, and Carrie's near twenty years of youth ministry, we have never taken a sabbatical or an extended time for spiritual renewal. We are so looking forward to it! It will renew us and challenge us in so many ways, while making us all the more passionate about and committed to ministry at Fish Lake Lutheran.

It is also being planned to send another group representation from Fish Lake Lutheran over to Iringa during our stay there to meet with and visit our partner congregation, Wasa. Please contact me or LaDonna Olson if you and/or your family would be interested in finding out more about this. I ask for your prayers and ideas as I, and my family, continue to prepare.

Blessings,

Pastor Dale

Church Council Minutes—April 2, 2011

Members present: Pastor Dale, Floyd Pinotti, Jason L. Wilking, Paula Rehder, Sue Kane, Tom Lofboom. Joel Santjer, Mary Crawford. Absent: President, Nancy Bengston.

Meeting was called to order by Vice President Joel Santjer.

Devotions: Sue Kane read a devotion titled "*The Resurrection – Living in Hope.*" It asked the question, "*What is our hope for the ministry of this congregation?*"

Affirmations: Jerry Lodin for fixing the mailbox, The snow shovelers – Mark Gerard, Mark Knutson, Trent and Jen Kroschel. Robin Graham and Tom Anderson for their continued good work at keeping the church clean with so many events and activities going on.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Dale passed out a letter from Peter Rogness approving and affirming his plans to serve for three months as a Pastor/Teacher at Tuamini University in Iringa, Tanzania for their first semester beginning in October 2012 for his sabbatical. The "Task Force" of the Saint Paul Area interviewed Pastor Dale and recommended him to serve as Pastor/Teacher among their Theology Faculty. Pastor Dale will be finalizing details for his Sabbatical from Fish Lake Lutheran from October to December 2012. There are various questions and concerns that are yet to be answered regarding this leave in upcoming months. The Council will make the final recommendation at a later date.

Pastor Dale will be on vacation May 23-29.

Pastor Dale would like to invite Pastor Richard Wehrs to work with the congregation on a "*Mission, Ministry, and Facility Needs Study*" this fall. The cost of the study is \$2,200.00. \$1,800 has already been donated for the study. We will ask Pastor Wehrs to attend our Council meeting in June to determine if it is necessary to have him conduct the study at this time or not.

Happy Birthday Tobie! Number 7!

WELCA: Graduation quilts will be distributed June 5th in church. Block of the Month--Registration for next year will be in April and May. Drawing for Ornament quilt will be June 18. Proceeds go the Pregnancy Resource Center and Crisis Nursery. Quilt Bingo--Many generous gifts have been received from our congregation.

Christian Education: Youth fund, Spruce up will be coming!

Social Ministry: Mission of the Month – June is *Diaper Drive* and July will be Food Shelf.

Safety: Phone in the elevator *does* work. It may have a short in it, however. Will be looked into.

Property Committee: Tom passed out a hand-out from Greg Smegal, "*Items for Review by Attorney*", addressing concerns related to the Cemetery Board. The council will discuss this hand-out further after Cemetery Board discusses it. Tom will stay in touch with Greg.

Congratulations to the 2011 Fish Lake Lutheran Confirmands!

On Sunday, May 22, sixteen eighth graders will stand before their family and friends and affirm their baptisms. These students have worked hard and learned much about their faith and role within not only Fish Lake Lutheran Church, but in the Body of Christ. Because it is such a large class the service will be held in the afternoon at 2:00pm to allow for plenty of room for family and friends. The whole congregation is encouraged and invited to uphold each of them, by name, in your prayers.

Brandon Johnson
Sami Klein
Riley Karpen
Charlie Linder
Kendra Lovin
Bailey Murawski
Kelly Nelson
Maranda Nelson

Kenzie Niedzielski
Morgan O'Donnell
Nick Pilz
Payton Ramberg
Ashley Richter
Tristan Strohecker
Tony Yelle
Will Young

"Father in heaven, for Jesus' sake, stir up in each of these young people the gift of your Holy Spirit; confirm their faith, guide their lives, empower them in their serving, give them patience in suffering, and bring them to everlasting life. Amen."
-from the Affirmation of Baptism service, ELW, pg. 236

Stained Glass Window Renovation is Complete!



The last of our sixteen windows has now been completed! Over the past year and a half, dedicated and generous members and friends of Fish Lake Lutheran have contributed nearly \$15,000 to make possible our *Stained Glass Window Renovation*. Much appreciation and praise goes to Walter Horscher from Cambridge, who has done the repairs and renovation. Walter is a very accomplished and skilled artist who took great care and pride in this project. **The congregation is invited to join in a celebration of worship and praise during our morning service on Sunday, May 15 as we re-dedicate and bless our newly renovated windows.** Walter Horscher will be present with us in worship that morning to share some thoughts on the project. *To God be the Glory!*

Renovated Window Dedication and Blessing – Sunday, May 15

It's Fish Lake Lutheran Church Food Shelf Garden time!

The Fish Lake Lutheran Social Ministry Committee is beginning planning for the 2nd annual church vegetable garden to help provide fresh produce to local food shelves and others in need. Last year approximately **920 pounds of fresh produce** was donated to the local food shelves from our garden – and it was only the first year! If you are able to help in any way with this important mission, please call or email Sharon Petit or the church office. If you are unable to support this worthwhile mission with your time or talent, please consider donating monetarily. We can use the funds for purchasing seeds and other gardening supplies that will be needed. Donations can be sent to the church office or placed in the offering plate on Sunday (use the Special Giving envelope, marked Food Shelf Garden.)



Bernice Engmark Gift - UPDATE

Last month the congregation was informed about the family of Bernice Engmark gifting our congregation with her home in Cambridge. We continue to give thanks and praise for this generous gift. Pastor Dale and the church council are appreciative of the ideas and suggestions that congregation members have shared in regards to what to do with such a gift. The conversation will continue at the council level as they pray for wisdom and guidance. A recommendation will be made at a later date after considering all the options. But for now, here is the latest update:

On Thursday, April 28, Council President, Nancy Bengston and Pastor Dale met with Bernice's attorney, Jimmy Lindberg at his office in Cambridge to finalize the transfer of ownership of the home to our congregation. They also met with Bernice's two grandchildren, Randy and Jennifer, who gave us a few more of Bernice's belongings, including her framed baptismal and confirmation certificates from Fish Lake Lutheran, some Fish Lake Lutheran decorative plates and mugs, their Uncle Steve's (Bernice's son - Vietnam vet) flag that was presented at his burial at Fish Lake, and two beautiful wooden plants stands that were made by Bernice's brother, Floyd Hawkinson.

Everything of significant or sentimental value to them is out of the home now and everything remaining in the home is ours and we can decide to sell it with the home or have a sale. Among some of the items remaining are a lawnmower, dishes, complete bedroom set, living room furniture, kitchen table/chairs and hutch, and various lawn/garden tools and other tools.

There are currently two people interested in purchasing the home. Again, if you have any suggestions and/or ideas to share, please contact Pr. Dale or any council member.

Church Council Minutes– continued

New Business:

- "Choice Dollars" Three congregation members have chosen Fish Lake Lutheran to receive \$367.00 for their use. Council decided to let Thrivent member decide where this money should go.
- Corn Feed on August 19th. Nancy Bengtson will be in charge this year.
- April 30th – Annual Spring Church Clean up.
- Smoke Detectors: New wireless receiver and a heat detector for kitchen quoted at \$2,800.00. Additional wireless smoke detectors are \$215.00 each. Will bring to safety committee for advice and recommendation. Joel and Floyd will take care of this.
- Food/Drink in Sanctuary: It has been brought to the Council's attention that food and drink is coming into the Sanctuary. The council asks that members please refrain from doing this.

Financial Report: Approved

Closed With the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully Submitted,
Tom Lofboom



Thank You! Thank You!



Thank you so much for the cards, gifts and well wishes from our Fish Lake Family. Thank you to everyone involved with the planning and pulling the day together. Needless to say, Tom and I were completely surprised. Thank you again,
Our Love & God's Blessing,
Tom & Evie Janssen

Fish Lake Lutheran Church,
Thank you so very much for your continued support and encouragement on our wedding. Having grown up here, this place and the people in it have a special place in my heart and it means so much to us to have your blessings. To the quilters we would like to give a special thank you. The quilt that you made for us is beautiful and we will treasure it always. Thank you!
Holly and Tom Maeckelbergh



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.)

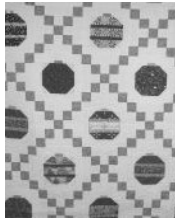
Quilt #7, Set IV- All American

This is the first quilt I have ever won at Quilt Bingo. I will use this quilt in my North Branch home at Christmas time for decoration, it is my favorite time of year. ~Peg Beck

Quilt #7, Set I- Checker Board

This quilt will be used by my great-grandson, in his crib, in New Brighton, MN. The colors were perfect for his room! ~Helen Bolter

Ornament Quilt Tickets On Sale Now



Downstairs following worship, WELCA will be selling tickets for a chance to win the beautiful ornament block quilt that is on display in the basement. *All profits from this sale go to the Pregnancy Resource Center and the Crisis Nursery!* Tickets are \$5.00 each, the drawing will take place on Saturday, June 18th during the first Block of the Month meeting (*need not be present to win.*)

2011 Block of the Month Registration Starting NOW!

We have decided to offer a Block of the Month again next year starting in June 2011. The cost is \$8 a month, with a special rate of \$80 for the year if paid in full at the time of registration- in April & May only (some months you will receive two blocks to complete.) Registration forms are online at fishlakelutheran.org or you can contact Barb Sauer or the Church Office.

Memorial Day Ham Dinner HELP WANTED!

Help will be needed to set-up, prepare, serve, clean-up, and make bars.
If you are able to help in any way, please contact Barb Sauer.



Thank you for supporting the Veterans of our community & their families!

Spring Reminder From the Cemetery Board

The Fish Lake Lutheran Cemetery is a special place for many people. As your board members, we strive to preserve the natural beauty of the cemetery while providing safe and orderly maintenance of the grounds. With this in mind, we ask everyone to review the rules governing the decoration of gravesites on the sign located at the front of the cemetery.

The following items are not allowed and may be removed:

- **Artificial flowers** left out between mid-September and mid-May.
- Flower stands with **multiple hooks**.
- **Glass** containers or decorations of any type.
- **Wreaths, crosses and statues** left out after the Memorial Day period and Christmas season.
- Other decorations not allowed: including **wire-mounted** items out of season, 'sun catchers', and **solar powered** decorations.
- Please note that **American flags** should only be displayed during the Memorial Day period.

We ask for your understanding and cooperation with these items. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Rick Lofboom, Terry Olson, or Greg Smegal.

Graduate Recognition Sunday – June 5 Each year Fish Lake Lutheran sets aside a Sunday in June to honor, celebrate, and affirm the accomplishments of any new graduates within our congregation. The tradition of giving each of our high school graduates a hand-made quilt continues again this year. Our quilting group has been working hard to make just the right quilt for each graduate! We invite you to join with us in worship on Sunday, June 5 to give thanks for, to pray for, and to celebrate this wonderful accomplishment in the lives of our graduates.

2011 St. Paul Synod Assembly – Becoming a Multicultural Church

How do Lutherans in the upper Midwest who are steeped in the tradition and liturgies of a northern European church invite in those of different race and ethnicity? What are the challenges? What spiritual, biblical, and theological approaches might we consider as we seek to meet this challenge and to make changes in our congregations and in ourselves?

The 2011 Saint Paul Area Synod assembly will be held May 20-21 at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Burnsville. A resolution adopted by the assembly in 2010 mandated that the 2011 synod assembly focus on becoming a multicultural church.

Joel Santjer and Laurie Knutson will be serving as delegates from Fish Lake Lutheran.

Mission of the Month—Growing Food for the Hungry

Planting season is just around the corner and the Social Ministry Committee wants to focus on supporting *two* important growing opportunities. One is our local vegetable garden here at Fish Lake which donates its harvest to local food shelves. The other is the Companion Village Plot which provides help to the villagers of Wasa, Tanzania, our partner village in Africa. The University of Minnesota Agriculture Program and Tumaini University of Iringa, Tanzania have partnered to offer this educational opportunity. Through this program villagers learn effective and sustainable farming practices that will improve their soil and increase yields. Villagers see how they can have enough produce for their own families and even have some to sell to others. We have a chance to make a long term difference in the lives of our brothers and sisters in Wasa!

*Throughout the month of May, you are encouraged to purchase gift cards for gas, groceries, clothing, home improvements, etc. The commission from sales of the cards will help support the Companion Village Plot. An order form is included with this issue of the Vine and Branches. You may also make direct donations to the **Companion Village Project** through the church office.*

There will also be an opportunity for you to purchase chances to win a beautiful quilt displayed by the information table in the church basement. *The proceeds will go to purchasing seeds and supplies for our local garden and to support the Companion Village Plot in Wasa.* Chances will be \$5 apiece or 3 for \$10. The drawing will be held after church on May 29th. You need not be present to win.

Together we can make a huge difference in the lives of people in our own community and in the lives of people in Wasa.



*"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat,
I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink,
I was a stranger and you invited me in."
-Matthew 25:35*

A Message From Sister LaDonna

What would you do with several million dollars? Recently in the news was the story about a group of people who had purchased a multi-million dollar winning lottery ticket. Unfortunately, one of their co-workers decided not to contribute that day because he didn't feel lucky. I suspect that he really regrets that decision.

I was interested in one of the talk shows and their take on this winning. The host of the show said, *"I hope that the winners do the right thing."* Each of us probably has an opinion of what the winners should do, but it raises an interesting question. What is the *"right"* thing? How do we know what is right in situations that aren't totally black and white?

Each day we are faced with issues of discernment. What is the right thing to do in any given situation? How do we discern? Is the right thing the same for everyone? It can be a confusing and frustrating process. We want to know what God's will is in our decision making. But *"God's will"* implies that God is static and that there is only one possible answer. Elizabeth Liebert writes in *The Way of Discernment*, *"I prefer to speak of God's call rather than God's will."* Discovering God's call actually requires relationship with God, remembering God's past work in our lives, and letting go of our preconceived ideas about the outcome.

There are many books that explain steps in discernment. There are several spiritual practices that will help us in the process. It actually can become easier as we continue to pay attention to how God is at work in our lives. The following story from Liebert's book, is a wonderful example of our responsibility:

A Native American grandfather told his granddaughter that he felt as if he had two wolves fighting in his heart. One was vengeful, angry, and violent. The other was loving, kind, and compassionate. The girl asked which wolf would win the fight. He answered: "The one I decide to feed."

I would love to hear your stories of decision making. *What were the things that helped you decide? How did it turn out? What lessons did you learn?* You can reach me at: ladolson@msn.com

SPAGHETTI DINNER UPDATE!

"I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart!" -Psalm 9:1

The Spaghetti Dinner was a wonderful success. **\$1,358.76** was raised to benefit the Youth Program—especially summer camperships. Thank you to all who came and ate, donated food, cooked, decorated, served, and cleaned. *God is Good!*

May 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 <i>Second Sunday of Easter</i> Holy Communion Senior Citizen Recognition Sunday F5@5 5:00 pm	2	3 Church Council Meeting 7:00 pm	4 WELCA 9:00 am Play & Pray – 9:15-11 am 6:30 pm Confirmation for 8th grade only	5	6	7
8 <i>Third Sunday of Easter</i> Mother's Day	9	10	11 Play & Pray – 9:15-11 am F55 11:00 am 6:30 pm Confirmation for 8th grade only 6:30 pm Choir (potluck at Sister LaDonna's)	12	13	14
15 <i>Fourth Sunday of Easter</i> Holy Communion Last day of Sunday School! <i>Vine & Branches items due</i> Stained Glass Window Dedication during worship—10:00am	16	17	18 Play & Pray – 9:15-11 am Kids Klub 5:00 pm 6:30 pm Confirmation for 8th grade only-Dinner & Rehearsal	19	20 St. Paul Area Synod Assembly	21 Block of the Month 8:30 am Craft Day 9-2:00 pm St. Paul Area Synod Assembly
22 <i>Fifth Sunday of Easter</i> Confirmation Sunday 2:00 pm Klein/Johnson Confirmation Party 4:00 pm	23	24 11:00 am Prime Time	25 Play & Pray –9:15-11 am	26	27	28
29 <i>Sixth Sunday of Easter</i> WELCA Food Shelf Sunday-bring donations!	30 Memorial Day Ceremony and Ham Dinner	31	<div data-bbox="1161 1227 1940 1524" data-label="Complex-Block" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px;"> <p>Memorial Day Ham Dinner At Fish Lake Lutheran Church <i>Serving will start at approximately 11:30 a.m.</i> following the Memorial Service in the Fish Lake Lutheran Cemetery. Adults, \$8; Children ages 6-13, \$4 5 & under Free.</p>  </div>			

Sunday Morning Schedule

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

Ushers

1st Todd & Kris Fairbanks

8th

15th

22nd Lee Lane & Lisa Gabrielson

29th

Offering Counters

1st Rick & Debbie Lofboom, and Cindy Blesener

8th Joel & Katie Santjer, Mary Kay Linder

15th Julie Osborne, Jami Wilking, and Wendy Norling

22nd Nancy Bengtson, Nicci Elmer, and Mary Crawford

29th Kent Sayler, Pete Meagher, and Mark Blesener

Coffee Hosts

1st Scott & Dorothy Lakeberg, and Lolly Lakeberg

8th Sunday School- Lorrie, Hope, Paige, and Colton Bauer, Tonya & Phil Mattson, and Corinna Moran

15th WELCA

22nd Leap of Faith- Jonelle & Craig Nelson, Kelly Lewis, Heather & Robert Murawski

29th