



VINE & BRANCHES

A Monthly Newsletter of Fish Lake Lutheran Church

October 2011

Preach What You Practice!

I recently preached about the parable of the two sons (Matthew 21:23-32) – the one son said, “Yes” to his father when asked to go work in the vineyard, *but never did* – and the other said “No” to his father when asked to work in the vineyard, and *later changed his mind* and went to work. A title of such a sermon could be “*Practice What You Preach!*”. In other words, if you say you’re going to do something, than by all means, *do it!*

As your pastor, I am reminded of that phrase occasionally: “*Practice what you preach, Pastor Dale!*” It’s a bit of a lecture, is it not? While, at the same time, a bit humbling. No one likes to see the shaking of a finger toward the hypocrite who says one thing but does something else.

But when we turn this phrase around, it changes everything: “*Preach what you practice!*” Now it becomes a word of *encouragement* to boldly proclaim how you live. We’d never offer such encouragement to someone who lives recklessly or foolishly, would we? But we *might* say it to someone whose life has become an example to be followed.

I think it’s safe to assume that the majority of those who are reading these words right now are actively involved in the life of their church and are faithful in their attendance at worship (*if able*). In your church, and in worship, you have found *strength, hope, wisdom* and *understanding*. Do you have any idea how impactful your faithfulness is? Do you have any idea what a witness your car in the parking lot is on Sunday mornings, or how powerful the example of your weekly financial offering may be for those who rarely give? Do you know what an encouragement you are to me, sitting in the same place, *Sunday after Sunday*? This is your *practice*. But what about those who are reading this, or who you live with, work with, go to school with, etc. who are *less* faithful in their church involvement or worship attendance? Have you ever spoken to them about the value of worship? Have you ever “preached” what you practice, week after week, to others? Our society has *many* reasons for *not* attending church services, but *few* are the reasons people have heard *for* worshipping. *Your voice needs to be heard!* Your *invitation* for someone to come to worship is more effective than any mailing or brochure *could ever be!* For you to say “*Attending worship makes a difference in my life; I wonder if it would make difference in yours?*” may be just the nudge some people need to change a pattern of absence. St. Francis of Assisi once said “*Always preach Christ; when necessary, use words.*” Well, sometimes our words *are* necessary. Our actions speak volumes, but our words of *encouragement*, our words of *guidance*, our words of *gentle persuasion* – spoken in love – can be the message that some people need to hear in this demanding and sometimes disheartening world. “*Preach what you practice?*” Yes! And preach it boldly!

P. Dale



F a l l S c h e d u l e

“GRACE, PEACE AND *JOY*...FOR JILL”

A Benefit for Jill, Eric, Emma and Tess Gustafson

Saturday, October 1, 4:00pm—7:00pm , Trinity Lutheran Church, North Branch

30th ANNUAL ST. PAUL SWEDISH MALE CHOIR CONCERT

Sunday, October 2, 10:00am during worship

F5@5 KICK-OFF

Sunday, October 2, 5:00-7:00 pm at the Klein Home

FALL CHURCH CLEAN-UP

Saturday, October 8, 9:00am

“BE THE SURPRISE!”

We welcome back our guest speaker, Terry Esau

Sunday, October 9, 10:00am

Faith4life—SR. HIGH BIBLE STUDY & T.I.M. Team Planning

October 9, 6:00pm—8:00pm

F55

Wednesday, October 12, Feed My Starving Children

Meet at church at 11:00am

KID’S KLUB

Monday, October 17, 5:30pm—7:00pm

F5@5 HALLOWEEN PARTY

Sunday, October 30, 4:00-8:00 pm at the Kane Home

3RD GRADE BIBLE PRESENTATION

Reformation Day- Sunday, October 30, during worship

ANNUAL FALL PORK DINNER

CRAFT & BAKE SALE

SILENT AUCTION

Tuesday, November 8, 4:00-6:30 pm

Adults: \$8.00

Ages 6-12: \$4.00

Stewardship at Fish Lake—What’s Your Giving Story? (in 33 words!)

For generations, the financial giving pattern of most Jewish people was exactly the same: Give 10% and a little bit more.

The tithe of one’s income was required by the temple. If you chose to give more than 10%, that was called “the offering.” Tithes and offerings have been part of Judeo-Christian worship ever since. That’s why still to this day, during worship, you hear Pr. Dale say, “*Now we’ll continue with the giving our tithes and offerings.*” But for those first century Jews, their “giving story” was just like everyone else’s: “*I pay the temple tax of 10% and a little bit more.*”

But then one day Jesus turned the tithe upside down!

While watching people put large sums of money into the temple treasury, he noticed a widow quietly approach the treasury and place two copper coins into the slot. Chink! Chink! The disciples were astonished when Jesus turned to them and said “*This poor widow put in more than all of them; for they all out of their surplus put into the offering; but she out of her poverty put in all that she had.*” That sentence, consisting of only 33 words, reset the bar for how we view our possessions: God does not lay claim to 10% of our wealth, but rather 100%. And God graciously lets us decide how we will *spend* and *save* and *share* what he has entrusted to us. Financial giving is no longer a law, it is now an expression of love.

So, what’s your financial “giving story?” Do you have one? Have you ever thought about it?

In challenging economic times like these, everything we do with our money needs to be *thoughtful, intentional* and *measurable*.

In a world where God has so generously provided *home* and *family, food, church, laughter* and *love*—how do you determine what portion of your income you choose to share?

Herein lies the challenge this month—in only 33 words you are invited to write down *your* financial “giving story”.

Reflect on your story. Ponder the significance of your story. Give thanks for those who have taught you how to live your story. And if you’re willing, Pr. Dale would love to read and hear all about your story. You’re invited to contact him directly or email him at dstiles@fishlakelutheran.org.

Vision & Mission at Fish Lake—A Shared Burden of Leadership

As I write this article, it is fourteen years *to the day* – September 28, 1997 – that our beautifully restored sanctuary was rededicated. It was during a Sunday morning worship service with over 300 people in attendance! Our organist, LaDonna Olson, and member, Debbie Anderson wrote the words and music to a beautiful hymn entitled, *On this Site, In this Church*, that was sung as a Rededication Hymn that morning. The current Presiding Bishop of the *Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*, Mark Hanson, who was Bishop of the *St. Paul Area Synod* at the time, delivered the Spoken Word that morning.

This celebration took place five years prior to my arrival as your pastor at Fish Lake Lutheran. I was inspired recently (*Surprise me, God!*) to watch a video of the entire Rededication Service that is available in our church library. I encourage you all to do the same. It was enlightening!

What struck me the most (*Surprise me, God!*) about Bishop Hanson's sermon that morning is that, in light of our current *Mission, Ministry & Facilities Needs Study* that we kicked off on September 18 and that is still underway in the form of interviews, is that the same exact sermon could easily be preached *today* – to our congregation *fourteen years later!* His message to those 300+ worshippers that morning was one of not only *rededication*, but also *reconciliation*, *invitation*, and *redirection*, regarding God's mission in this community.

Bishop Hanson acknowledged the growth he and the Synod Office Staff had been aware of in our part of the Synod and how the community of faith at Fish Lake Lutheran at the time needed to pay attention to that ongoing and increased growth while responding with open arms and enthusiasm as “the next ten years will prove to be ripe for the harvest!” (*Which they've proven to be as we now know!*)

Bishop Hanson acknowledged many during his sermon, by having those stand, who had shared in the support, work, and decision-making of the renovation. He pointed out, based on the Old Testament text read that morning from Numbers, chapter eleven, that, like Moses discovered, the vision and mission of God cannot be accomplished by only one person – “*burdens of leadership are meant to be shared.*” That's why God aptly appointed *seventy* others to assist Moses and to *share in his burden of leadership* as he sought to be faithful to God's calling amidst difficult decision-making.

(cont'd on pg. 5)

The vision and mission Bishop Hanson challenged the community of faith at Fish Lake Lutheran to fourteen years ago, has unfolded beautifully in the years following, right up to this day and time—*almost as if on cue!*

So you can imagine my *surprise*, when once again, *seventy* – did you catch that? - *seventy* people of Fish Lake Lutheran gathered after worship on Sunday, September 18 at our *Town Hall Style* meeting to *share together the burden of leadership* that exists as we shared in conversation regarding the current *mission, ministry* and *facility* needs at Fish Lake Lutheran.

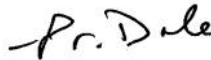
I truly believe that, as God appointed seventy people to assist Moses in leading the Israelites, it is not simply by chance that He put it on the hearts of *seventy* at Fish Lake Lutheran on September 18, to show up and assist in determining His will for us as a community of faith both now, and in the next ten years! Wonderfully surprising, isn't it?

I wasn't here yet, but *it is evident* that God was moving in great ways fourteen years ago as our sanctuary was renovated and rededicated to His glory. But I'm here now, and *it's also evident* that God *continues* to move in great ways among us today, as we *still* seek to do His will in this place.

As Bishop Hanson ended his sermon that morning, he asked a pointed question: "*Will you be the Fish Lake Lutheran of the past 130 years? Or will you be the Fish Lake Lutheran who is not afraid to follow God's mission into your future?*" It was a great question then. It's a great question now. And yet, as Moses discovered, and as some of us are discovering, such questions can seem like a burden we'd rather not carry. But remember—God appointed *seventy* among us on September 18 to share this *blessed* burden.

Many stood when Bishop Hanson acknowledged the "*seventy*" who shared the burden of vision and mission then. "*You are a testament of the shared burden of leadership*", he exclaimed. And I can tell you, the community of faith at Fish Lake Lutheran fourteen years later, "*So are you. So are you.*"

Be Blessed!



Town Hall Meeting UPDATE: Through the "Getting Started" Town Hall Meeting that was held on Sunday, September 18, a number of topics were raised that merit further exploration in this *needs study* process. Individual and focus group interviews are currently being held for that purpose. If you have not been invited or are unable to participate in the interviews, comments/ideas/suggestions may be sent by email to: **dickw@millerab.com** (indicate "Fish Lake Lutheran" in the subject line). Comments/ideas/suggestions should be received by October 6. *All comments, spoken or submitted in writing, will be treated with strict confidentiality.*

Church Council Minutes—September 6, 2011

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

Devotions: Nancy Bengtson read the devotion titled "Keeping Love in Mind." Council discussed how this happens in our church. A prayer followed the discussion. Devotion for October will be Sue Kane.

Affirmations: *Church Council* for helping with the corn feed. From the corn feed a total of \$1,364.93 was received! *Sharon Petit* and *everyone* that helped with the food shelf garden. *Mark Blesener* for making a stencil to mark the bottom of the new tables given in honor of Orville and Lorraine Anderson. *Terry Olson, Dennis Lodin, Jerry Lodin* for moving Bernice Engmark's furniture out of her house.

Pastor's Report: Pastor has been busy! Fish Lake Lutheran will host the *North Branch Ministerium* meeting on October 5, Vacation Bible school, F55 picnic at Fish Lake Beach, Block of the month, Molin-Frahm wedding in Ham Lake, New Member Orientation, and Rally Sunday. We should hear by end of this month about the Lilly Grant for 2012 Sabbatical. If awarded the grant, all sabbatical expenses will be covered for his family and our congregation. If grant is not awarded, *Sabbatical Support Committee* will provide recommendations for discussion regarding interim pastoral coverage for the congregation during his sabbatical at our October meeting for 2012 budgeting purposes. *Mission, Ministry & Facilities Needs* update—Sept. 18th is the "Getting Started" Kick-off Town Hall Meeting. This will take place immediately after worship downstairs at church with a goal of being done in 75-90 minutes.

Audit Committee—completed *Cemetery Committee* and *Cookie Jar* accounts.

WELCA—Quilt Bingo is all ready to go on Sept. 17th. Dishwasher repairs were made—\$471.00 given by WELCA, \$146.65 paid from the Building Fund.

Christian Education—Rally Sunday coming up on September 11. Theme for Sunday School—"*Surprise me God*" We will designate committee leaders who will be divided up for some of the tasks. Next meeting—November 13

Social Ministry—discussed the draught in Africa. September *Mission of the Month* is *Secondary School Scholarships* for children of our partner congregation, Wasa Lutheran Church in Tanzania.

Old folding chairs are available and will be stored in shed—members should feel free to use them as needed.

Church Council Minutes—*cont'd*

Old Business: Bernice Engmark's house closing went very well. Money will go into estate fund. We hope to get ideas from the congregation on how to use this very generous gift.

Repairs and Quotes—Cracks in the altar mural will be repaired by Eric Carlisle. Doug Danson will look into weather-proofing around some of the stained glass windows.

Corn Feed—There wasn't enough parking and the lines were very long. Council discussed how we could improve these things for next year.

2012 Summer Congregational Event—June 30, 2012. A Square-Dance caller and band has already been booked for this event. Other activities are being planned. Talk to Floyd Pinotti or Pr. Dale if you'd like help with the planning of this event.

Ball Field use was discussed. Should it continue to be maintained? It was an Eagle Scout Project completed by Alden Nelson. Maintaining it is becoming a concern. Tom Lofboom will discuss with Judy Nelson and Marcie Whitman for their thoughts.

Financial Report—Jason moved to approve. Tom seconded.

Meeting Adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted, *Tom Lofboom, Secretary*



A HALLOWEEN PARTY!

at the home of Sue, Tim, & Gunnar Kane

Come in Costume!

Sunday, October 30th, 4-8pm

We will enjoy the fire, corn maze, a hayride, Trick-or-treating (from car trunks!) and games. We will end by worshipping together outdoors. Dinner will be provided—just bring a bag of candy for the trick-or-treating & your drink!

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

FAMILY · FRIENDS · FOOD · FUN · FAITH

Announcements, Events & Activities

Surprise Me, God! On October 9th, we will complete our *“Surprise Me, God” 30-Day Prayer Challenge*. Author of the books, *“Surprise Me”* and *“Be the Surprise”*, Terry Esau, will be back with us to speak during worship on Sunday, October 9. He will challenge us, as a congregation, to go to the next level—from being *Spiritual Spectators* to being *Spiritual Participants*. Make plans to attend worship on October 9 and bring a friend! Both of Terry’s books are still available for purchase in the church basement for \$12.00. Be surprised!

All Saint’s Sunday is November 6. We will have a special time of remembrance again, during worship, for those saints of Fish Lake who have passed away in the last year. Candles will be lit and the church bell will toll once for each of them in their honor. This year’s dearly departed saints include: *Clarence Chapman, Clarence “Jr.” Burda, Orville Anderson, and Martha Reitzel*. All in worship that day will have the opportunity to light candles in memory/honor of their own loved ones.

Bega Kwa Bega: A Life-Changing Relationship and Mission Trip Opportunity

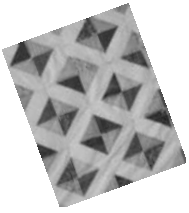
Bega Kwa Bega (Shoulder to Shoulder) in Swahili, is a joint ministry representing communities of faith whose core purpose is to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ, extend Christian hospitality, and promote healthy interpersonal relationships through prayer, worship, and service. Fish Lake Lutheran is one of 70 partner congregations in the *St. Paul Area Synod* participating in Bega Kwa Bega. We have sent four delegations from Fish Lake Lutheran to Tanzania to visit our partner congregation, Wasa, since the inception of our partnership in 2003. We are going again Fall of 2012 (early October). So far there are twelve people tentatively committed to go. If you are interested in being a part of this life-changing mission trip opportunity, contact Pr. Dale or LaDonna Olson. Pr. Dale and his family will also be there during this visit while on sabbatical.



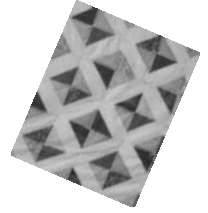
The following new members were received into our Fish Lake Lutheran Community of Faith on Rally Sunday, September 11th.

**Steven & Lorie Fetzik; Jacob
David & Patricia Nygaard
Gail LaBeau
Jacob Pauna**

*Next new member reception will be on Sunday,
January 22nd. Spread the word!*



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 #1- Crazy Quilt Pattern

“I received this from Merri Tribelhorn. Because she was nice enough to give up her quilt since she had two and I had lost the bingo in the card drawing (for a tie). I will put it on my bed because it looks cool from the stitching and pattern. My family and I were saying “*Surprise Me God*” for the last six days and today I was truly surprised!”

~ Rylee Gestson, age 9

Quilt Bingo Update

We had **134 people** playing Bingo. We gave away **24 Quilts** and **14 Door Prizes**- all handcrafted. **\$1000** was raised for **Refuge Network**. *Proceeds from the lunch have not yet been determined, but will be sent to our local food shelves. We will also be making a donation to Habitat for Humanity and are awaiting to determine that amount following a review of our expenses.*

Those are the numbers for the year, but what most people do not see is the very generous community in which we live. We want to thank our congregation for their support, in particular, the WELCA ladies for their sewing and generous time commitment for making this annual event so successful. We have many friends who donate fabrics, patterns, and completed quilts for our many projects throughout the year. We are deeply grateful for thinking of our mission projects and our needs to meet our annual commitments.

WELCA quilts on the **1st Wednesday** of each month, and invite anyone interested in working with us to come at **9:00**, stay for our morning coffee break, pot luck lunch, and our meeting in the afternoon. If you are unable to attend but would like to participate, let us know; we have projects that a few of our members do in their homes.

carrie's

"...and as he/she grows in years, you should place in his/her hands the Holy Scriptures and provide for his/her instruction in the Christian faith..."
-from our Baptismal Liturgy

I remember, vividly, bringing each of my children to the baptismal font.

Each one was baptized at a *different* font in a *different* church. Yet it didn't matter where it was, how big the font was, or where the water came from. *It didn't even matter who the pastor was*, although it happened to be the *same pastor* for all three! The promises remained the same each time.

- ◇ The joyful promise of God's love for my child. Forever marked and claimed as **Child of God**.
- ◇ The important promises Dale and I made as parents: to bring them to church, put in their hands God's word, and bring them to the Lord's Table.
- ◇ The comforting promises that congregation made to surround us and our child in support and prayer.

On Sunday, October 30th, the Third Graders of Fish Lake Lutheran will receive a Bible—placed into their hands by their parents. This special day is part of the fulfillment of the parent's baptismal promises—part of the blessings that started at baptism. I encourage you to pray for each of these Third Graders *and their parents* this month.



Paige Bauer

Alexis Hammond

Jenna Hilber

Ashley Kroschel

Clay Wilking

"You shall put these words of mine in your heart and soul, and you shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and fix them as an emblem on your forehead. Teach them to your children, talking about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise." - Deuteronomy 11:18-19

corner

Pastor Dale's 2012 Sabbatical UPDATE—Still Waiting...

I'm writing this on September 29.

The Lilly Foundation, Inc. promised that grant recipients would be notified "late-September". Well, there's only one more day in September and, at the time this news-letter is being printed, we are still waiting to hear whether or not we received the grant.

I was hoping to be able to share with you, either way, what we heard this month. That will have to happen next month it appears.

But I *can* reiterate a couple things for clarification.

The sabbatical will happen whether or not the grant is received. It's been blessed and recommended by the Bishop and approved by our Church Council. The grant money would merely help fund various planned "personal renewal activities" such as safaris, retreats, and other travel opportunities/expenses in and around the Iringa area – which for a family of five, adds up quite quickly!

Without receiving grant funds, my family and I will simply stay put in Iringa, and occasionally Wasa, while experiencing more of the local cultural opportunities.

Either way, we will be blessed by the experience!

However, whether or not we receive the grant *does more directly* effect our congregation. It will determine whether or not we can provide *full-time* interim pastoral coverage throughout the duration of the sabbatical.

Awarded grant funds *would allow for full-time* interim pastoral coverage. *Without* the grant funds, we will be looking more creatively, with the assistance of the Synod, how to provide adequate *part-time* interim pastoral coverage if necessary.

Naturally, *full-time* coverage would be ideal, but with the use of many of our wonderful volunteers and strong leadership at Fish Lake Lutheran, our congregation *could* function efficiently with only *part-time* pastoral coverage.

But nonetheless, you are invited to keep praying that we are awarded the grant!

Fish Lake Lutheran has been blessed abundantly in the past and this would be another wonderful blessing for all of us! Please contact me, or a member of our Sabbatical Support Committee (*Noel Petit, Paula Rehder, Nancy Bengtson, Barb Sauer*) for further clarification.

P. Dale

October 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
<p>2 Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost St. Paul Swedish Male Chorus (during worship at 10:00am)</p> <p>F5@5 at the Klein Home 5:00pm</p>	3	<p>4</p> <p>Church Council Meeting 7:00 pm</p>	<p>5</p> <p>WELCA 9:00 am Play & Pray – 9:15-11 am God’s Chimers 5:30pm Choir 6:30pm Confirmation 6:30pm</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Child/Youth/ Focus Group</p>
<p>9 Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost “Be The Surprise” <i>Guest speaker Terry Esau during worship</i></p> <p>Faith4Life 6-8pm</p>	10	11	<p>12</p> <p>Play & Pray – 9:15-11 am F55 11:00 am God’s Chimers 5:30pm Choir 6:30pm Confirmation 6:30pm</p>	13
<p>16 Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost Holy Communion</p> <p>T.I.M. Team planning meeting & pizza 11:00am</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Kids Klub 5:30-7:00pm</p>	18	<p>19</p> <p>Play & Pray –9:15-11 am F55 1:30 pm Scenic Boat Tour Choir 6:30pm No Confirmation-MEA</p>	20
<p>23 Nineteenth Sunday After Pentecost WELCA Food Shelf Sunday No Sunday School</p>	24	<p>25</p> <p>11:00 am Prime Time</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Play & Pray –9:15-11 am God’s Chimers 5:30pm Choir 6:30pm Confirmation 6:30pm</p>	27
<p>30 Reformation Sunday <i>3rd Grade Bibles</i> F5@5 Halloween Party at the Kane Home</p>	31			

Monday	Friday	Saturday
		1 "Joy for Jill" at Trinity Lutheran Church in North Branch 4-7pm
Family 7:30-9 pm	7	8 Fall Clean Up at the Church 9:00am
	14	15 Block of the Month 8:30 am
	21	22
	28	29 Family 3rd Grade Bible Learning 10:00am

Sunday Morning Schedule

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

Ushers

2nd Noel & Sharon Petit
 9th Noel & Sharon Petit
 16th Kent Saylor & Cheryl
 23rd Kelly Heinzmann
 30th Clarke & Mary Street

Offering Counters

2nd Cindy Blesener, Rick & Deb Lofboom
 9th Joel & Katie Santjer, Mary Kay Linder, Candy Twingstrom
 16th Julie Osborne, Diane Solberg, and Wendy Norling
 23rd Mary Street, Bill/Michelle Young
 30th Chris Yelle, Lori Zengler, Sandy Brown

Coffee Hosts

2nd Dennis & Kathy Lodin, and Tony & Marilyn Wicklund
 9th Sunday School
 16th Leap of Faith
 23rd WELCA
 30th

“Blessed are those who are generous, because they feed the poor.” - Proverbs 22:9

F55

Feed My Starving Children Food Packaging

Wednesday, October 12



Every day, **18,000** children die from starvation.
You can **make a difference** for these children by volunteering with us at
Feed My Starving Children.

Meet at church at 11:00am

We will be packaging food from Noon—2:00pm in Coon Rapids.

We will return back to church by 3:00pm

Feeding God's Starving Children Hungry in Body and Spirit

Looking Ahead to Next Month:

Wednesday, November 9—“Plaid Tidings” at the Chanhassen Dinner Theatre *

*We have tickets to the Chanhassen Dinner Theater for their matinee to see the holiday performance of “**Plaid Tidings**” - the special holiday sequel to “Forever Plaid”, a musical gem filled with favorite four-part harmony holiday standards and more.

Enjoy dozens of holiday hits including "Let It Snow," It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year," and "The Christmas Song" mingled with other '50s hits including "Fever," "Mambo Italiano" and a memorable rendition of "Mr. Sandman."

The tickets are \$40 which includes a luncheon dinner, the performance, and gratuity.
This is a handicap accessible theater. We have 25 reserved seats available.

To reserve tickets, or sign up for any F55 events, please call the church office.

FAMILY · FRIENDS · FOOD · FUN · FAITH

A Message From Sister LaDonna

I want to share with you something from a newsletter I receive. When I originally read this I felt like I had opened a gift. I love discovering new meanings for words and this was just amazing. Enjoy!

“Compassion invites us to be with others in their pain and share their burdens, their sorrows. But sometimes we just don’t know what to do with it. We want to do more...Perhaps the word *agape* can help us find our way through. We are all familiar with *agape* and understand it to mean God’s selfless love...but... According to legend, the ancient Greeks coined the word *Agape* as an antidote to their warring ways, and literally translated, it means “**when you are in my territory, I will make you safe.**” From Listen: A seeker’s Resource for Spiritual Direction

What a wonderful description of *agape* love! And since we are to love others as Christ loves us, we are to let others know that they are safe when they share their burdens with us. That safety includes confidentiality, it means being non-judgmental, it means providing a sense of caring and compassion. What a challenge for each of us as we relate with our friends and neighbors. When you are in my territory, I will make you safe. I pray that we will each grow in that kind of love – *agape* love.

What are your experiences in receiving *agape* love? How might you become more intentional about offering that kind of love to others? I would love to hear your stories! You can connect with me at ladolson@msn.com.

AGAPE



30th Annual St. Paul Swedish Male Chorus Concert

Sunday, October 2nd, 10:00 am

For this 30th Anniversary, the choir’s performance will be during worship at Fish Lake Lutheran Church instead of in the afternoon.

Come for the music—stay for the fellowship & treats following!

October Mission of the Month— *Fish Lake Lutheran Children's Outreach Ministries*



Your used or unwanted items can help



Make A Difference!

You can help keep the earth clean *and* earn funds to support *Fish Lake's Children's Outreach Ministries*, (like monthly *Kid's Club* and annual *VBS*) so that participating children can receive God's grace and God's word while having a whole lot of fun *without a set fee!*

It's as easy as dropping your used or unwanted *printer cartridges, laptops, cell phones, mp3 players and GPS systems* in the box downstairs in the fellowship hall!

Like our children's ministries, this collection will be ongoing!

(The Children's and Youth Ministry Committee at Fish Lake Lutheran are also requesting donations of hot dogs, boxed macaroni and cheese, baby carrots and apples for Kid's Klub.

These are to be delivered to the church by Sunday, October 16th.

Any monetary donations should be marked "Kids Klub". There will be a box in the kitchen for donated macaroni and cheese.)



FLL Food Shelf Garden Update

1,202 pounds!!!

of FRESH, NUTRITIOUS vegetables has been donated this summer!

In July, **44 pounds**, and in August, **703 pounds**, and in September, **455 pounds** of produce was picked and donated to our local food pantries in Cambridge & North Branch. Yea God! *Thank you so much to everyone that has helped! What a wonderful way to serve and care for our surrounding community! Yea God!!!*

“Grace, Peace & JOY...for Jill”

A Benefit for Jill, Eric, Emma and Tess Gustafson

The Gustafson’s church family, Fish Lake Lutheran, invites you to an event to celebrate *with joy*, our friend, Jill Gustafson and her family.

The hope of this event is to help the Gustafson family breathe a little easier by showing our love, laughter, and financial support for this amazing family in the midst of Jill’s second journey with cancer. *A bank account has also been established on behalf of the family to receive donations at Associated Bank in North Branch under “Joy for Jill”.*



Please join us at
Trinity Lutheran Church, North Branch
on:

Saturday, October 1
4:00pm – 7:00pm



AMAZING prizes, silent/live auction items, baked goods, lots of kids games/prizes, and fabulous food! This will be a fun, family event for a wonderful cause! Don’t miss it!

“Let’s do it – full of belief, confident that we’re presentable inside and out, keeping a firm grip on the promises that keep us going. God always keeps his word. Let’s see how inventive we can be in encouraging love and helping out...spurring each other on.”

-Hebrews 10:25 (The Message)

Fish Lake Lutheran Women’s Fall Retreat

at a beautiful Balsam Lake, WI cabin

November 4 – 6

(Leave Friday 5:30pm return Sunday afternoon)



Taylor Falls shopping, Bible study, fellowship, bring your crafts/scraping/knitting/quilting, relaxation, and enjoy God’s beautiful creation! Cost: \$50 for the entire weekend (*menu planning will be split among everyone*) Interested?/Questions: contact Deb Robinson at 651-674-8475. **Sign up by: October 9th** so we can reserve the cabin (by calling or emailing the church office.)

CONFIRMATION NEWS4U

Wednesday, October 5

Luther-The Movie

Wednesday, October 12

Luther-The Movie

Wednesday, October 19

Fall Break-No Class

Wednesday, October 26

"What Makes Us Lutheran?"



All 6th-12th Graders—
This fall we will watch movie clips and talk about how they tie into our faith.

9-9:45 Sunday Mornings



Fish Lake Lutheran Church

Kids Klub Prep!

All Sr. High come Sunday, October 16th following worship to plan for Kid's Klub the next day.

Bring \$2 for Pizza Lunch

Faith4life
Faith4life
Faith4life

It's on Sunday Night!
It's Just for Senior High!
It's Sunday, October 9th
6pm-8pm

There will be:

- ◇ Time to just hang-out
- ◇ (Bring a snack to share)
- ◇ Time for leadership planning (band and skit practice)
- ◇ Time to dig into God's word for and God's plan for you!
- ◇ Worship together with your friends.

News4Kids

KID'S KLUB

Now on Mondays!!!

FOR: K to 5th Grade

WHEN: MON. Oct. 17th
5:30-7:00pm

Supper, Games, Songs,
Crafts, Bring a Friend!



3rd Grade
Milestone

God's Chimers

Join the Chimers practicing
Wednesday nights at 5:30pm

For all 3rd-5th Graders

Saturday, October 29, 10:00am

Gather at church with your parents
to talk about how to use your new
Bibles!

Sunday, October 30

During worship you will be presented
with your new Bible.

sundayschool

Sunday, October 2

Jesus and the Ten Lepers

Sunday, October 9

CELEBRATION SUNDAY

Come learn about

"Moses and the Burning Bush"

All Sunday School Students will be
singing in worship!

Sunday, October 16

"Moses and the Burning Bush"

Sunday, October 26

FALL BREAK-NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday, October 30

"Moses and the Burning Bush"

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



Thank You! Thank You!



- ◇ We want to thank our congregations for sewing, baking, donating to our sewing group, and volunteering throughout the year making our Annual Quilt Bingo such a success. Through all your support, we are able to consistently give back to our community on a regular basis while supporting our church and its programs. ~WELCA (Women of the ELCA at Fish Lake Lutheran Church)
 - ◇ I want thank several people for helping me with a garage sale. Thank you Sharon Petit. You heard of a need and stepped right in to do what you could do to help. Thank you Jenny, Christine, and Nancy, Alden and Tiffany for all your hard work sorting and pricing a ton of stuff on Thursday night. To all those who got up and were here to haul out boxes, many boxes, at 6 AM on a Saturday morning. Kent, Tim and Jeannie, Doug, Joel, Nancy, Noel and Sharon unpacked and set up everything in a matter of minutes. Thank you Donna Bernhagen for delivering a hot-right-from-oven breakfast casserole that together with treats others brought made a great breakfast for all of us. Sharon and Noel stayed to help with the sale for several hours. Nancy worked both Friday and Saturday as if it were her own sale. A great big thank you to Nancy, Tiffany and Alden for boxing up everything up at the end. And lastly - Thank you Mom for everything. You are my rock! ~
Judy Nelson
 - ◇ To our beloved Fish Lake Family: Thank you, thank you for all your prayers, love, kind words and support this summer as I (and my family) deal with my health challenge. We have been very blessed to know first hand what the extraordinary body of Christ at Fish Lake can do and it is has been our tremendous honor to have received God's grace through you. With love and gratitude, ~*Jill Gustafson and Family*
 - ◇ Fish Lake Lutheran Congregation: We truly thank you for your donation of \$215 to the North Branch and also the Cambridge Food Pantry. We appreciate your continued support of our food pantry. It is greatly needed and appreciated. Thanks again!
Lynn Kirk, Development Manager & Lori Daman, North Branch Coordinator Family Pathways
-

WEDDING

Kelly Jean Heinzmann and Todd Christopher Lindberg were married on Saturday, September 24th. May God bless their life together!

MEMORIALS

Fish Lake Lutheran gives many thanks for gifts received:

- ◇ In memory of *Clarence Chapman*;
- ◇ In memory of *Bernice Engmark* from Nancy Bengtson;
- ◇ In memory of grandparents, *Andrew & Elis Olson*, from the Olson cousins to help maintain the historical integrity of Fish Lake Lutheran Church.

BAPTISM

We celebrated the baptism of *Tegan Lucille Schmidt* on September 25th. Tegan, we welcome you into the Lord's family!

2011 FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP AT FISH LAKE LUTHERAN					
Date	Actual Offering	Budgeted Offering	Percent	Above/Below Budget	Worship Attendance
August 7	\$2,939.75	\$3,375.00	87%	-\$435.25	113
August 14	\$2,672.32	\$3,375.00	79%	-\$702.68	98
August 21	\$3,016.00	\$3,375.00	89%	-\$359.00	108
August 28	\$2,217.00	\$3,375.00	66%	-\$1,158.00	147
YEAR TO DATE	\$107,047.35	\$118,125.00	91%	-\$11,077.65	

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

WELCA Meeting Minutes—September 7, 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 Cody & Cassy Paasch for wedding and baptism quilts. Thank you from Children's Home Society and Family Services for a donation of \$500.00.

II. Old Business

- A. **WELCA Sunday** is Sept. 25th. The same day as the Walk/Run with Jesus 5K. Nutritious bars such as oatmeal will be served.

B. Quilt Needs

- 1. Baptismal Quilts- Immediate needs have been satisfied. We will continue to make quilts for future baptisms.
- 2. A wedding quilt will be selected for Kelly Heinzmann's Sept. wedding.
- 3. Ruby completed four quilt tops for Global Health Ministries.
- 4. Wayne Eller of Habitat for Humanity picked up two quilts.

C. Updates

- 1. The Bread for Visitors program will restart in October.
- 2. Kitchen supplies are adequate at this time but we are looking for storage for some of these items.
- 3. The Fall Cluster meeting is Oct 8 at 8am at Almelund. It was decided that a \$100 donation be given.
- 4. A Thank You note and gift card will be sent to Terry Olson for all his hard work and donation in the WELCA sewing room. A Thank You will also be sent to Kent Sayler for finishing the door.
- 5. A decision was made to donate \$417.00 to the building fund to help pay for the repair of the dishwasher.
- 6. 2 cases of soap will be ordered for the dishwasher.

D. Quilt Bingo Updates

- 1. The program has been reviewed and finalized. Nicole will make 200 programs.
- 2. Nicole has completed the press releases and contacted the Bank's for the advertising signs.
- 3. The letters for winners will be done by Friday, Sept. 16th. They will be attached to the quilts during the set up time beginning 9am that day. Mary Kay Linder and Judy Nelson will begin the food preparation that day.

WELCA Meeting Minutes—cont'd



4. Blue plastic bags will be purchased by Mary Kay Linder from Menards.
5. Red single tickets for lunch are needed by Friday Sept. 16.
6. Bingo Cards will be picked up on Friday, Sept. 16 by Sharon Petit.
7. Tents will be procured from members for potential outdoor seating.
7. The Quilts are on display and on the website.
8. The Volunteer Sign Up Sheet was reviewed and WELCA members began the sign up process. Bars are needed, 1 pan per volunteer.
9. Marilyn Putz will get \$500 in change.
10. Violet Olson will ask Cindy about getting a pen/pencil for checking for counterfeit bills.
11. Sponsorships were reviewed.
 - E. **Block of the Month** on Sept. 17 at 11:00am. Change in time due to Quilt Bingo.
 - F. **Doll Beds** will be offered for sale until after the Pork Dinner and if not sold will be put on "Craig's List".
 - G. **"Bundles of Love"**- The knitting group may participate in this project
 - H. Planning for the **Pork Dinner** will begin next month.
 - I. BOM members have offered 10 donations for the **"Joy for Jill"** benefit.
 - J. A dozen pillowcases were made by a BOM member. These will be given to Children's Hospital through the **"Miles of Smiles"** program.

The meeting was closed with The Lord's Prayer.
Respectfully submitted, *Sharon Petit*, Secretary

Balance brought Forward-
\$2,671.39

Income:

LCW Offering-24.00
Doll Bed Drawing-25.00
Food Shelf-50.00
Block of the Month-169.25
Sponsorship-Lake Area
Bank-100.00
Coffee-8.00
Plates-39.48
Total: \$415.73

Expenses:

Camb/North Branch Food
Shelf-150.00
Office (BOM supplies)-
100.00
Bible School Meals-100.00
Postmaster (Vine & Branches
permit)-190.00
Kitchen Supplies-158.26
Cheese & Crackers (WELCA
coffee Sunday)- 24.85
Plates-78.95
FDIC charge- .50
Total: \$802.56

Balance on Hand- \$2,284.56



Fall Clean Up at Fish Lake Lutheran

Saturday, October 8th, 9:00 a.m.

Bring rakes, blowers, and gloves. If it rains, we'll work on inside projects, and reschedule outdoor projects for another day.

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

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Tom Anderson

Church Council Members

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Mary Crawford

Sue Kane

Jennifer Kroschel

Tom Lofboom—Secretary

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Joel Santjer—Vice President

Jason Wilking—Treasurer

