



# VINE & BRANCHES

A Monthly Newsletter of Fish Lake Lutheran Church

September 2011

## Come and Be

We live in a world of marketers: specialists who know all the tricks of the trade to get us to come and *buy*, come and *sell*, come and *see*, come and *give*, come and *learn*, come and *work*, come and *relax*, come and *use*, come and *try*.

But rare is the invitation to simply come and *be*.

*Come and be children* – Play with others, laugh and cry, be quiet or be loud, but just *be*.

*Come and be single, married, divorced, or widowed* – Be a part of this church family that accepts you *as you are*.

*Come and be a teenager* – Wonder about the future, about relationships, about your parents, about math class, about college, about justice, failure, music, and cars.

*Come and be a believer* – Consider how God’s love makes a difference in your life, and through you, makes a difference in the lives of others.

*Come and be a seeker* – Know that doubt is okay, that questions are allowed, that life isn’t always black and white but often gray, and that God loves you, too.

*Come and imagine what being part of this community of faith at Fish Lake Lutheran could mean for you, and for us!*

This newsletter is *full* of activities, services, programs, opportunities and events that will kick off in September – starting on **September 4<sup>th</sup>** with a *Congregational Meeting* regarding the sale of Bernice’s house. **September 11<sup>th</sup>** marks *Rally Sunday* when we’ll be challenged to pray as a congregation for 30 days, “*Surprise Us, God*”. **September 18<sup>th</sup>** marks the *Getting Started Town Hall Meeting* regarding our *Mission, Ministry and Facilities Needs Study* when you’ll be asked to share your hopes, dreams and concerns with one another about the future of our congregation. And on **September 25<sup>th</sup>** we’ll join together for our *3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Fish Lake 5K Walk/Run with Jesus!*

So, make sure to explore *each* page of this newsletter. Fish Lake Lutheran has a place for you – a place where you can *come and be*. If you have questions or want to share a cup of coffee and a conversation, please contact me. It would be my privilege to “be” with you.

*Pr. Dale*



# F a l l   S c h e d u l e

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In the midst of your summer fun, take time to mark the following dates on your calendar:

**ALL-CONGREGATION MEETING**  
**to approve sale of Bernice Engmark Home**  
Sunday, September 4, 11:15am

**CONFIRMATION ORIENTATION AND REGISTRATION**  
Wednesday, September 7, 6:30 pm

**“SURPRISE US, GOD!”**  
**A Rally Sunday Celebration w/ guest speaker, Terry Esau**  
Sunday, September 11  
Sunday School Kick-off at 9:00am  
After worship potluck, games, and lots of fun!

**Faith4life—SR. HIGH BIBLE STUDY & T.I.M. Team Planning**  
September 18, 6:00pm—8:00pm

**5th ANNUAL QUILT BINGO**  
Saturday, September 17  
11:30 am lunch and 1:00 pm Bingo

**MISSION, MINISTRY & FACILITIES NEEDS STUDY KICK-OFF EVENT**  
**A *Town Hall* Style Meeting**  
Sunday, September 18, 11:30am

**KID'S KLUB**  
Monday, September 19, 5:30pm—7:00pm

**SECOND ANNUAL ALL-CONGREGATION 5k WALK/RUN w/JESUS**  
Sunday, September 25, 12:00pm

**“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, 3:00pm

## Stewardship at Fish Lake—Faithful Stewards of Gifts Given

As you know, in April of this year, Fish Lake Lutheran was presented with a very generous gift—the home of Bernice Engmark, who passed away in October, 2010. We graciously received the gift, which will always remind us of Bernice and her generous spirit. Throughout the spring and summer months our *Summer Stretch* youth have been busy cleaning the home and packing up the belongings that were in the home as part of the gift. They did a marvelous job with this. Thank you, *Summer Stretches!* You are excellent examples of what it means to be good stewards of your time. After the July 1 windstorm, three of Bernice’s trees were blown down. Several members were quick to respond and cut up the wood so that the city of Cambridge could haul it away. Again, what great stewardship of *their* time!

Since then, two people expressed interest in buying the home from our church—member and custodian, *Tom Anderson*, and friend of Fish Lake and Bernice’s, *Ruth Olson*. After much consideration, Tom Anderson decided to buy a new townhome in Cambridge. We thank Tom for his interest and consideration of the home. Ruth has since made a \$50,000 cash offer for the home, and after much deliberation and based on the advice of experienced and practicing realtors, the church council decided to readily accept the offer. Now, according to a Minnesota State Statute, in order for church property to be sold, a congregational meeting must be held to approve the sale of the home. Here is the official notice of that meeting:

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### NOTICE OF SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Please be advised that there will be a Special Meeting of the Congregation of Fish Lake Lutheran Church formerly known as Fish Lake Evangelical Lutheran Church on **September 4, 2011 at 11:15 o’clock a.m.** in the Church Sanctuary where the members of said congregation will vote on a resolution on whether the Church, through its Church Council, will sell the real property of the Church located at 136 South Emerson Street, Cambridge, Minnesota 55008, legally described as lots Nine (9) and Twelve (12) Block Five (5) Rask’s Addition to the Village of Cambridge to Ruth P. Olson for the sum of Fifty Thousand and no/100 Dollars (\$50,000.00).

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Please plan on attending this important congregational meeting as a way of being faithful stewards of gifts given to us a congregation.

## Vision & Mission at Fish Lake—Mission, Ministry & Facilities Needs

Our *Mission, Ministry, & Facilities Needs* Study kicks off on:

**Sunday, September 18, at 11:30am**  
with a *town hall* style meeting

This *town hall* style meeting is open to all our members and will simply consist of a congregational conversation about our future together at Fish Lake Lutheran Church. It will be held in our church basement immediately following our morning time of worship together.

To reiterate, this is a formal, professionally-conducted study of what church members hope for Fish Lake Lutheran's future, and what we'll need to achieve those dreams. Dick Wehrs, a church development consultant with *Miller Architects & Builders* of *St. Cloud, MN* will be facilitating the study. Wehrs, who is also an ELCA pastor at *Faith Lutheran Church, Coon Rapids, MN*, is already gathering study data. In addition to leading the conversation at this public event, he will be speaking with our church members in *interviews* and *focus groups* in late September and throughout October.

The study also will gather and analyze information about the types, quantities, and uses of our current building's many individual spaces. An assessment will be made of the ministry "hopes and dreams" of *church staff, ministry leaders* and *church members*, and the *adequacy of the current facility* in meeting the space needs of future programming, particularly as our congregation continues to G.R.O.W.

Evaluations of energy efficiency, ADA compliance and accessibility, and an examination of the appearance and general condition of the building and its systems will also be included in the study.

At the conclusion of the study, Pastor Wehrs will present his final report to the Church Council. This comprehensive report, scheduled to be complete by early November, will provide a comprehensive and prioritized list of current and anticipated facilities needs. Scenarios will be developed for addressing these needs, together with cost estimates, for Council and congregational consideration and possible next steps.

God has been so faithful to our congregation over the past 144 years. And so, by conducting such a study, *we* are being faithful *to that past* by *paying attention to our future*.

A study like this is not nearly as effective or useful without broad membership participation. Please mark your calendars and plan on attending. We want your voice to be heard as we envision our future together.

# *Rally Sunday 2011*

## *“Surprise Us, God!”*

*A 30-Day Faith Experiment for Fish Lake Lutheran Church  
September 11 – October 11, 2011*

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What if we, as members of Fish Lake Lutheran Church, started each day with those three words? No agendas, no plans other than waiting on God with eager anticipation of what is about to happen next in our lives and for our congregation.

Terry Esau, author of *Surprise Me, God* and *Be the Surprise*, will be at Fish Lake Lutheran on **Rally Sunday, September 11**, to invite us pray that prayer every day for 30 days.

Esau likens this invitation to a *Spiritual Breath-Freshener*, asking questions like:

*Does your church have bad breath?*

*What would happen if we, the church, learned how to breathe spiritually?*

*What would happen if we regularly inhaled the love of God?*

*What would happen if we began to exhale that same love?*

*What would our church look like and how would it impact our community if we lived out those “breathing” patterns?*

*As always on Rally Day, we’ll celebrate the Reception of New Members, share in pot-luck lunch, and invite our children and youth to play at our outdoor carnival of games and activities.*

## **September 11, 2011**

**9:00am – 9:45am**

*Sunday School Registration and Meet the Shepherds*

**10:00am**

**Rally Sunday Worship w/ Reception of New Members**

*Following Worship: Potluck, Games, and Fun Outside!*

*Don’t forget to sign up in the church basement on the bulletin board to help with Rally Day Potluck Set-Up & Clean-Up!*

## Church Council Minutes—August 2, 2011

Those present were: Pastor Dale, Joel Santjer, Floyd Pinotti, Nancy Bengston, Mary Crawford, Sue Kane and Tom Lofboom. Absent were: Jason Wilking, Jen Kroschel, Paula Rehder.

**Devotions** were lead by Mary Crawford "Gods order is restored."

**Affirmations:** Pastor Dale and the leaders of the Denver mission trip, Terry Olson for installing ceiling fan in sewing room, Paul Stewart for power washing the front of the church, Sharon Petit for coordinating Food Shelf Garden, Carrie Stiles for organizing the Denver mission trip.

**Pastor's Report:** A member suggested that proceeds of Corn Feed be given to the Gustafson's family. It was decided not to because the tradition is for the proceeds to go to the building fund which is considerably low at this time – and there will be a benefit for Gustafson's on October 1. On July 28th, Pastor Dale celebrated 15 years of ordination – congratulations Pastor Dale. Eagle Scout, Colin Fisher, seems very interested in establishing a nature path to the pioneer cemetery as his eagle scout project. Pastor will keep us updated. Some of the Mission Trip experiences included, delivering sandwiches to the homeless, visiting elderly in assisted living, and packaging food for the needy.

### Committee Reports:

**WELCA** – Will name the quilts, money raised for refuge will be given to *Habitat for Humanity*.

**Christian Ed:** Vacation Bible school, *Serengeti Trek*, starts Sunday night, August 7th.

**Social Ministry:** Back pack drive, August will be children's ministry.

**Safety Committee:** New alarm has been working well, although we did recently have one false alarm on Friday when one of the wireless office units was triggered for smoke. Pr. Dale will look into why this happened.

**New Business:** Belongings from Bernice's house – should we have a sale or donate it or give it away? We will announce on Sunday and ask if anyone wants the furnishings, if not we will donate them. The belongings will be set out for the congregation to select from for a donation in Bernice's memory.

**Tree stumps** – Mark and Tammy Koosman, neighbors across the street from Bernice's house, dug out the stumps and set them on the curb for us for the city to pick up. Church tree branches – Brian Hubbling will cut up the trees on the bean field. \$150.00 will go to the cemetery board for cutting up the trees. Pastor will let Rick Lofboom know.

## Church Council Minutes—cont'd

**Nine congregation members** (*Local Arrangements Team*) met with Pr. Dick Wehrs to plan *Mission, Ministry & Facilities Needs Study*. Sept. 18th is a town hall meeting that Pr. Wehrs will facilitate. All members are encouraged to attend this opportunity for sharing hopes, dreams, and concerns about our future at Fish Lake Lutheran. Member and Focus Group interviews will take place at the end of September and early October.

**Tables and chairs ordered.** Given by the Orville Anderson family. They will fund 17 tables with a value of \$4,300.00. Tables will seat eight people each. Shall we sell or keep the old tables? We will store them in the shed for awhile until we decide what to do with them.

**Old Business:** Corn Feed – 102 dozen ordered that has to be picked up. We will have an accordion player, *Cecilia Fenner*, and a polka band, *Dean, Denny, and Doug*. Set up and shucking starts at 2:00pm. Proceeds will go the building fund. We will have youth help the handicapped.

**2012 Summer Event:** Overnight camping, hayrides, and a bonfire are all being considered at the church, and a square dance caller and band is already scheduled for Saturday, June 30, 2012. Contact Floyd Pinotti if you have suggestions.

**Financial Report:** Building maintenance last month was high. A question about elevator maintenance was raised. Will continue to monitor that expense.

Meeting Adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.  
Respectfully Submitted, *Tom Lofboom, Secretary*

### 3rd Annual Fish Lake 5K Run/Walk with Jesus!

**Sunday, September 25th, 12:00pm**

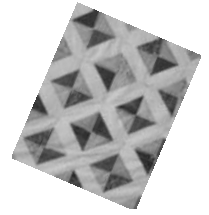
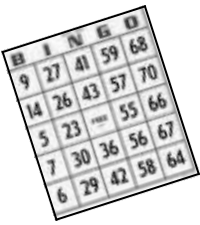
Please sign up in the church basement, or call the church office, by *September 5th*. The cost is \$8.00 per person for the t-shirt.



Water bottles will also be for sale that day. All ages are invited to participate!

Please contact Jennifer Groh to pay or if there are any questions call her at 651-674-2992 or email at [Djgroh@q.com](mailto:Djgroh@q.com). Thank you!

*(Money needs to be turned in by September 5th so that shirts can be ordered in time.)*



# Join us at the 5th Annual Quilt Bingo at Fish Lake Lutheran Church

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

## Saturday, September 17, 2011 11:30am Lunch and 1:00pm Bingo

In addition to playing Quilt Bingo, there will be several door prize drawings through the afternoon, all handcrafted items.

**Sponsored by the Women of Fish Lake WELCA**

### **Hand crafted American Girl Doll sized beds with storage for sale!**

Our WELCA ladies have been busy making doll beds available for purchase. This storage/doll bed comes with a storage area, and *hand made* bedding, to include a *beautiful quilt*. We are asking **\$75 each**, the *entire* proceeds of which will be donated to one of WELCA's missions.

*Congratulations to Madi Handt who was selected at the  
Corn Feed as the winner of one of these adorable beds!*



**Save the Date!!**  
**2011 W.E.L.C.A. North Cluster Gathering**  
**October 8, 2011**

Women of the ELCA and friends – You are invited to the North cluster Gathering at Immanuel Lutheran, Almelund. The day will begin with registration at 8:30 am and the program begins at 9:00 am and will adjourn by 11:30 am.

We will be led in a Bible Study by Pastor Linda Wahlstrom from Spring Lake Lutheran, JoAnn Nielsen of Lindstrom and a member of Immanuel in Almelund will be our guest speaker. She will speak on her volunteer work as a Bible School teacher in the remote village of Fort Yukon, Alaska. We will also have time to enjoy fellowship together!

## Announcements, Events & Activities

### 2011-2012 Confirmation Orientation/Registration

All parents of 6th-9th Graders plan on attending registration and orientation on **Wednesday, September 7th at 6:30pm**. If you did not receive a letter with information about registration please call the church office, 651-674-4252.

### F5 Fall Kick-Off – Sunday, October 2, 5:00pm



Join other families on Sunday, October 2, from 5:00pm – 7:00pm for our F5 Fall Kick-Off. F5 celebrates Family, Friends, Food, Fun, and Faith with potluck dinner, large group games, and family-oriented worship. All ages are invited to celebrate all the “F’s” of F5!

**Our Annual Fall Church Clean-Up** is scheduled for Saturday, October 8, beginning at 9:00am. Bring rakes, blowers, and gloves. If it rains, we’ll work on inside projects, and reschedule outdoor projects for another day.

### Let Music Fill the Air!

September is a great month to loosen up the vocal chords, dust off the instruments, and share your love of music with the rest of us. **Choir** will begin rehearsing **September 7th at 6:30 p.m.** We would love to welcome you to come and see if this might be a way for you to share the love of Christ with others. We welcome all levels of experience. Or if you are interested and have some music reading ability there is the **hand chimes group** that practices the **3th and 4th Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m.** You can decide to join for a month at a time but we’re sure that once you see how much fun hand chimes are, you’ll be back for more. If you are an instrumentalist or a solo vocalist we also welcome your talents! Contact Sr. LaDonna Olson at [ladolson@msn.com](mailto:ladolson@msn.com).

### 30th Annual St. Paul Swedish Male Chorus Concert at Fish Lake Lutheran!

The St. Paul Swedish Male Chorus is back for their *30th* consecutive year at Fish Lake Lutheran. They always perform for us the first Sunday of October when our maple trees are at their finest fall colors! This year that is on **Sunday, October 2, at 3:00pm** followed with a pie social. An honorary member of the choir will be selected and “pinned” during the concert. Who will it be this year? Come and find out!

### Sewing Room Updates

“Thank You” to Terry Olson and Kent Sayler for helping with some sewing room updates in our basement to help reduce moisture build up in that room. Terry installed a ceiling fan and Kent Sayler stained and installed a louvered oak door to allow for better airflow in and out of that room.

## Announcements, Events & Activities (cont'd)

### Attention all knitters and anyone interested in learning to knit –

Inspired by the quilters in our congregation, we would like to try and put together a knitting group. This group would meet once a month (day to be determined) for knitting, fellowship, devotions, and for those interested in working on projects such as hats, buntings, blankets to donate to hospitals. If you do not knit, and wish to learn, this would be the perfect spot for you; and 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 [office@fishlakerlutheran.org](mailto:office@fishlakerlutheran.org) so we can get the knitters knitting by Fall!!!

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## New Books in the Library!

Wonderful books have been donated to our library from *Lolly Lakeberg*:

*Living on the Ragged Edge*– Charles Swindoll  
*Growing Strong in the Season of Life*– Charles Swindoll  
*The House Love Built*– Tracy Victoria Bateman  
*Just As I Am* (autobiography)- Billy Graham  
*All Creators Great and Small*– James Herriott  
*Ekaterina*– Susan Downs & Susan May Warren  
*Where The Wild Rose Blooms*– Lori Wick  
*Prairie Brides*– Linda Goodright & Joanne Grote  
*Dana's Valley*– Janette Oke & Laurel Oke Logan

*Favorite Psalms*– John Stolt  
*Christmas Visitor*– Thomas Kinkade  
*Unashamed*– Francine Rivers  
*Unafraid*– Francine Rivers  
*California Capers*– Dana Mintink  
*The Stillmeadow Road*– Gladys Taber  
*White Chocolate Moments*– Lois Wick  
*Beside the Still Waters*– C.H. Spurgeon  
*As Sure As The Dawn*– Francine Rivers

Also donated by *Wally & Marilyn Truh* in memory of their son;  
*Jerry, 7-20-2010, 48 years old- "The Story of Jesus"*

Thank you to both Lolly Lakeberg and  
 Marilyn Truh for their Great Gifts!  
 ~Ronnie Hunt



## Pastor Dale's 2012 Sabbatical UPDATE—The Lilly Grant

*We'll find out at the end of this month if we receive the \$46,000 grant that Fish Lake Lutheran applied for to fund the entirety of Pastor Dale's 2012 sabbatical – including all interim ministry expenses for a full-time three month interim pastor. We applied through an organization called The Lilly Foundation. The Lilly Foundation has a program called their Clergy Renewal Program, and they fund full sabbaticals for 150 pastors/congregations nationwide every single year. Here's what they say about their strong commitment towards clergy renewal:*

“Recognizing the importance and necessity for busy pastors to have an opportunity to take an extended break for renewal and refreshment, *Lilly Endowment* in 2000 introduced a new competitive grants program. The program awards grants to congregations that offer a program for the renewal of their pastor and, at the same time, give the congregations themselves an opportunity to better themselves as vital places of worship and mission.

The job is demanding, and pastors perform their duties among a dizzying array of requests and expectations. Congregations are not always easy places, and the responsibilities can sometimes wear down the best pastors. It is not a job for the faint-hearted, but requires a balance of intelligence, love, humility, compassion and endurance. Most importantly, it demands that pastors remain in touch with the source of their life and strength. Like all people of faith, good pastors need moments to renew and refresh their energies and enthusiasm to determine again "what makes their hearts sing."

*Lilly Endowment* seeks to strengthen congregations by providing an opportunity for pastors in 49 states to step away briefly from the persistent obligations of daily parish life and to engage in a period of renewal and reflection. Renewal periods are not vacations, but times for intentional exploration and reflection, for drinking again from God's life-giving waters, for regaining the enthusiasm and creativity for ministry.

Life-giving experiences - strengthening relationships, renewing a sense of call, meeting and serving neighbors in a new way, finding joy and purpose in a simplified life, traveling to new lands and unfamiliar territory, creating opportunities where members of the congregation can exercise their gifts for ministry - all are common themes of the program. Profound discoveries that pastors and their congregations describe as "life-changing events" occur as they participate in this program.

Since 2000 the *Endowment* has invested nearly \$29 million in this program for more than 700 congregations and their pastors. “

*Please continue to lift up in prayer our pastor and our congregation – that if it's God's will – we might get selected for this grant. Surprise Us, God!*

# September 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
				1
<p><b>4 Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost</b>            Holy Communion  <b>Special Congregational Meeting</b>  <b>11:15 am</b></p>	<p><b>5 Labor Day</b>  <i>Church Office Closed!</i></p>	<p><b>6</b>            Church Council Meeting 7:00 pm</p>	<p><b>7</b>            WELCA 9:00 am            Play &amp; Pray – 9:15-11 am            Choir 6:30pm  <b>Confirmation Registration 6:30pm</b></p>	<b>8</b>
<p><b>11 Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost</b>  <b>Rally Day! “Surprise Us God”</b>            9:00am Sunday School            Registration            New Member Reception during worship  <b>Potluck after worship</b></p>	<p><b>12</b>            7:00pm Worship &amp; Music Committee</p>	<b>13</b>	<p><b>14</b>            Play &amp; Pray – 9:15-11 am            God’s Chimers 5:30pm            Choir 6:30pm            Confirmation 6:30pm</p>	<b>15</b>
<p><b>18 Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost</b>            Holy Communion  <b>Preschool Milestone</b> during worship  <b>Mission Ministry &amp; Facility Kick-off 11:30am</b>            Faith4Life 6-8pm</p>	<p><b>19</b>  <b>Kids Klub 5:30-7:30pm</b></p>	<b>20</b>	<p><b>21</b>            Play &amp; Pray –9:15-11 am  <b>F55 1:30 pm Scenic Boat Tour</b>            God’s Chimers 5:30pm            Choir 6:30pm            Confirmation 6:30pm</p>	<b>22</b>
<p><b>25 Eleventh Sunday After Pentecost</b>            WELCA Food Shelf Sunday  <b>FLL 5K Walk/Run with Jesus at noon</b></p>	<b>26</b>	<p><b>27</b>            11:00 am Prime Time</p>	<p><b>28</b>            Play &amp; Pray –9:15-11 am            God’s Chimers 5:30pm            Choir 6:30pm            Confirmation 6:30pm</p>	<b>29</b>

Monday	Friday	Saturday
	2	3
	9	10 Olson Family Gathering
	16	17 <b>Block of the Month</b> 8:30 am <b>5th Annual Quilt Bingo</b> 11:30am lunch 1:00pm Bingo
	23 Heinzmann/Lindberg Wedding Re- hearsal/Dinner	24 Heinzmann/Lindberg Wedding
	30	

## Sunday Morning Schedule

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

## Ushers

**Ushers are needed!**  
 Please contact the  
 church office to sign up.  
 Thank you!

## Offering Counters

**4th** Cindy Blesener  
**11th** Joel & Katie Santjer, Mary Kay Linder  
**18th** Julie Osborne, Jami Wilking,  
 and Wendy Norling  
**25th**

**Counters are needed!**  
 Please contact the  
 church office or Pastor Dale for  
 more information. Thank you!

## Coffee Hosts

**4th** Dennis & Kathy Elmstrand, and  
 Tony & Marilyn Wicklund  
**11th** Sunday School  
**18th** Leap of Faith  
**25th** WELCA

# F55

## Taylor's Fall Scenic Boat Tour

Wednesday, September 21  
1:30pm



Meet at church at 12:30pm and Floyd Pinotti will drive us in the Heartland Express to Taylor's Falls in time for our tour.

Cost is \$19 (includes a box lunch and 7 mile/80 minute tour)  
*(Make checks payable to Fish Lake Lutheran Church)*

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### Looking Ahead:

**Wednesday, October 12**—Feed My Starving Children Service Event in Coon Rapids

**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 recently heard a song by Peter Mayer that I just love! It is called “*God Is A River.*” In the song Peter talks about looking for a rock to hold onto. Looking for a secure place to cling to as the river pulls at his body. We can all relate to that. Sometimes life can pull at us and push us around and all we want is something to hang on to, something that will give us back some control.

But if you look at the title of the song, “*God Is A River,*” you will realize that instead of clinging to a rock that makes me feel safe, I actually need to let go and flow with the God who is a River. Here are the words of the refrain in the song: *God is a River, not just a stone. God is a wild raging rapid and a slow meander flow. God is a deep and narrow passage and a peaceful sandy shore. God is a river swimmer, so let go.*

The thing I love about this song is that it makes me think about what I am clinging to. Have I opted for the safety of a stone instead of letting go and flowing with God? Of course the river and life too, can be scary and raging and confusing to us. But it can also be peaceful and gentle. I think I would rather be in the river with God, than trying to fight the shifting water. But that means fighting my panic attacks and my anxiety and searching for God’s answers and not coming up with my own. Can I do that? Can I let go and trust in the God who is a River? With God’s help, I can try.

I’m interested in hearing your thoughts about this song. What would it mean to your life to let go of what you are clinging to? Is it possible that Jesus is the Lifejacket you wear as you flow with the River?



## Annual Corn Feed UPDATE

Thank you to everyone who participated in making the Corn Feed such a great success! The community joined our church family for a great night of delicious food and fabulous fellowship—a great time was had by all! *And the rain even held off ‘till all were served!*

Additionally, 500 people were served and **\$1,300** was raised to help preserve the historical integrity of our beautiful church!

Congratulations to *Floyd and Luella Pinotti*, who were crowned our new Corn King & Queen!

## September Mission of the Month— Wasa Student Scholarship Program



Bega Kwa Bega = “Shoulder to Shoulder” with Wasa!

Nearly every Sunday at Fish Lake Lutheran, we pray for our companion congregation in Wasa, Tanzania. Prayer is one of the mainstays of our partnership with Wasa.

Another very important component of the program is helping to provide high school scholarships for the children of Wasa and the Iringa area. The Tanzania government only pays for elementary education. Students from our Wasa congregation are certainly qualified to go on to high school, but lack the financial means to do so.

For the 2011 school year (Jan. – Dec.), members of Fish Lake Lutheran have been supporting 5 student scholarships through our Social Ministry program.

More sponsors are needed for next year! **The cost to support a student for one year is \$360. This covers the entire year at boarding school – less than \$1/day.**

Let’s make this our *Mission of the Month* for September and make a difference in the lives of Wasa’s children!

You can help make this happen in *two* ways—sponsor your own student for the entire amount, or give a financial donation to Fish Lake Lutheran that will go towards sponsoring a student in our congregation’s name.

If you are interested in sponsoring a student from our Companion Congregation or would like to learn more, please contact the church office, or LaDonna Olson, 651-674-8526.

## FLL Food Shelf Garden Update



**346 pounds of FRESH, NUTRITIOUS vegetables has been donated!** In July, **44 pounds**, and in August, **306 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!*

In addition to fresh produce, the members of Fish Lake Lutheran Church donated **\$430** (\$215 to North Branch & Cambridge, each) to the food pantry as part of our Mission of the Month for June/July and another **138 pounds** of additional canned goods to the pantry. *Thank you, members, for your generosity and love that you continue to share with the community around us! Praise the Lord!*

# *“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**



Including prizes, raffles, fabulous food, children’s games & activities,  
and entertainment by Fish Lake’s own talented members!

*“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)*

**Would you like to provide additional support for  
*“Grace, Peace & JOY...for Jill”?***

*We are currently looking for donations of homemade goods  
as well as items and services for auction.*

If you would like to be involved (in any capacity), committee sign up sheets are available on the resource table in the basement or call the Fish Lake Lutheran Church office at 651-674-4252 or email [office@fishlakelutheran.org](mailto:office@fishlakelutheran.org)

You can also contact Jonelle Nelson or Lisa Nephew at [lisanephew@edinarealty.com](mailto:lisanephew@edinarealty.com) or 612-207-8245 with any ideas or questions.

# CONFIRMATION NEWS4U

Wednesday, September 7th

Parents and Students Orientation at 6:30pm

Wednesday, September 14th—Surprise Me, God!

Students and Guides Meet Together at 6:30pm

Wednesday, September 21st—Surprise Me, God!

Students and Guides Meet Together at 6:30pm

Wed., September 28th—Surprise Me, God! Service Event

Students and Guides Meet Together at 6:30pm



Faith4life Faith4life Faith4life

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  
Beginning  
Sept. 11th

It's New! It's on Sunday Night!  
It's Just for Senior High!

A time just for 9-12 graders

Third Sunday of the Month

Sunday, September 18th  
6pm-8pm

There will be:

- ◇ Time to just hang-out  
(Bring a snack to share)
- ◇ Time to do leadership planning  
(band practice and skit practice  
for Wednesday night and  
planning for Kid's Klub)
- ◇ Time to dig into God's word for you  
and God's plan for you!

# News4Kids

## Sunday School KICK-OFF

RALLY SUNDAY, September 11th

Come find out How God Can Surprise Us every time we pray!



Sun. Sept. 18th– Come learn about how one sick man surprised Jesus!

Sun. Sept. 25th–Jesus and the Ten Lepers

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

### *NEW EXCITING KID'S KLUB*

New fun on a New day!

FOR: K to 5th Grade

WHEN: MONDAY Sept. 19th  
5:30-7:00pm

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

### **God's Chimers**

Join the Chimers  
practicing on

Wednesday nights at  
5:30pm

For all 3rd-5th  
Graders

# carrie's

For 5 days in August, Fish Lake Lutheran Church turned into a wild game park in Africa and we all went on an amazing *Safari Trek* together.

There were almost as many youth and adult volunteers as children attending VBS, which meant that together we experience God together through meals, games, crafts and Bible stories.

We learned how to KNOW God, TALK to God, TELL about God, LOVE God, and WORK for God. You might have noticed the tree in the basement on the bulletin board. All the leaves on the tree represent a challenge that each child took home from VBS and did to try to live out the lessons they were learning each evening.

I am going to try to list all the helpers we had during the week so you can see how many of them touched the lives of our little ones at Fish Lake and how many were touched by the joy and energy God brought to this place that week. If I missed someone, I am sincerely sorry. Thank you for sharing God's Love!

## ADULTS

Brenda Anderson  
Kelly Anderson  
Cindy Blesener  
Jeff Elmer  
Nicci Elmer  
Holly Gerard  
Becky Gestson  
Eric Gustafson  
Jill Gustafson  
Gail Handt  
Becky Hilber  
Joe Hughes  
Stephanie Hughes  
Amy Johnson  
Kelli Klein

Dorothy Lakeberg  
Nicole Linder  
Lisa Logue  
Heather Magnison  
Doug Mlinar  
Carrie Mlinar  
Sara Nelson  
Jonelle Nelson  
LaDonna Olson  
Julie Pilz  
Deb Robinson  
Katie Santjer  
Chuck Strauss  
Clarke Street  
Marilyn Wicklund  
Jamie Wilking

Emma Wollin

## YOUTH

Cassie Doerr  
Brandon Elmer  
Emma Gustafson  
Casey Hovland  
Brandon Johnson  
Marissa Johnson  
Gunnar Kane  
Sami Klein  
Devon Mlinar  
Gavin Mlinar  
Charlie Linder  
Kendra Lovin  
Bailey Murawski

Kelly Nelson  
Maranda Nelson  
Tina Nelson  
Zoe Reider  
Ashley Richter  
Jacob Pauna  
Jake Pilz  
Michael Pilz  
Nick Pilz  
Carley Sterbentz  
Caleb Stiles  
Megan Strohecker  
Austen Wek  
Tony Yelle

A special "Thank You" to Sue Kane, Jennifer Kroschel, Sharon Petit, and Barb Sauer who did all the planning, ordering, meal planning and recruiting. What a wonderfully *wild* week you dreamed up!

# corner

## THANK YOU

Dear Fish Lake Lutheran Church—Thank you so much for the gift of the quilt. It is greatly appreciated and will work great for me. Thanks again~ *Garrett Schueller*

## FUNERAL

We share in the sorrow of the family of *Martha Marie Reitzel* whose funeral was on August 8. May the support and care of family and friends, and the promise of the resurrection to eternal life, be a source of comfort and hope in this time of grief.

## MEMORIALS

Fish Lake Lutheran gives many thanks for gifts received in memory of:

*Georgia Mount (Nancy Bengtson's sister)* from Noel & Sharon Petit, and Nancy Bengtson.

Gift received in memory of *Orville Anderson* from Lorraine Anderson, Pam West, and Teri & Darrell Wistrom with memorials from Ansel & Delores Points, Dixie Dabrowski, Donna Walton, Rick & Deb Lofboom, Harley & Candy Twingstrom, Elvin & Wendy Norling, Marcie Whitman, Judith & Stanley Lundmark, Dave & Jan Pape, Gary Blosberg, Galen Blomster, and Darel & Lois Anderson—to be used for new round tables in the basement.

## BAPTISM

We celebrated the baptisms of *Samantha Jo, Jessica Rae, and Kayden Lee Skogman* on August 1st and *Ashtynn Rose Paasch* on August 7th. We welcome them into the Lord's family!

### 2011 ELCA Churchwide Assembly A Summary of Actions



**Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

The Twelfth Biennial Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) was held Aug. 15-19, 2011, at the Orlando World Center Marriott. The theme was "*Freed in Christ to Serve.*"

A summary of actions include:

- ELCA Malaria Campaign officially launched
- "*Genetics, Faith and Responsibility*" social statement adopted
- Review process for social statements adopted
- Living into the Future Together implementing resolutions adopted
- 2012-2013 Budget proposals adopted
- Memorials and constitutional changes adopted

For more information on the work of the assembly, including daily legislative updates, videos and a news blog, visit [www.elca.org/assembly](http://www.elca.org/assembly)

## WELCA Meeting—August 3, 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 Family Pathways for food shelf donations, Garrett Schueller and Cody Anderson. For graduation quilts. Cody also thanked the church for the loan of the tables and chairs for his party. A thank you note was read from the Georgia Mount Family (Nancy Bengtson's sister) for the funeral lunch.

### II. Old Business

- A. Crackers and cheese will be served for WELCA Sunday August 28.
- B. WELCA will offer to do the July Potluck in 2012 in lieu of our usual 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday coffee serving.
- C. Quilt Needs
  - 1. We have enough quilts for the baptisms in August.
  - 2. Global Health Ministries – we will review supplies next month.
- D. Habitat for Humanity is excited about our participation in their mission. Two quilts will be donated to a mother and son who are getting a new home in Pine County.
- E. The BOM – Monkey Quilts were distributed to the Ronald McDonald House, Minneapolis Children's Hospital, Gillet Hospital, and St. Joseph's Home for Children. These children's health facilities were very appreciative of these quilt donations. They particularly commented on how appropriate the quilts colors were for their patients.

F. Fall Cluster meeting – no information at this time.

G. Smoke detectors have been completed but no update on the kitchen ceiling fan.

H. Quilt Bingo- Letters from winners will continue in the Vine and Branches. Door Prizes were reviewed. 16 handmade items will be adequate. The Noon meal will be organized by Judy Nelson and Mary Kay Linder. Marcie Whitman will purchase red or blue tickets. Bingo cards have been reserved. Room set up was discussed. Quilts will be on display at the Corn Feed until Quilt Bingo. Sponsorships: Wal-Mart \$50, Waynes \$100, Copy Machine Co. \$100, Harris Bank \$100, Anderson Koch \$100, Peoples Bank NB \$100, Peoples Bank Cambridge \$100, and Peterson's Mill a Bird Feeder and Bird Seed. Others are pending. These Businesses will be thanked in the newspaper.

**Balance brought Forward-**  
\$5,479.09

#### **Income:**

LCW Offering-4.00  
Doll Bed Drawing-10.00  
Food Shelf-82.00  
Block of the Month-377.00  
Ham Dinner-1,377.00  
Funeral lunch-250.00  
Coffee-10.00  
Total: \$733.00

#### **Expenses:**

Camb/North Branch Food Shelf-182.00  
BOM Breakfast- 76.13  
BOM fabric-1,349.36  
Cub (funeral lunch & Memor. Day Dinner)-405.96  
Crisis Nursery-500.00  
Post #139- 500.00  
Equal Exchange-276.00  
Quilt Bingo- 49.75  
Fish Lake Luth. (Back pack Mission)-200.00  
FDIC charge- .50  
Total: \$3,540.70

**Balance on Hand-** \$2,671.39

I. Block of the Month - Next meeting is August 20<sup>th</sup>. There are 62 participants: 3 doing both color ways. There are two blocks in August.

J. Charge account at County Market has been approved and ready for use.

K. Mary Kay has begun cleaning out the freezer.

### New Business

A. The sewing room ceiling was cleaned by Terry Olson and he donated a ceiling fan to help with the mildew problem. A new louvered door is being considered. A thank you note and gift card will be given to Terry for his hard work.

B. \$190 renewal fee for Vine and Branches postage will be covered by WELCA.

C. "Bundles of Love" an ongoing mission project was discussed. It involves knitting, crocheting, and sewing projects. We will try to involve Mom's Group, Mission of the Month and other members of the congregation.

D. WELCA members will provide 2 pans of bars each for the Corn Feed.

E. WELCA will donate \$100 for VBS food supplies.

The meeting was closed with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, *Sharon Petit*, Secretary



2011 FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP AT FISH LAKE LUTHERAN					
Date	Actual Offering	Budgeted Offering	Percent	Above/Below Budget	Worship Attendance
July 3	\$2,270.00	\$3,375.00	67%	-\$1,105.00	62
July 10	\$2,812.00	\$3,375.00	83%	-\$563.00	107
July 17	\$2,990.50	\$3,375.00	89%	-\$384.50	115
July 24	\$2,257.75	\$3,375.00	67%	-\$1,117.25	82
July 31	\$2,606.81	\$3,375.00	77%	-\$768.19	171
<b>YEAR TO DATE</b>	<b>\$96,202.28</b>	<b>\$104,625.00</b>	<b>92%</b>	<b>-\$8,422.72</b>	

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

# GROW

At Fish Lake Lutheran Church

43353 Cedarcrest Trail

Harris, MN 55032

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

Online: [www.fishlakelutheran.org](http://www.fishlakelutheran.org)

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

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## ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

### Fish Lake Lutheran Leadership & Staff

Pastor

Dale Stiles

Director of Youth and Family Ministry

Carrie Stiles

Administrative Assistant

Nicole Linder

Financial Administrator

Lorrie Bauer

Director of Music Ministry

Sister LaDonna Olson

Pianist

Cindy Blesener

WELCA

Barb Sauer

Custodians

Robin Graham &

Tom Anderson

### Church Council Members

Nancy Bengtson—President

Mary Crawford

Sue Kane

Jennifer Kroschel

Tom Lofboom—Secretary

Floyd Pinotti

Paula Rehder

Joel Santjer—Vice President

Jason Wilking—Treasurer

