

“The Lord is my light and my salvation – whom then, will I fear.”

Psalm 27:1

The Beacon



Pastoral Ponderings ...

Grace and peace to you in this season of Lent,

I had a sort of ritual in my teens and twenties growing up in Boulder, Colorado. I would try and will myself awake by 5 am so that I could look out the front windows or even go outside and look up at the mountain range that seemed to loom just across the street. I always loved “my mountains” (as I always called them) because of the way the rocks jutted up towards the heavens, as well as for the beautiful reddish hue of these sedimentary rocks. On those mornings, if you were lucky enough to time it just right, you could catch the sun rising to the East and reflecting it’s light on the mountains in the West. The result was always *spectacular* as the entire range became a brilliant fuchsia color. I never tired of beginning the day in colorful awe and even on those days when I didn’t wake up *quite* soon enough, I would run to the window with the hope that I could catch even a *glimpse* of that brilliant splendor, and often even a glimpse was enough.

Funny how sometimes just getting a glimpse of the LIGHT is enough; enough to get you through the day. Funny how sometimes just getting a glimpse of the LIGHT is enough to even get you through the *night* - those dark , wilderness times of our lives when all of life seems dark.

The season of Lent is not over yet; we still have to journey just a few more weeks through this time. For many, this journey feels like darkness as we spend intentional time and energy examining ourselves and our relationship with God, and we find ourselves looking for glimpses of LIGHT in what seems a very dark world. But from here, with just a few more weeks left to go on our Lenten journey, we can start to get just a glimpse of the LIGHT of Easter morning that is coming and will dawn in brilliant splendor on that joyful morning! Sometimes all it takes is a glimpse of the LIGHT to get us through Blessings to you on your continued journey as together we wait for the LIGHT of Easter morn.

Pastor Sonja

Inside this issue:

- April Birthdays/
Remember in Prayer...pg.2
- Worship Matterspg.3
- This-n-This.....pg.4
- Communitypg.5
- Sharing your giftspg. 6
- Council Minutespg. 7
- Council Min. - cont.....pg. 8
- Youth News.....pg.9
- Fun Pagepg.10
- Calendar.....pg.11

Church Office Hours:

Weekdays 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Telephone: 218-773-1433

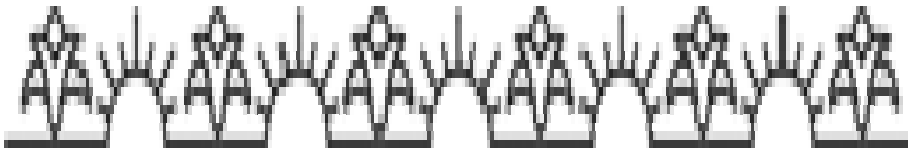
Pr. Sonja’s Cell: 701-740-5123

Pastor Sonja Brucklacher
pastorsonja@familyofgodlutheran.org.

Office Manager: Shellie Lundebj
shellie@familyofgodlutheran.org.

Worship & Music: Julie Deziel
Custodian: Doug Gustafson
Web Design: Theresa Allard





April Birthday's

April 1	David Quamme	April 17	George Kelley
April 4	Elaine Sundberg	April 19	Hannah Gregerson
April 7	Nathan Cariveau	April 22	Sara Jenson
April 11	Julie Gregerson	April 23	Richard Hanson
April 15	Punky Hanson	April 27	Debby Wisk
April 16	Jenna Wisk		



Wednesday Lenten Meals

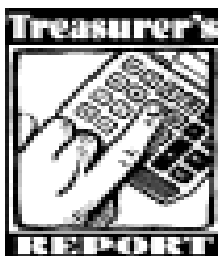
April 6th	The Magenau's
April 13th	Steve & Sue Clausen

Remember in Prayer



In Our Prayers

Punky Hanson,
 Ellis Larson,
 Mark & Marilyn Holt,
 and
 Lisa Feltman



February Statistics

Average Attendance : 38

Income: \$ 4,595.50 Expenses: \$ 9,086.96

Deficit \$ 4,491.46



Worship Matters...

Welcome Julie Deziel, Music and Worship Coordinator ... On April 3, we will welcome Julie Deziel as she begins to serve (officially) as the Music and Worship Coordinator for Family of God! During the worship service that day, we will have a time of prayer and blessing as Julie begins. Julie was born and raised in the Crookston and Fertile communities and was involved with emergency medicine and law enforcement through her adult years. Julie began playing piano when she was five years old and continued lessons for thirteen years. She began playing organ for her parish when she was fifteen years old and continued to play for numerous churches in Minnesota and North Dakota for 32 years. Music has always been a large part of her life and she enjoys sharing her gift with others. Julie is married to Mike. Both Julie and Mike have felt at home since coming to Family of God and look forward to the years ahead and to forming special friendships with the people of Family of God.

Wednesdays in Lent ... Wednesdays in Lent have been well attended. We have been exploring the "Attributes of Lent" such as Repentance, Humility, Sacrifice, etc. All are invited to come for a meal anytime from 6:00 to 6:45 p.m., followed by worship at 7:00 p.m. The remaining weeks of Lent are, April 6, and April 12th with no service on the 20th as that is Holy Week. Consider inviting a friend to join you for these remaining Lenten Wednesdays!

Easter is April 24th ! ...

Yes, Easter is almost here! On the morning of April 24 the congregation is invited to begin the celebration of the Resurrection at 8:30 a.m. with an **Easter breakfast cooked by the men of Family of God.** Following breakfast, come for Festival Worship with communion at 9:30 a.m. (And if you would like to share special music for the day, let Julie Deziel know.. And kids! Make sure you come to worship that day - we will resurrecting the "**Alleluia**"!!) We hope you will make Family of God part of your Easter celebration this year.

Order your Easter flowers by April 17 ...



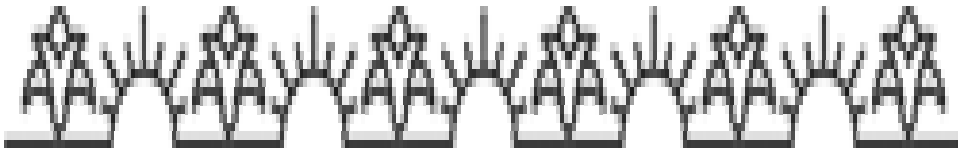
We will be receiving orders starting April 3rd for blooming plants for the Altar in celebration of Easter. There are order forms available in the narthex or on the back page of this newsletter , or you can call the church office.

All orders must be paid for when ordered. Please make checks payable to Family of God.

Deadline to place an order is Sunday, April 17th, 2011

Music and Worship Team is currently forming ...

The Worship and Music Team is just beginning to come together! Can you use your gifts for shaping the worship services of the church? Contact Tami Schumacher if you can help!



A Little of This and That ...

How is God calling you to serve at Family of God? ...How is God calling you to use your gifts at Family of God? Council teams are forming right now and any of the Council Chairs would love to hear from you!

Steve Clausen -	President: 218- 773-7777
Sheryl Cariveau -	Vice President/ Chair, Health and Wellness Team: 218-773-3533
George Kelley -	Secretary/ Chair, Mission Team: 218-773-4262
Chris Arnold -	Treasurer
Sherri Erickson -	Financial Secretary: 218-773-3047
Scott Erickson -	Chair, Evangelism and Outreach Team: 218-773-4338
Bob Quamme -	Chair, Stewardship Team: 218-773-3170
Lyn Pankratz -	Chair, Education and Youth Team: 701-775-0482
Dave Pankratz -	Chair, Property Team: 701-775-0482
Tami Schumacher-	Chair, Music and Worship Team: 218-773-3652
Richard Schaffer -	Evangelism and Outreach Team member: 218-791-3645
Melissa Ziegler -	Education and Youth Team member: 218-893-2432

Lutheran Women Today Bible study ...

All women of the church are invited to our monthly women's bible study. This month's study out of the Lutheran Women Today will be Session 8 "The People of God: Unity in the midst of Diversity" series. The lesson being covered this month is on "**Barriers to Resurrection**". Mark your calendar for April 15th at 9:30 a.m. and the coffee pot is always on!

Ladies Night Out ...

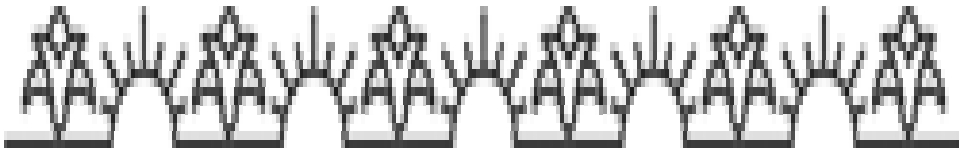
A couple of the ladies of the church met at First Presbyterian Church in March to walk through their indoor Labyrinth after receiving some instruction and education on Labyrinths. Watch your bulletins for information on April's Ladies Night Out.

Family of God Spring Church Clean-Up/The Big Event ...

On April 30th at 9:00 a.m., you are invited to join other members as well as some students from UND's The Big Event, as we have our church spring clean-up. Come and help clean-up inside and out. Stay following the clean-up for a delicious a BBQ lunch! See Dave Pankratz for questions.

Family of God Fundraisers ...

You might have heard by now that the "Fat Tuesday" Spaghetti Feed was a great success! We hope that this event might serve an annual niche within the community as we continue to support the music mission of Family of God. Our next fundraiser for our music mission will be **May 21st, as Family of God will be participating in the "Anything Goes Sale" at the Alerus Center, and we need YOUR STUFF!** You can bring your marked, donated items to the church in May. Watch for more details! For questions, please see Lyn Pankratz.



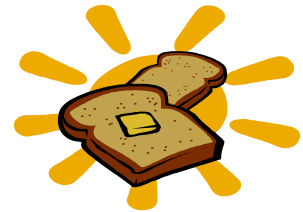
What's going on in the Community ...

Seder Meal at Christus Rex ...

Wednesday, April 20 (during Holy Week), Christus Rex will be having a traditional Passover Seder meal at the Campus Ministry Center. Since this is something that I hope Family of God can do next year, I thought it would be fun and helpful to get involved over there this year in hopes that it would benefit us next year as we create a Seder Meal of our own on Maundy Thursday of 2012. Four people have already given a “yes” to help with some of the cooking, and any additional help would be great! Let me know if you are interested! -Pastor Sonja

Annual Fund Raiser for the Food Shelf ...

The East Grand Forks Food Shelf is having their annual fundraiser on Saturday, April 2 from 8 a.m. - 11 a.m. at the East Grand Forks VFW. The menu is French toast, sausage and juice and the recommended donation is \$5.00 per person. The Food Shelf is in need of your Support!



Valley Memorial Homes Volunteers ...

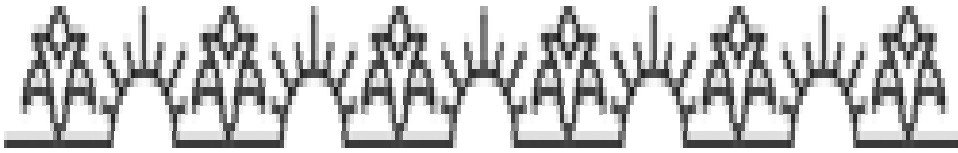
Please join us for the Volunteer Appreciation Celebration on Tuesday, April 19, 2011 from 2:00 p.m.—3:30 p.m. at Valley Memorial Homes, 4000 Valley Square Auditorium, 4000 24th Ave. South; Grand Forks, ND

CVIC ... Community Violence Intervention Center ...

The CVIC is looking for caring, compassionate volunteers for our Crisis Line. Volunteers carry a cell phone and respond from their own home to victims of Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, and other crimes. For more information or to have an application sent to you, contact Amy at (701) 746-0405.

WELCA Cluster meeting ...

Our Savior's will be hosting the WELCA cluster meeting on **Saturday, April 9th** from 9:00 a.m. to 12 pm. The theme will be: “Our lives are like quilts, bits and pieces, joy and sorrow, stitched with love”. All women are invited and Pastor Sonja has been invited to present a bible study on the theme during the morning.



April Sharing Your Gifts

April 21—Maundy Thursday

April 22—Good Friday

April 24—Easter Sunday

Ushers

April 3 Mark & Marilyn Holt
 April 6 Savannah & Kendra Magenau
 April 10 Savannah & Steve Magenau
 April 13
 April 17 Laura & Chris Arnold
 April 21 Richard Schaffer & Ellis Larson
 April 22 Richard Schaffer & Ellis Larson
 April 24 Dave & Lyn Pankratz

Lector

April 3 Sue Clausen
 April 6 Steve Magenau
 April 10 Mary Schaffer
 April 13
 April 17 Laura Arnold
 April 22 Ellis Larson
 April 24 Ellis Larson

Liturgy Assistant

April 3 Scott Erickson
 April 10 Scott Erickson
 April 17 Mark Holt
 April 24



Coffee Fellowship

April 3 Joe & Wendy Boushey
 April 10 Roberta Messelt
 April 17 The Magenau's
 April 24 Men's Easter Breakfast

Communion Assistants

April 3 Dave & Lyn Pankratz
 April 10 Mary & Charissa Schaffer
 April 17 Raygan Schaffer
 April 24 Sherri Erickson & Sue Clausen

Accompanist

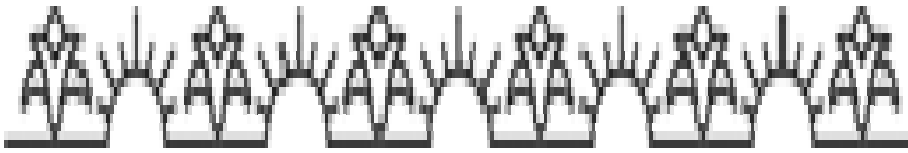
April 3 Julie Deziel
 April 10 Julie Deziel
 April 17 Julie Deziel
 April 21 Julie Deziel
 April 22 Julie Deziel
 April 24 Julie Deziel

Altar Care

April 3 Elaine Sundberg
 April 10
 April 17 Laura Arnold
 April 24 Sherri Erickson

Acolytes

April 3
 April 6 Kendra Magenau
 April 10 Charissa Schaffer
 April 13



February 2011 Church Council Minutes ...

Meeting: March 20, 2011, at 10:45 am

Call to Order & Attendance:

Present: Scott Erickson, Sherri Erickson, Bob, Quamme, Richard Schaffer, Lyn Pankratz, Dave Pankratz, Melissa Ziegler, George Kelley, and Pastor Sonja.

Absent: Steve Clausen, Sheryl Cariveau, Chris Arnold, and Tami Schumacher.

With 8 of 12 Council members in attendance, a quorum was present for business.

* **Devotion & Prayer:** Pastor Sonja led a Lenten devotion from the Book of John, and led the Council in a pre-meeting prayer.

* **Adoption of Agenda:** Motion to approve: 1st Melissa Ziegler, 2nd Dave Pankratz. Motion adopted, 8-0.

* **Pastor's Report:**

* **Music & Worship** – “Fat Tuesday” spaghetti supper was a success, raising \$500. Julie has begun to serve as the Music Coordinator, pending a formal agreement with the Church. Motion to formally approve a paid Music Coordinator, pending email by Pastor Sonja on the details of the agreement: 1st George Kelley, 2nd Lyn Pankratz. Motion adopted, 8-0.

* **New Member Sunday** – April 3rd will be the Sunday to recognize new members into the Congregation of Family of God this spring.

* **Education** – Confirmation ministry going well. For weeks of Lent, all are meeting Wednesdays at 4:00. Confirmation is now on a 3-year schedule.

* Need to start looking at dates for **Vacation Bible School** during the summer. Pastor would like Education Committee to begin visioning for fall activities.

* **Professional** – The 2011 Synod Assembly is May 14-15, and not May 13-14 as originally thought. This poses a problem, as the 15th is Confirmation Sunday. Pastor Sonja will return for Confirmation service on the 15th and will talk to the Synod Assembly Delegates (Don & Judy Schneider) about representing Family of God by themselves on Sunday, May 15th. Pastor Sonja will be performing 5 weddings at Sharon Lutheran this year. In the event of a funeral or other critical event at Family of God, Pastor Sonja will make arrangements to be at Family of God.

* **Financial Statement** – The financial statement in the service handout on March 13th caused some concern from a few parishioners. For now, we will take the financial statement out of the handout and will re-word. The goal is to publish a monthly update in the Beacon.

* **Fire Department Inspection** – Pastor Sonja asked Dave Pankratz to address this. The Fire Department found three relatively minor issues. All have now been resolved.

Old Business:

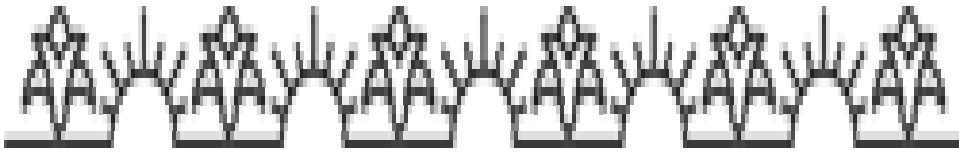
* **IRS Bill Update** - A second bill has come in from the IRS for past-due payroll taxes. Motion: Steve, Jared & Sherri will get together and attempt to reconcile past year accounts to determine if IRS charges are accurate. If they cannot reconcile, Family of God will seek the advice of a tax lawyer. 1st George Kelley, 2nd Dave Pankratz. Motion adopted, 8-0.

* **Spring Clean-up** – Spring Clean-up for the Church and grounds is scheduled for

* Saturday, April 30th. Dave and the Property Committee will coordinate.

* **Music Coordinator Update & Discussion** – See Pastor's Report above for discussion and Council actions.

.....Continued on page 8



February Church Council Meeting continued

* **Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer's report was presented. For the last month, income was \$4,595.50 and expenses were \$9,086.96 for a deficit of \$4,191.46. \$3,725.73 of this deficit was from the 1st IRS payment so, discounting this (hopefully!) one-time payment, the deficit was only \$465.73.

Motion to accept Report: 1st Lyn Pankratz, 2nd Sherri Erickson. Motion adopted, 8-0.

* **New Business:**

Janitor – Jared has elected to retire as the Church janitor. Doug is acting as janitor for now at the same rate of \$25 per week. Council discussed going back to a sign-up sheet to get volunteers to perform janitor duties, but this will take some time to organize. Motion to approve Doug as janitor through the end of April at \$25 per week, then to sign-up volunteers. 1st Sherri Erickson, 2nd Lyn Pankratz. Motion adopted, 8-0.

* **Other Business:**

* **Keys** – There are still an unknown number of Church and office keys out there. Discussion that keys need to be better inventoried to know a) how many keys are out there, and b) who has them. Council, by consensus, desires a call-back to the Congregation for outstanding keys and will then devise a reasonable distribution.

* **Computer Passwords** – The Church computer needs to have separate password-protected accounts for each user. As it stands now, anyone with access to the computer can see all files, including files showing congregation donation amounts, financial statements, and confidential correspondence. Council agreed that Pastor Sonja and Sherri would work with the church secretary to establish separate, password-protected account access.

* **Alerus Rummage Sale** – The community-wide rummage sale at the Alerus Center is May 21st. Lyn Pankratz will coordinate a committee to organize donations as a Family of God fund raiser. Cost is \$20 per 8-foot booth, and donations/pledges for three booths already been received. Lyn will provide Pastor Sonja with a blurb for the Beacon and bulletin.

* **Committee Reports:**

* **Evangelism & Outreach** - Scott Erickson and Pastor Sonja met to brainstorm ideas, including a Family Night, Church BBQ, etc. No definite events or dates at this time, but will make recommendations to the Council.

* **Committee Meetings** – All committee chairs present committed to a meeting of their committees during the month of April, and will provide committee reports to the Council prior to the next meeting.

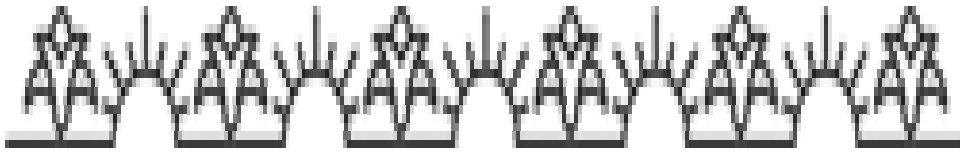
* **Correspondence & Bulletin Statements:** See action items above.

* **Date and Time of Next Meeting:** Thursday, April 28th at 7:00 pm.

* **Lord's Prayer:** Pastor Sonja led the Council in the Lord's Prayer.

* **Motion to Adjourn:** 1st Melissa Ziegler, 2nd Richard Schaffer. Motion adopted, 8-0. Meeting adjourned at 1:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:
George Kelley, Secretary



Youth News ...

6-9th Grade Confirmation...

During these weeks of Lent, we have begun looking at **Sacraments**, and specifically the Sacrament of Holy Communion. The combined Confirmation group will continue meeting together until the 9th graders break off later in April to begin their faith projects as they head towards Confirmation Sunday. We will wrap up our work on Holy Communion on April 6th and begin Holy Baptism on April 13th. Please note: **There will be no Confirmation class April 20 for the 6-8th Graders, as it is Holy Week. However, the 9th Graders will be expected to participate in their final service project (please see below).**

9th Grade Confirmation Final Service Project ...

Ninth Graders will be participating in a final service project prior to being confirmed. **On Wednesday, April 20th** during Holy Week, the Lutheran Campus Ministry Center at UND (Christus Rex) will be having a traditional **Passover Seder Meal** and our ninth graders will be serving at the Center that evening. This will coincide nicely with our studies as we finish up the work on Holy Communion and the relationship between that and the Passover meal that Jesus shared with his Disciples the night before he died. Watch for details on rides, times etc.

Confirmation Sunday ...

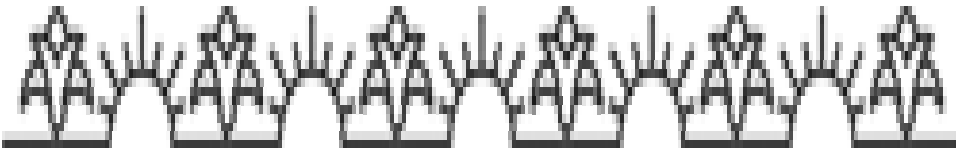
Confirmation Sunday is set for May 15th at the 9:30 a.m. Worship Service. We rejoice as six of our youth will be going through the Affirmation of Baptism service on that day. Following the worship, we hope you will stay for a reception to honor our Confirmands. 2011 Confirmands are: **Grant Boyum, Sydney Gregerson, Tanner Magnell, Jake Peterson, Whitney Sauskojus, Ashton Whalen.**


 Thank you to all who continue to go "green" by **recycling your**
 **empty, crushed cans** at Family of God. Funds raised are
 used to assist with a variety of youth activities of all shapes and
 sizes. Can you help? A Collection can is located by the shed.







Just for fun...



FIX YOUR EYES ON JESUS

Remembering Jesus' life, death and resurrection helps us live with gratitude every day.

Use the picture and number code to fill in the blanks for Hebrews 12:2-3, NIV.

1. Jesus 2. weary 3. endured 4. opposition	5. cross 6. endured 7. scorning 8. shame	1. Jesus 2. lose 3. pioneer 4. sinners
5. perfecter 6. him 7. faith 8. hand	1. eyes 2. us 3. joy 4. heart	5. right 6. grow 7. God 8. throne

"... fixing our _____ on _____ the _____ and
 _____ of _____. For the _____ set before _____
 he _____ the _____ its _____, and
 sat down at the _____ of the _____ of _____
 Consider _____ who _____ such _____
 from _____, so that you will not _____
 and _____." HEBREWS 12:2-3, NIV

Answer: "...fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith, and lose heart." Hebrews 12:2-3, NIV
 endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary
 sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who
 For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and
 from _____, so that you will not _____
 Consider _____ who _____ such _____
 sat down at the _____ of the _____ of _____
 he _____ the _____ its _____, and
 _____ of _____. For the _____ set before _____
 "... fixing our _____ on _____ the _____ and
 _____ of _____



HOT CROSS BUNS

Make this traditional Easter recipe to remember how Christ gave his life for you.

What you need:

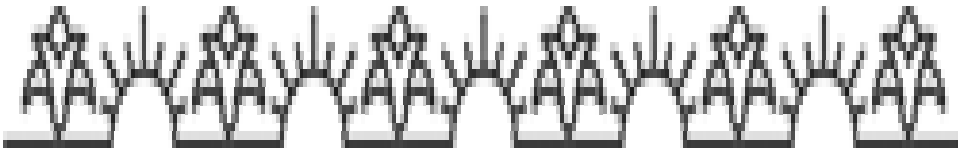
- 1 can (12 oz.) evaporated milk
- 1 stick (½ cup) butter, melted
- ½ cup sugar
- Pinch of salt
- 1½ Tablespoons yeast
- 1 egg, beaten
- ½ teaspoon cinnamon
- ½ teaspoon nutmeg
- 5 cups flour
- Icing
- An adult to help

What you do:

1. In large bowl, combine the first eight ingredients.
2. Stir in flour, one cup at a time, to form soft dough. Knead on a floured surface until smooth and elastic (about five minutes).
3. Place in a greased bowl, turning once to grease top. Cover and let rise until doubled (about one hour).
4. Knead out air bubbles. Form six two-inch balls.
5. Place two inches apart on a greased cookie sheet. Cover and let rise until doubled (about 30 minutes).
6. Bake at 375 degrees until golden (13 to 15 minutes). Cool on wire racks.
7. Add icing in a cross shape. Enjoy!



"You know you're in trouble when you stop praying for the answers and start begging."



April 2011

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

					1	2 8 am- 11 am Food Shelf Fundraiser breakfast at the VFW
3 8:30 am Alleluia Choir 9:30 am Lent4 Worship 10:30 am Coffee	4 6:30 am. Men's Group	5	6 4:00 pm Confirmation 6:00 pm Lent Sup- per 7:00 pm Worship	7	8 9:30 am Lutheran Women Today Women's Bible Study 	9 9 am - 12 WELCA Cluster Bible Study at Our Savior's
10 8:30 am Alleluia Choir 9:30 am Lent5 Worship 10:30 am Coffee	11 6:30 am. Men's Group	12	13 4:00 pm Confirmation 6:00 pm Lent Sup- per 7:00 pm Worship	14	15 10: 30 a.m. Pastor Sonja at Good Samaritan	16
17 Palm Sunday 8:30 am Alleluia Choir 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Coffee 	18 6:30 am Men's Group	19	20 (No programming at Family of God) 6:30 p.m. Seder Meal at Christus Rex Newsletter Deadline	21 7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday Worship	22 7:00 p.m. Good Friday Worship	23
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: flex; align-items: center; gap: 10px;"> ✝ - Holy Week - ✝ </div> </div>						
24 Easter Sunday 8:30 am Easter Breakfast 9:30 am Festival Worship 	25 6:30 am Men's Group Church Office Closed	26 10:30 am Caregiver's Support Group	27 4:00 pm Final Confirmation day for 6-8th graders (party in May!)	28 7:00 pm Church Council Mtg.	29	30 9:00 a.m. Church Spring Clean-up/ Big Event & BBQ



Family of God Lutheran Church
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East Grand Forks, MN 56721

Phone: 218-773-1433

Staff email: pastorsonja@familyofgodlutheran.org
shellie@familyofgodlutheran.org

Come and worship with us!

Sunday Morning:

Alleluia Choir 8:30 a.m.
 Worship with communion 9:30 a.m.

Wednesdays in Lent

Confirmation - all ages 4:00 p.m.
 Worship with communion 7:00 p.m.



Easter Flower Order Form

Easter Lilies (5-7 Blooms per plant)	\$10.00
Tulips	\$10.00
Daffodils	\$10.00
Hyacinths	\$10.00
Mums	\$10.00
Azaleas	\$13.00
Hydrangeas	\$17.50

**Orders must be in
by April 17th!!**

**Fill out the form and either
mail to the Church office, or
drop off at the church along
with your check !**

Name _____ Paid _____

Plant _____

In Honor of _____



Please make checks payable to Family of God Lutheran Church



***The Beacon* is now electronic!**

**If you would like to begin receiving your *Beacon* by email,
just let the church office know!**