June 2011

Family of God Lutheran Church

The Beacon

…..”And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.”

Acts 2: 3-4

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Church Office Hours:
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Pr. Sonja’s Cell: 701-740-5123

Pastor Sonja Brucklacher
pastorsonja@familyofgodlutheran.org.

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shellie@familyofgodlutheran.org.

Worship & Music: Julie Deziel
Web Design: Theresa Allard

Pastoral Ponderings …

It glowed fiery red in the the darkness. Though not much bigger than the size of a pea, together with the others, they danced around the darkness like fireflies. Tiny streaks of red and orange illuminated the dark and then they were gone… fizzling into nothingness … except one.

This one shot beyond the boundaries of the mountain campfire, out of the pit, past the rocks and lit gracefully on a neighboring pine. The dry crackle could be heard as the tips of the needles began to burn. Smoke and color filled the night as needle by needle, branch by branch, tree by tree, the fire devoured the darkness.

Nights turned into days and days into nights as the fire raged on– scorching rocks, stripping trees, burning all that covered the ground. The fire that started as a single, stray ember in the night, spread even beyond the imagination.

One single spark, and a world is transformed.

A small band of persons gathered together in one place. Each one a single, small voice in and of itself. Each one with nothing but a story to tell. They gather together for fellowship, to worship and to pray. They find strength in the other as they number so few.

But then, in a mighty rush of wind, amidst tongue of fire, God’s Spirit as promised, descends upon them and they are filled. The fire inside of them is proof of the presence, as God comes to them in the person of the Holy Spirit. Pentecost - the gift of God coming to abide with us. The gift that ignites in us a solitary spark that sets flame to the world.

One single spark and a world is transformed.

God goes about transforming the world through you and through me. God’s Spirit finds that one, tiny spark in the vast darkness of our lives, and brings life as faith is ignited in us, enabling us to believe. The flame begins to spread as we are empowered for mission and service within the world. The Spirit calls to us through tongue of flame and asks us to act, even when we don’t think we are strong enough or significant enough, all but dying embers.

God’s Spirit fuels us. God’s Spirit gives life to the dying ember as we are given a new energy to continue our daily ministries within the life of the world. With the help of the Spirit, we are able to reach out to the oppressed, aid the poor, feed the hungry and care for the sick. We become divine witnesses to the world for Jesus Christ. Even in the face of the world’s hatred, the Spirit blows life into the flame, spreading the Word, furthering the church in the world.

One single spark and a world is transformed.

Pentecost Sunday is June 12th. Come and be transformed!

Blessings,
Pastor Sonja

June Birthday's

Candace Hanson	June 3	Joe Boushey	June 13
Parker Nelson	June 4	Marla Carlson	June 17
Chris Arnold	June 7	Tom Hofland	June 18
Berverly Olson	June 9	Mark Holt	June 18
Kassidy Allard	June 10	Avis Larsen	June 21
Sheryl Cariveau	June 11	Tanner Wisk	June 22
		Sydney Gregerson	June 23
		Eric Boushey	June 25

Avis Larsen's Birthday
Open House
Thursday June 23rd
Worship Service 7:00 p.m.

Remember in Prayer ....

Punky Hanson,
Lisa Feltman and
Sonya (Tracy' Magenau's Mother)

April Statistics

Average Attendance : 52

Income: $ 5,155.05 Expenses: $ 6,455.65

Deficit: $ 1,300.60

Worship Matters…

Music in May …

On May 22, Family of God celebrated worship with "***Music in May"*** - a celebration of spring through scripture and song. The Alleluia Choir led us in many wonderful songs of praise and worship and we had an opportunity to dedicate our new Clavinova which was given to the church in the memory of Lois Smette. Following worship, the Alleluia Choir provided delicious bars and cakes for fellowship time. **Thanks to** Julie Deziel for her design of the service and to the Alleluia Choir and to those who contributed Special music, for a wonderful morning of praise! We look forward to this coming fall when the Alleluia Choir will begin coming together again!

Pentecost Sunday is June 12th …

On Pentecost Sunday at 9:30 a.m., we will have a special service as we remember the first Pentecost. This day has traditionally been known as the birth - day of the church on earth. Don't be surprised by balloons and some other Pentecost surprises … and wear red! As it is the color of the day!

You are invited …

The congregation is invited to join in a special celebration as **Avis Larsen turns 90!** Come to Family of God on the evening of June 23rd beginning at 7:00 p.m. as we first gather in worship together followed by a special Open House where we will have an opportunity to celebrate with Avis and her family and her many friends.

Worship and Music Coordinator …

It became official in April and the church has been so blessed to have Julie Deziel come among us and to begin to serve as the Worship and Music Coordinator for Family of God! As we have moved forward with this, the Music and Worship committee has determined what the needs of the church are in terms of the Worship and Music Coordinator position. Here are some highlights of the position:

Music and Worship Coordinator Position Description

Meets weekly with staff to coordinate bulletin and worship details; Coordinates with pastor for hymn selection; Directs the Alleluia choir (selects music; Coordinates dates with Pastor when choir sings for worship); Coordinates individuals who wish to offer special music; Sits on Worship and Music Team; Serves as primary accompanist and will coordinate with other accompanists within the church to fill in when absent).

Music and Worship Coordinator Covenant with Family of God

- **The Worship and Music Coordinator will have two vacation Sundays during the programmatic church year which will not occur during high volume seasons of the church year. (September through May)**
- **Will coordinate substitute in the event Coordinator cannot be there on a Sunday**
- **Will play at a stipend of $ 200.00 per month payable on the 15th of each month with the exception of June, July and August, whereby the Music and Worship Coordinator will go to part time status and no stipend will be issued. She will coordinate with other accompanists the weeks she is not here**

A Little of This and That …

Vacation Bible School is coming …

Watch your Beacon and church bulletins for news on Vacation Bible School which will be coming in mid-August!

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 1 of **"Renew, Respond, Rejoice!: Getting Unstuck: Renewing Hardness of Heart"** Mark your calendar for June 10 at 9:30 a.m.! The coffee pot is always on!

WELCA goes to Fair Hills …

All women of the church are invited to the WELCA Fair Hills Retreat June 13th and 14th! "Walking in the Light of God" is the theme for this year's retreat. Come for either one day (14th) or two days (13th and 14th). Cost is $20.00 for one day and $50.00 for two days. Cost includes inspiring speakers, great music and wonderful food! If you would like to come for the two day option, Family of God WELCA will pay half of your cost. To register, see Barb Quamme!

Church Custodian sign-ups …

Just a note to mention how well the sign-ups are going for those willing to clean the church! If you would like to take a turn, sign up on the Sharing Your Gifts clipboard, or call the church office!

Up Coming Via de Cristo Weekends in Ada, Minnesota: Men's weekend will be July 15th-17th, and the Women's weekend is July 22nd-24th, 2011. For more information, please contact Scott Erickson at 218-773-4338.

A Little More of This and That …

Report of the Synod Assembly …. By Don and Judy Schneider

"Awe Filled Worship" was the theme of the annual Northwestern Minnesota Synod Assembly held in the Concordia College facilities in Moorhead on **May 14th and 15th**. It was truly an "awe filled" experience being there and participating. We had several terrific speakers including Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson from the ELCA headquarters in Chicago, Illinois, Pastor Susan Briehl from Bellingham, Washington, and others. The special music and church services were well planned and filled with inspirational messages, ceremony, elegance, and dignity (quite impressive!!).

At last Registrar's Report at the Assembly, a total of 602 were in attendance from the Northwestern area of Minnesota and elsewhere, including 524 voting delegates and 78 visitors/others.

Several NW MN Synod Resolutions were considered with the following passed after considerable discussion and changes (1) Supporting The Lutheran Campus Ministry at Minnesota State University Moorhead and Bemidji State University, (2) Concerning King James Bible Sunday, (3) Directions for Mission, 2011, (4) Support for Border Congregations and Mission Partners, and (5) Calling the Church to Speak and Act to Prevent Bullying, Harassment and Related Violence .

The following Resolutions were voted down (denied) after considerable discussion/ amendments/etc: (1) Regarding Reconsideration of the 2009 Social Statement on Human Sexuality, (2) To Require Churchwide Assembly Actions to be Ratified by the Majority of ELCA Congregations, (3) Regarding Social Statements in the Evangelical Church of America, and (4) Regarding Doctrine of the ELCA.

We attended two different interesting breakout sessions on Saturday afternoon including "Hospitality Matters in Worship" as presented by Pastor Laurie Natwick; and "Genetics, Faith and Responsibility - A Discussion about the proposed Social Statement on Genetics" presented by Linden Olson from Worthington, MN, ELCA Task Force on Genetics.

It was an interesting, learning experience being at the Assembly. Thank you to our congregation for sending us.

As we head towards summer ...

Long, summer days are just in front of us now … a time to get away, a time to refuel. Summer means no school, vacations and long days of sunlight; it's a relaxed time of year for most of us. Unfortunately for the **church finances**, summer oftentimes signifies the time when the church really struggles to keep the financial momentum going. Weekly offerings go down from 10% to 50% or more in some cases during the summer months depending on the church. Please prayerfully remember your church this summer before you go. Have a safe and wonderful season of rejuvenation! Pastor Sonja

And Still a Little More of This and That …

You are invited …

You are invited to a "Baby Boy Open-House" shower for **Laura and Chris Arnold** on June 9th from 7:00 pm - 8:30 p.m. at Family of God. Come and celebrate with Laura and Chris as they prepare to welcome their new little bundle of joy! Laura and Chris are registered at Toys-R-Us and Target.

Council Social Gathering …

Don't forget that the Church Council and significant others are gathering together just for fun (yep, just for fun!) on the evening of June 1st at 6:30 p.m. at Pastor Sonja's house (724 S. 24th Street). Come for a little bit of food and lots of fun!

Summer worship needs your help…

As we head into the summer schedule, it gets harder to find helpers for Sunday worship. If you can help in this way, please call the church office.

For Sale ...

Family of God is selling the old Clavinova. If you or someone you know would be interested, please call the church office.

1998 – Poland KR-75 digital Intel Piano

full keyboard, recordable floppy disk

excellent condition $623.85

Walking Group to start …

The Family of God Walking Group is starting up this month! Before each walk, we will have a short devotional to contemplate on as we walk. If you are interested in joining this group, there will be an organizational meeting after church on June 5th. We will be finding a time that works for everyone interested.

Thrivent Choice Dollars …

Thanks to so many who have designated their Thrivent Choice Dollars to the ministries of Family of God! Because Thrivent doesn't have a mechanism in place to let the church know who the dollars are from and where they would like the dollars to be designated, the church is asking if you would let us know if we should be expecting Choice Dollars coming to the church on your behalf. That way, we can be sure our record-keeping is accurate! Thanks so much!

June Sharing Your Gifts

Ushers

June 5	Mark & Marilyn Holt
June 12	Trevor Grainger
June 19	Dave & Lyn Pankratz
June 26	

Communion Assistants

June 5	Dave & Lyn Pankratz
June 12	Sheryl Cariveau & Trevor Grainger
June 19	Trevor Grainger
June 26	Mary Schaffer

Lector

June 5	
June 12	Barb Quamme
June 19	Bob Quamme
June 26	Mary Schaffer

Accompanist

June 5	
June 12	
June 19	
June 26	

Liturgy Assistant

June 5	Scott Erickson
June 12	
June 19	Barb Quamme
June 26	Barb Quamme

Altar Care

June 5	Sheryl Cariveau
June 12	Sheryl Cariveau
June 19	
June 26	

Coffee Fellowship

June 5	Sheryl Cariveau
June 12	Roberta Messelt
June 19	
June 26	Mark & Marilyn Holt

Acolytes

June 5	
June 12	
June 19	
June 26	

Janitor for May

Week of June 5-11	
Week of June 12-18	Gary & Sheryl Cariveau
Week of June 19-25	Richard Schaffer
Week of June 26-July 2	Marilyn Holt

April 2011 Church Council Minutes ...

Family of God Lutheran Church

April 28, 2011, at 7:00 pm

⇒ **Call to Order & Attendance**: **Present**: Chris Arnold, Steve Clausen, Tami Schumacher, Sheryl Cariveau, Scott Erickson, Bob Quamme, Richard Schaffer, Lyn Pankratz, Dave Pankratz, George Kelley, and Pastor Sonja. **Absent**: Melissa Ziegler and Sherri Erickson.

- With 10 of 12 Council members in attendance, a quorum was present for business.
- **Devotion & Prayer:** Steve Clausen led the Council in a pre-meeting prayer.
- **Adoption of Agenda:** Motion to approve: 1st Sheryl Cariveau, 2nd George Kelley. Motion adopted.
- **Approval of 3/20/11 Meeting Minutes:** Motion to approve: 1st Dave Pankratz, 2nd Richard Schaffer. Motion adopted.
- **Pastor's Report:** Council had reviewed the Report that Pastor Sonja circulated prior to the meeting. There were no questions.

⇒ **Old Business:**

- **IRS Bill Update** – Steve Clausen provided an update on the IRS issue. A thorough review of the 2007 and 2008 IRS statements for Family of God obligations and reported amounts for Social Security and Medicare is complete.
- In 2007, Family of God underreported our obligations and underpaid the bill. This has now been cleared with the 2007 tax payment made earlier this year.
- In 2008, Family of God paid Pastor Scott as an independent contractor, meaning that we did not withhold from his pay and it was Pastor Scott's responsibility to report and pay his taxes due. However, Family of God reported in error the full salary to the IRS but, correctly, did not make payments. This resulted in the Social Security records showing a balance due from Family of God when one did not exist. Family of God paid the IRS statement for this bill in March. Once Family of God files amended Form 941s and 1099s for 2008 and then confirms with Pastor Scot that he made his payments, Family of God will receive a full refund for this March payment.
- **Spring Clean-up** – Spring Clean-up for the Church and grounds is scheduled for Saturday, April 30th at 9:00 o'clock, and we are expecting 14 students from UND's Big Event to help. Family of God will provide cleaning supplies and a "To Do" list for both indoor and outdoor clean-up activities. Dave and the Property Committee will coordinate. Pastor Sonja will coordinate an e-mail reminder to the congregation.
- **Music Coordinator Update & Discussion** – Julie is now officially onboard as our new Music Coordinator. We have developed a Position Description along with a Services Agreement, and the details of the Agreement will be published in the June edition of the Beacon. Steve reminded everyone that the music position was an independently funded initiative and that we must be diligent about fundraising to sustain the program.
- **Vacation Bible School** – Lyn Pankratz advised that the VBS Team will meet next Tuesday. The Team currently has 4 members, and Lyn would like to see more involvement, especially from parents. The Team is looking for new ideas for this year and will welcome all input.
- **Alerus Rummage Sale** – The community-wide rummage sale at the Alerus Center is May 21st. Set-up at the Alerus is on Friday, May 20th, so contributions need to be at the Church by Thursday, May 19th. Church members may also take their donations directly to the Alerus on Friday. Scott Erickson will coordinate trucks to pickup and deliver the donated goods. Lyn Pankratz said that items can be tagged with suggested prices or can be left for the Rummage Sale Team to price. All items not sold or claimed by the end of the sale will be donated to charity.
- **Computer Passwords** – The Church computer in the office is now password protected. For privacy's sake, only four people have access: Pastor Sonja, Shellie Lundeby and Sherri.

April 2011 Church Council Minutes … *continued from pg. 8*

- **Keys** – There are still an unknown number of Church and office keys out there. Chris Arnold will draft a key policy by the May meeting of the Council. Meanwhile, the Property Committee will continue their search for outstanding keys. However, we may need to re-key the locks again.
- **Janitor** – The sign-up sheet is filled, and volunteers are taking care of the Church janitorial duties. We will develop a formal list of chores and ensure cleaning supplies are available. Council will re-evaluate how the volunteer program is doing at the May meeting.
- **Council Social Time** – Pastor Sonja has volunteered her home on May 25th. Details to follow.

⇒ **Treasurer's Report:** The Treasurer's Report was presented, with statements for the months of February and March. The accounting software is underreporting revenues but correctly reporting expenses. As a result, we actually have more in the bank than what the reports currently show. Motion to defer the Reports until the accounting software issues are resolved: 1st George Kelley, 2nd Scott Erickson. Motion adopted.

⇒ **New Business:**

- **IRS** – Due to the issues with the 2007 and 2008 IRS reporting and payments, we need to complete a thorough audit of our 2009, 2010, and year-to-date 2011 Form 941 and 1099 statements. This is to insure that we have no more problems but, if we do, to address them now. Pastor Sonja emphasized that we must communicate to the Congregation on this issue and that these communications must be transparent. The Council agreed that, once the audit is complete, we need to schedule a short congregational meeting with Council present to clear the air on this issue. Steve will prepare a report prior to the next Council meeting.
- **Benevolence Contribution** – Pledge statements are due to the Synod soon. At the January Congregational meeting, Family of God approved a 2011 budget with $600 for the Benevolence Fund. This money supports both the Northwest Minnesota Synod as well as the greater ELCA mission. Motion to approve a $600 Benevolence Fund pledge: 1st Tami Schumacher, 2nd Syn Pankratz. Motion adopted.
- **Clavinova Update** – The new clavinova in the sanctuary was a memorial gift from the family of Lois Smette. While it is already in use, we are planning a special "Music in May" service on the 22nd when this beautiful instrument will be formally dedicated in Lois's honor. We will also have an article in the May Beacon thanking the Smette family for this gracious gift to our Church. The Council discussed that Memorial Fund expenditures are at the discretion of the gifting family, and that these funds are totally separate from the General Funds of the Church.

⇒ **Other Business:**

Check Signers – We are working with the bank to realign the check signature cards so that only current officers and authorized Family of God personnel are able to sign checks.

⇒ **Committee Reports:**

- **President's Report** – Steve reiterated his idea of a visionary Council where the committees are allowed to do their work. The Congregation should continue to work toward increasing the Pastor's hours. Tracy is interested in organizing Sunday School in the fall. Steve referred her to Lyn as the Education & Youth Committee Chair.
- **Evangelism & Outreach** - Scott Erickson reported that the Committee met to brainstorm ideas. Will report back to the Council with concrete recommendations.
- **Property** – Dave Pankratz reported that there are a number of issues that need to be addressed, including the ceiling water damage and the west-side main Church door. We will need to get up in the attic to assess where the water is coming from and if it's a leak or just condensation from the vents. Replacing the west door closure mechanism may cost about $450. Dave and the Committee will look into these items further and report back to the Council with their findings.
- **Music** – Tami reported that she and Julie are working together on a summer schedule. The old clavinova still works fine, but the floppy disk technology is very out of date. As such, the old instrument was difficult to maintain and program and has a limited resale value. We will attempt to find a good buyer for the old clavinova.

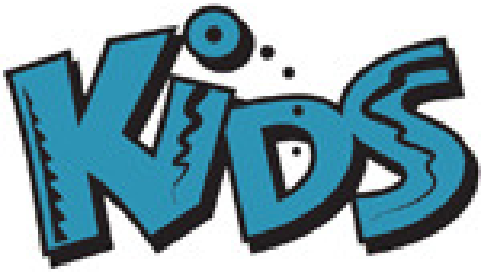
Submitted by,
George Kelley, Secretary

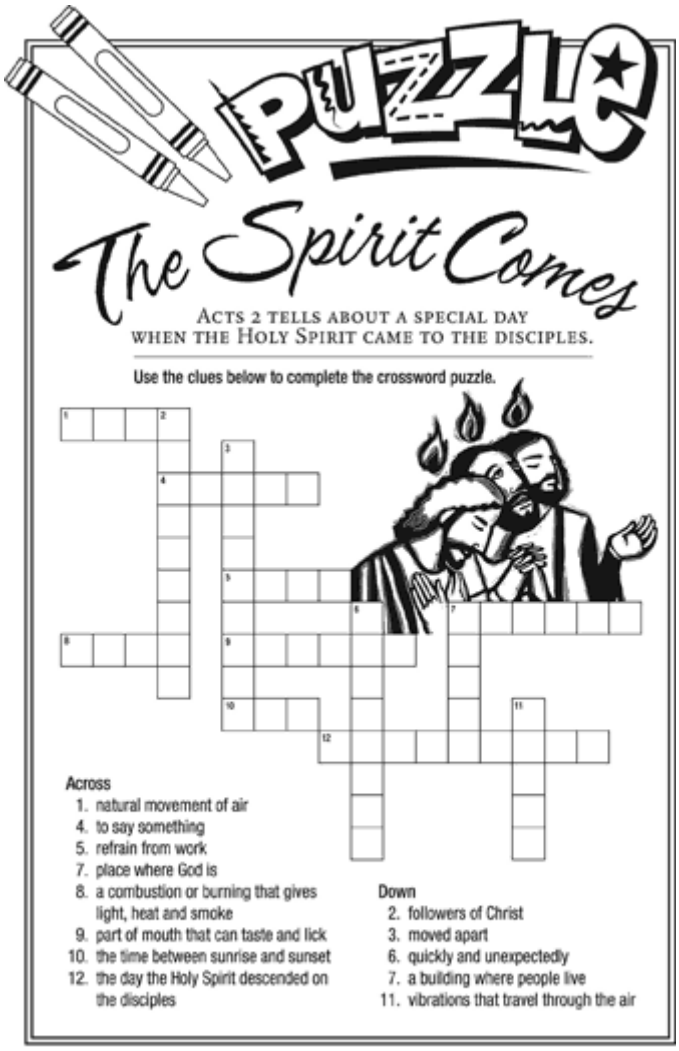
⇒ **Date and Time of Next Meeting**: Thursday, May 26th at 7:00 pm.

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

⇒ **Council Adjourned**: 8:50 pm.

Just for fun...





Answers: Across 1. wind, 4. speak, 5. rest, 7. heaven, 8. fire, 9. tongue, 10. day, 12. Pentecost; Down 2. disciples, 3. separated, 6. suddenly, 7. house, 11. sound

PENTECOST MOBILE

Make this craft as a reminder that God's Holy Spirit is all around you.

What you need:

- Tissue paper (red, yellow, orange), torn into squares
- Plastic transparency
- Craft glue
- Paintbrush
- Construction paper
- Black marker
- Wire hanger
- White copy paper
- Scissors
- Pencil
- Hole punch
- Fishing line

What you do:

1. Overlap tissue squares as "flames" on the transparency.
2. "Paint" glue (thinned with water) over the squares.
3. Fold construction paper in half. Write out Acts 2:4 at the top, by the fold.
4. Poke the hanger through the middle of the fold.
5. On the white paper, write "Holy Spirit" in English, Spanish (*Espiritu Santo*), French (*L'esprit Saint*), etc.
6. Cut out a flame pattern and trace it on the back of the transparency.
7. Cut out flames and glue the "Holy Spirit" names on them.
8. Thread fishing line through a hole atop each flame and tie flames onto the hanger.

June 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 6:30 pm Council Social Gathering at Pastor Sonja's house	**2**	**3**	**4**
5 7 Easter 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Coffee	**6** 6:30 am Men's Group	**7**	**8**	**9** 7:00 pm "Baby Boy" Shower for Laura & Chris Arnold	**10** 9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study	**11**
12 Day of Pentecost 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Coffee 10:45 am Walking Group meeting	**13** 6:30 am Men's Group **Women's Fair Hills Retreat**	**14**	**15**	**16**	**17**	**18**
19 The Holy Trinity 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Coffee	**20** 6:30 am Men's Group	**21**	**22**	**23** 7:00 pm Worship with Open house for Avis' Birthday	**24**	**25**
26 1st Sunday after Pentecost 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Coffee	**27** 6:30 am Men's Group 10:30 am Caregivers	**28**	**29**	**30**		

Family of God Lutheran Church
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shellie@familyofgodlutheran.org

Come and worship with us!

Sunday Worship with communion 9:30 a.m.

***The Beacon* is now electronic!**
If you would like to begin receiving *The Beacon* by email, just let the church office know!

Recipe of the Month … *~ A Recipe to Share ~*

Pistachio Quick Bread

1- white cake mix
1- 3.4 oz pkg. instant pistachio pudding
4 eggs
1 cup (8 oz) sour cream
1/4 cup water
1/4 cup canola oil
1/3 cup sugar
3/4 tsp ground cinnamon

Want to share a recipe for next month? Just email Shellie at: shellie@familyofgodlutheran.org

In a large bowl combine cake and pudding mixes. Add eggs, sour cream, water and oil; beat until blended (batter will be thick). Combine sugar and cinnamon. Spoon half of the batter into two greased 8X4 inch loaf pans; sprinkle each with 2 tbsp cinnamon sugar. Spread with remaining cinnamon-sugar. Bake at 350 for 35-40 minutes. Cool 10 minutes before removing from pans to wire racks. Yield: 2 loaves (12 slices each)