

The Beacon



Pastoral Ponderings ...

Happy are those whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and on God's law they meditate day and night. They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither. In all that they do, they prosper.

~ Psalm 1:1-3

I've always been hesitant to use the imagery of "seasons" for God, and I'm not sure why. I think, in part, it is because seasons come and go, and sometimes it feels as if each year is exactly the same as the last, as well as all those years that came before the last. And I struggle to understand God as a God who is always the "same 'ol, same 'ol"

Perhaps it is as I mature that I become more and more in tune with the sacred cycles of the seasons. Certainly the movement of the seasons - winter to spring to summer to fall to winter, again - can remind us of the Christian truths of life, death, and new life. But they also remind us, as the years roll along, that we must be good stewards of all that we have. Those closer to the changes of earth, air, and water throughout the year, such as farmers and gardeners, know that how one treats the earth in one season may - no, WILL - affect us and/or our children in another.

And this imagery of the seasons of stewardship, has strong biblical roots. The Apostle Paul wrote:

"What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you came to believe, as the Lord assigned to each. I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth." ~ 1 Corinthians 3:5-7

As the seasons change from fall to winter, we are being asked to plant seeds of support for the future of this church by committing to sustain the mission and ministry of this congregation in 2012. Through the regular and substantial support our annual budget receives, we rely upon the "seeds" that faithful church members plant. We see fruit every day in the lives touched and changed through the ministries of Family of God Lutheran Church. But these gifts can't, and shouldn't be, the sum total of our congregation's financial support. We need to plant new "seeds" today, to ensure fresh "fruit" for tomorrow.

This month, when you receive your Stewardship Commitment letter and pledge card for the 2012 Operating Budget, I ask you to look out your window and see evidence of the seasons of nature changing, and give thanks. Next, think about where you have seen God at work in the church, and where you see evidence of the seasons of God's love changing and growing. Then, please *prayerfully* fill out your pledge card this year, and either bring it or mail it to the church, and we will dedicate them in worship on **Commitment Sunday** which will be November 20th.

Thank you, so very much, for believing in the work of God in this church throughout all the seasons of life.

Grace & Peace,
Pastor Sonja

"I will give you your rains in their season, and the land shall yield its produce, and the trees of the field shall yield their fruit."

Leviticus 26:4

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Web Design: Theresa Allard



November Birthdays

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Sam Schumacher	Nov. 5	Joshua Ostenson	Nov. 19
Julene Kluzak	Nov. 6	Katie Hofland	Nov. 21
Axsen Ziegler	Nov. 10	Noah Boushee	Nov. 25
Nadine Paulson	Nov. 13	Linda Larson	Nov. 27
Cole Mertz	Nov. 15	Pr. Sonja	Nov. 28
Nick Erickson	Nov. 17	Lee Hearn	Nov. 28
Hannah Stevenson	Nov. 18	Tracy Magenau	Nov. 30

Memorials

In Memory of Elaine Fenske

From: Avis Larsen

In Memory of Helen Johnson

From: Linda Larson

In Memory of Violet Anderson

From: Avis Larsen

In Memory of Dorcella Holland

From: Avis Larsen



**Remember
in Prayer. .**

Avis Larsen, Julie Deziel,
Elaine Sundberg, Alice Delisle,
Desi Ostenson and family , Gordon
Carlson, Sonya Roemeling and Tim
Magenau (Steve Magenau's brother)



Worship Matters...

All Saint's Sunday is November 6th ...

All Saints Sunday is the day we remember and give thanks for those believers (saints) who have died and gone on before us. . **If you have lost a loved one or close friend in the last year, we invite you to contact the church office so that we can include their names in our bulletin the weekend of November 6.**

First Communion Sunday ...

On November 13th, we will rejoice as some of our young people will be coming to the Table for the first time. Please hold them in your prayers as they take this important step in their faith journey. The communion bread that day will be made by the young people.

Commitment Sunday is November 20 ...

During the worship service on November 20th, we will have an opportunity to dedicate our commitment to the mission and ministry of Family of God Lutheran Church . Come and be a part of this special day in worship! Kids, it might just be time for another "Noisy Offering" that day as well!

Service of Thanksgiving ...

Our Thanksgiving Eve service will be on Sunday night, November 20th at 7:00p.m. We will be gathering food for the East Grand Forks Food Shelf during the month of November and ask that you bring a couple of canned goods that night for a special offering. Worship will be followed by a Dessert Social in the fellowship Hall.



Poinsettias can be ordered beginning November 27th for the Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion service. The order deadline is December 19th. A sign-up sheet will be available in the Narthex or call Shellie at the church office at 773-1433.

Christmas Cantata in December ...

The Alleluia Choir is planning to present a Christmas Cantata on the 4th Wednesday in Lent at 7:00 p.m. and have begun rehearsals during their regular choir rehearsal time. If you would like to be a part of this special Advent presentation or have any questions, please contact Julie Deziel. All are welcome!



A Little of This and That ...

“Gather” Bible study ... (formally known as Lutheran Women Today study)

All women of the church are invited to the October women’s bible study. This month’s study out of the “Gather” will be Session 3 of our year-long study: **“To Follow and to Serve: The Gospel of Mark”**. This month’s study will focus on **“Power and Authority”** as Mark’s Gospel begins to introduce the power of Jesus of Nazareth as his travels take him **farther and farther from home**. All women of the church and beyond are invited to the study at **9:30 a.m. on November 11th**. The coffee’s always on and there’s usually a goodie or two!

“Bring a Dish and a Friend” Bible Study ...

It has been while since we have had an adult bible study at Family of God. **On November 8th at 6:30 p.m.**, come for bible study and supper in the Fellowship Hall. Don’t worry if you haven’t come before, all are welcome at anytime! Bring a dish to share, a bible and a friend!

Thanks so much for making our 2011 Bazaar such a success !...

We appreciate all who contributed for the sale this year as well as those who **shopped at the sale!** We also want to thank all those who participated in any way. It’s not only the money that we make for this Bazaar, but it is the friendships that we form each year.

Our totals were:

Bazaar	\$1,315.75
Lunch	\$ 544.50
Sunday sales	\$ 142.00
Total:	\$ 2,002.25

* **Please note:** The recycled Boutique items were donated to CVIC.

Marla Carlson, Co-Chair



You are invited to stop by...

“Marla’s Recycled Treasures and Christmas Boutique”
1033 10th Ave. SE; E.G.F.
(In the Back)
Thursday - Saturday
(Oct. 27th - 29th)
9 a.m. - 6 p.m.



Youth and Education ...

Calling all youth (Middle School - High School)!!

We are taking part in a **general fund raiser in early November** for the Youth program at Family of God and we need you! All it will take is some good walking shoes and a few hours of your time. (There's probably some pizza involved in this too!) We'll be calling and sending a card just as soon as we have more information!

Check out Sunday School!

Family of God Sunday school classes, (three year olds through fifth grade), began in September and begins each week at 10:45 a.m with a time of music and gathering in the Sanctuary followed by 30 minutes of Sunday School. All are welcome! Spread the word!

Family of God Youth Group ...

If you haven't checked out the Youth Group yet, join Josh and Desi on Sunday nights at 6:00 p.m. for some fun time with others. There is talk of a Lock-In sometime in November if there is enough interest. Come on Sunday nights and talk to Josh and Desi!

Middle School Gathering is coming!...

All Middle School Youth are invited to attend the 2011 Northwest Minnesota Synod Youth Gathering with others from Family of God!!

On **Friday and Saturday, November 18th & 19th**, you are invited to join lots of other Lutheran Middle School students from our Synod at this year's gathering!

This year's gathering will be at the Alerus Center and for \$75.00 you will receive an awesome t-shirt; great worship music; powerful speakers; terrific nightlife (**water park, dance and more!**); moving breakout sessions, and breakfast and lunch on Day 2!

Registrations must be in by November 6th! It is going to be great! **Please, please, please strongly consider coming to this great opportunity to get together with other Middle School Lutheran Youth!**

There is financial assistance available..let Pastor Sonja know.





From the Stewardship Team ...

Make It Simple....

We live in a world that can be simple or complicated depending on the path one chooses to travel. A complicated world finds people seeking more - more house, more car, more status, more power, more "stuff". Too often, there is an effort to protect "stuff" by putting up fences - real or imaginary - fearing a loss of what has been accumulated runs our lives.

Our 2011 Stewardship emphasis this year continues this month with the focus: "Make It Simple". Focusing on God's abundant blessings and not on scarcity provides us with the assurance that God has provided all that we need and more. It is living out of that abundance that we are able to give of the blessings we have received.

During the 9:30 a.m. worship service on November 20th, we will have an opportunity to make a commitment out of the abundance that God has first blessed us with.

Commitment Sunday is November 20th.

Commitment cards will be made available soon!



Mindful Stewardship is year-round ...

Scripture reminds us when we have become "new creatures in Christ" we are becoming the people God created us to be. This new life in Christ means transformation of the entire person and requires a totally new lifestyle. In I Corinthians 4:2 Paul calls the new born "stewards", stewards of the mysteries of God.

A steward is identified by his or her faithfulness. Faithfulness means a commitment to a lifestyle that celebrates that we have been created by God. Therefore, what we have and what we are belongs to God. Each of us is called to serve in ways that reflect who God is and who God calls us to be. By naming it as a lifestyle, we integrate stewardship into the **total life of the congregation throughout the year.**

As we look at what it means to be year-round stewards, the ELCA has developed a **"Year 'round Planning Calendar for Growing Stewards"**. This poster-sized calendar provides seven categories to help with a congregation's year-round stewardship planning. The Stewardship Team will begin to share these categories with the congregation monthly, beginning in January.





November Sharing Your Gifts

Ushers

November 6	Don Schneider & Bob Quamme	November 20	Sheryl Cariveau &
November 13	Steve & Savannah Magenau		Sam Schumacher
November 20	Todd & Sam Schumacher	November 27	Steve & Kendra Magenau
November 27	Josh & Desi Ostenson		

Lector

November 6	Mary Schaffer
November 13	Steve Magenau
November 20	Bob Quamme
November 27	Steve Magenau

Liturgy Assistant

November 6	Mark Holt
November 13	
November 20	Barb Quamme
November 27	Scott Erickson

Coffee Fellowship

November 6	Josh & Desi Ostenson
November 13	The Magenau's
November 20	Sheryl Cariveau
November 27	Steve & Sue Clausen

Communion Assistants

November 6	Mary Schaffer & Barb Quamme
November 13	Josh Ostenson & Kendra Magenau

Acolyte

November 6	Raygan Schaffer
November 13	Kendra Magenau
November 20	McKenzie Whalen
November 27	Kendra Magenau

Altar Care

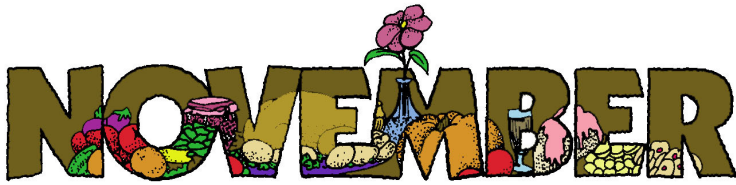
November 6	Elaine Sundberg
November 13	Wendy Boushey
November 20	Sheryl Cariveau
November 27	Marilyn Holt

Custodian for November

Week of Nov. 6-12	Mary Schaffer
Week of Nov. 13-19	Marilyn Holt & Scott Erickson
Week of Nov. 20-26	Richard Schaffer
Week of Nov. 27-Dec. 3	

Accompanist

November 6	Julie Deziel
November 13	Julie Deziel
November 20	Julie Deziel
November 27	Julie Deziel



Due to a late-in-the-month Council meeting, the October minutes will appear in the December newsletter. If you wish to read them sooner, a copy of the minutes will be available in the church office. ~

A note from Pastor Sonja ...

Dear Friends in Christ,

By now, some of you may have noticed (or heard!) that I am “moonlighting” in my “off hours” away from Family of God. And yes, it is true! Because I am serving Family of God in a part-time way, (I am hoping one day my hours at Family of God can increase to 3/4 time!) I am needing to add some more hours to my work week!

So, don't be surprised if you run into me Wednesday nights at Our Savior's where I teach 7th and 8th grade Confirmation. Or don't be surprised if you see me visiting someone in the hospital or nursing home that is not a member of our Congregation, as I am serving right now as the Interim Visitation Pastor for Sharon Lutheran Church in Grand Forks.

The good news is that my hours at Family of God have not or will not be impacted by this change. You can still meet me in my office for pastoral or even non-pastoral visits from 9 a.m. - 11 a.m. Tuesday through Friday, or by appointment until 1:00 p.m. on those days. As always, you are free to call me anytime for a visit during the day or on most evenings. And of course, as my Call is to Family of God, any emergency calls or pastoral care needs for members of Family of God come first.

Blessings to you in this beautiful fall!

Pastor Sonja



September Statistics

Average Attendance: 51

Income: \$5,466.41

Expenses: \$5,472.77

Deficit: \$6.36

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!



November 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 4:00 p.m. Confirmation 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice	3	4	5
6 All Saints 8:30 Alleluia Choir 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School 10:45 Coffee 6:00 Youth Group	7 7:00 a.m. Men's Group	8 6:30 pm Stewardship Meeting 6:30 p.m. "Bring a Dish and a Friend" Bible Study	9 4:00 p.m. Confirmation 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice	10	11 9:30 am Gather Bible Study	12 9-11 am First Communion Class
13 First Communion 8:30 Alleluia Choir 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School 10:45 Coffee 6:00 Youth Group	14 7:00 a.m. Men's Group	15	16 4:00 p.m. Confirmation 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice	17 6:30 p.m. Educ. Team Meeting	18 Middle School Gathering	19 Middle School Gathering
20 Commitment Sunday 8:30 Alleluia Choir 9:30 Worship 10:45 S.School/Coffee hour 7:00 Thanksgiving Eve	21 7:00 a.m. Men's Group	22	23 No Confirmation No Choir	24 Thanksgiving Day Office Closed	25 Office closed for the holiday	26
27 1st Advent 8:30 Alleluia Choir 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School 10:45 Coffee	28 7:00 a.m. Men's Group 7:00 p.m. "Threads of Faith"	29 6:30 p.m. "Bring a Dish and a Friend" Bible Study	30 4:00 p.m. Confirmation 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice			



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

Come and worship with us!

Sunday Worship with communion 9:30 a.m.
Sunday School 10:45



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



Thanksgiving Eve Service
November 20th at 7:00 p.m.

For a special offering time during the service,
please bring a couple of canned goods for the
East Grand Forks Food Shelf

Worship will be followed by a Dessert Social