

The Beacon



"As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace"
(1 Peter 4:10).

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Pastoral Ponderings ...

Grace and peace to you, brothers and sisters in Christ!

This month, the Stewardship Team will be kicking off our **Fall Stewardship emphasis** (read more on page 6). As we embark on this important event, may it be just a beginning of living a life of Stewardship throughout the year.

Now, just how do we do that? Everyone has a *calling*, which is another way of saying that your walk with God is personal. When you hear the call to *gratitude* and *responsibility*—in your friendships and family, in your work, wherever you go, then taking the next step to answer that call is where stewardship may be clearly seen.

One thing is clear: stewardship is not simply making donations or care of the building and grounds. It is spirituality; a way of life made up of four parts:

1. **Receiving the gifts of God with gratitude**
2. **Cultivating them responsibly**
3. **Sharing them lovingly in justice with others**
4. **Standing before the Lord in a spirit of accountability**

It is up to you to determine how you will live out stewardship throughout the year. But it does begin with remembering our Baptism; and from this flows the commitment to Jesus that makes stewardship possible and deeply rewarding. However, this is a commitment to a lifetime of action, and it requires sacrifice.

Stewards take care of the world around us, working as partners with God in the redemption of the world.

- **We respect human life and dignity.**
- **We protect the natural environment.**
- **We share our gifts (prayer, service and financial sharing) with others.**
- **We communicate our enthusiasm.**

For our own development as a steward, it helps to spend time in prayer and reflection to recognize our gifts from God. Then one can discover how best to use those gifts for the benefit of others, and of course, inviting others to discern and share their gifts, too.

It is an incredible challenge to live a life devoted to the stewardship of all of God's gracious gifts. We all face obstacles, opportunities, and challenges, living in a fast-paced environment with many responsibilities. Our spiritual hunger does not always get a chance to be nourished through prayer and action. However, a clear sense of purpose opens the door for us to actively commit to a life of gratitude and responsibility; to thank God for his endless gifts, and then to decide what we can do to respond to all that God has done for us.

Blessings,

Church Office Hours:
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Worship & Music: Julie Deziel
Web Design: Theresa Allard



October Birthday's

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



Lori Peterson	Oct. 3
Rochelle Cariveau	Oct. 15
Ellis Austin	Oct. 17
Andin Schaffer	Oct. 17
Roberta Messelt	Oct. 20
Chantel Wibbels	Oct. 23
Amanda Hanson	Oct. 30
Ann Peterson	Oct. 30



**Remember
in Prayer. .**

Avis Larsen, Julie Deziel,
Elaine Sundberg, Alice Delisle,
and
Sonya Roemeling
(Tracy Magenau's Mother)



Worship Matters...

October Worship at a glance ...

There are many exciting things happening in the life of the church in the month of October and into November. Here is just a glance at what is coming up:

October 9th: New Member Sunday

October 16th: Health and Wellness Sunday

October 23rd: Stewardship Kick-off Sunday
(Read ahead for more!)

New Member Sunday ...

On October 9th, we rejoice as new members will be joining the Family of God congregation! If you know of anyone else who is interested in joining our congregation, it is not too late to become part of the process. If you know of anyone, please let Pastor Sonja know.

Health and Wellness Sunday ...

On the morning of Oct. 16, worship will be centered around Health and Wellness as we gather around Word and Sacrament and experience the healing power of God's spirit . A special time of the service will be a laying on of hands for healing where the congregation will be invited to come forward to experience healing for body, mind or spirit. The special offering this year that is taken on this Sunday, will be going towards the training of a Parish Nurse for our congregation that will be happening in the first part of 2012. Watch for more details on this coming soon!

Stewardship Kick-off Sunday ...

October 23rd will be the kick-off for our Stewardship emphasis, "Sharing Enough" Come and participate in a very important time in the life of the church! The worship liturgy will be a contemporary liturgy, with a special music offering from our Alleluia Choir that you won't want to miss! There will be a couple of surprises that morning as well as a congregational potluck dinner following worship.



A Little of This and That ...

Do you use the Internet? ...

Family of God is looking for more households who would be willing to receive their Beacon electronically in an effort to, 1) go a little "Greener", and 2) save the church a little more money in paper and postage costs. If you feel that this would work for your family to receive your Beacon electronically, please contact the church office and we will send you your next Beacon via email! Thanks for your consideration!

"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 2 of our year-long study: **"To Follow and to Serve: The Gospel of Mark"**. This month's study will focus on **"Mother and Brothers"** as we look for **the models of faith we encounter in Mark and in daily life**. We are beginning a year-long study of the Gospel of Mark and all women of the church and beyond are invited to the study at **9:30 a.m. on October 14**. 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 October 11th at 6:30 p.m., you are invited to come to church bearing a dish to share and a friend** as we begin our study together. There is a list of possible studies we would like to do in the Narthex. Please take one and give us your opinion. We will be meeting in the Fellowship hall for both the meal and the study.

Can you help?

All of the church's coffee carafes have disappeared from the church without being checked out. The church needs to use these for the Bazaar on the 1st. If you know where they are, would you please return them to the kitchen? Thanks so much for your help!

Undie Sunday is October 2nd! ...



Often we take everyday things for granted. Like underwear! Imagine taking a shower at the end of a hard day and not having a decent pair to wear. Unfortunately, this is true for many children and adults in our community. Clothing such as underwear, socks and undershirts are not donated at area thrift stores. Looking for donations of new under garments, socks, diapers and personal care items (shampoo, shaving cream, feminine hygiene products, etc) on Sundays during the first four weeks in October. **Help people in our community in need with Undies Sundays!**



Youth and Education ...

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

We are taking part in a **general fund raiser** 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!

Sunday School started September 18 ...

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

Family of God Youth Group has begun ...

All High School youth are invited to come and be a part of something we're just getting started at Family of God! **Josh and Desi Ostensen** have prayerfully agreed to lead this group and have some fun ideas! Some ideas brought up at our organizational meeting were: **Trick or treating for the food shelf, lock-ins, Retreats, Camping, Mission trips, Frisbee golf, Night games** etc. Come **every Sunday night at 6:00 p.m.** for food, fun and fellowship!

Crop Walk 2011 - Ending hunger one step at a time ...

The Greater Grand Forks CROP WALK has set a goal of 400 walkers and hopes to raise \$10,000 to help stop hunger here in our community and around the world, through self-help development initiatives. A portion of the funds raised in Grand Forks will go to the Food Fellowship Program of Red River Valley Community Action. The CROP WALK is one of some 2,000 interfaith, community CROP WALKS taking place around the country this year under the theme, "Ending Hunger One Step At A Time". **The Confirmation students will be walking the Crop Walk this year on October 5th at University Park.** Please consider pledging with one of the Confirmation students. Help to end hunger!





From the Stewardship Team ...

The Stewardship Sunday Fall kick-off is coming October 23rd! ...

Come and participate in a very important time in the life of the church! On October 23rd, Family of God will begin a four-week The worship liturgy will be a contemporary liturgy, with a special music offering from our Alleluia Choir that you won't want to miss! There will be a couple of surprises that morning as well as a congregational potluck dinner following worship.

** Please bring a dish to share that day**.

We need your help! ... In September you were mailed out an assessment form from the Stewardship Committee. If you have not already done so, please take time to fill it out and place in the offering plate or drop off in the church office at your earliest convenience ! Thank you

“Sharing Enough~ Family of God Stewardship”

Philippians 4:11-13 “I have learned to be content with whatever I have. I know what it is to have little, and I know what it is to have plenty. In any and all circumstances I have learned to secret of being well-fed and of going hungry, of having plenty and of being in need. I can do all things though him who strengthens me.”

What does contentment feel like? This is a difficult question in our current culture. How much is enough? When told on daily basis “You don't have enough”, “What you have is fragile and could be gone at any moment”. “You have to get more.” These messages come from a world focused on scarcity.

How do we understand our relationship with God? God is the creator we are God's creatures. In the First Article of the Apostles Creed Martin Luther reminds us “that God has created me and all that exists”. God daily and abundantly provides all the necessities and nourishment for this body and life out of pure, fatherly, and divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness of mine at all. It is in this relationship that we recognize that God has abundantly provided us with all we need. Living in that abundance we give of the blessings we have received.

If we focus on the scarcity, we never have enough. When we focus on God's abundant blessings, there is more than we can ever imagine. Recognizing God's abundant blessings, we can be content with what we have because we know that we are blessed and can “do all things though him who strengthens us.”

As a follower, your stewardship of your blessings is a spirited mark of your discipleship. It is about recognizing the blessings God has poured out upon you and generously sharing them with the community around you. It is about giving of your time, your talents, and your treasures. As you reflect upon the blessings you have received, what will you do to be more generous in the use of those blessings?

Family of God Stewardship Team



October Sharing Your Gifts

Ushers

October 2 Bob & Barb Quamme
October 9 Todd & Sam Schumacher
October 16 Steve & Savanah Magenau
October 23 Trevor Grainger
October 30 Josh & Desi Ostenson

Lector

October 2 Josh Ostenson
October 9 Bob Quamme
October 16 Steve Magenau
October 23 Dave Pankratz
October 30 Mary Schaffer

Liturgy Assistant

October 2 Mark Holt
October 9 Barb Quamme
October 16 Desiree Ostenson
October 23 Scott Erickson
October 30 Barb Quamme

Coffee Fellowship

October 2 Sheryl Cariveau
October 9 Mark & Marilyn Holt
October 16 The Magenau's
October 23 Mary Schaffer
October 30 Punky & LouAnn Hanson

Communion Assistants

October 2 Trevor Grainger & Sam Schumacher
October 9 Bob Quamme & Sam Schumacher
October 16 Dave & Lyn Pankratz
October 23 Sheryl Cariveau & Lyn Pankratz
October 30 Alec Johnson & Breanna Solem

Accompanist

October 2 Tami Schumacher
October 9 Tami Schumacher
October 16 Julie Deziel
October 23 Julie Deziel
October 30 Julie Deziel

Altar Care

October 2 Trevor Grainger
October 9
October 16
October 23 Sheryl Cariveau
October 30

Custodian for September

Week of Oct. 2–8 Dave & Lyn Pankratz-
Week of Oct. 9–15 Richard Schaffer
Week of Oct. 16–22
Week of Oct. 23–29 Mark & Marilyn Holt
Week of Oct. 30–Nov. 5



September 2011 Church Council Minutes ...

September 25, 2011

Meeting: September 25, 2011, at 11:00 am

Call to Order & Attendance: Present: Sherri Erickson, Sheryl Cariveau, Scott Erickson, Bob Quamme, Lyn Pankratz, Dave Pankratz, Tami Schumacher, George Kelley, and Pastor Sonja.

Absent: Steve Clausen, Chris Arnold, Richard Schaffer, and Melissa Ziegler.

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

- **Devotion & Prayer:** Sheryl Cariveau led the Council in a pre-meeting prayer.
- **Adoption of Agenda:** Motion to approve: 1st Bob Quamme, 2nd Lyn Pankratz. Motion adopted.
- **Approval of 8/21/11 Minutes:** Motion to approve: 1st Dave Pankratz, 2nd Tami Schumacher. Motion adopted.
- **Old Business:**
- **IRS Update** – Sherri Erickson reported that she and Steve Clausen were working with Clarence Vetter, CPA, on the IRS issue. Mr. Vetter is the tax expert for Our Savior's Lutheran, and has been very helpful in helping us to sort out this problem. All the paperwork is now in place, and Steve and Sherri will be meeting with Mr. Vetter again. We now expect to have this tax issue resolved soon, and Sherri and Steve will report back at the next Council meeting.
- **Treasurer's Report:** The Treasurer's Report was presented, with statements for the month of August, and all accounts are now current. The report was accepted. August showed a great improvement over prior months, with a deficit of only \$488.82 after 2nd Quarter taxes are paid. The Council expressed its appreciation to Sherri for all the hard work she has put into reconciling the Church accounts.
- **Pastor's Report:** Pastor Sonja reviewed the Report that she had circulated prior to the meeting. Pastor Sonja stated our "Kick-Off Sunday" on September 11th was a great success, with good attendance and some new faces in our church. The Congregation was very welcoming to our visitors, and we hope to see them again soon. The Council also remarked that the signs along Bygland were very noticeable for the "Kick-Off Sunday" event, and generated a lot of positive feedback. Thanks to the Congregation members who made and placed the signs.
- **Upcoming events for October:**
 - October 1st – Family of God Bazaar & Chili Lunch
 - October 9th – New Member Sunday
 - October 16th – Health & Wellness Sunday
 - October 23rd – Stewardship SundayRelated to the Health & Wellness Sunday, Pastor Sonja said that Sue Clausen was interested in redeveloping the Parish Nurse program for Family of God. There is a training and certification class for this in February that Sue would need to attend. The Council approved a special offering on 10/16 to support the tuition costs.
- **New Business:**
 - Clavinova** – The old clavinova has sold for \$600. Pastor Sonja and Sherri had a question as to which account this money should be deposited into. The Council will research this issue, and deferred the decision until the next meeting.
 - Congregational Letter** – The Council reviewed two draft letters to the Congregation regarding Pastor Sonja's work for Sharon Lutheran and Our Savior's Lutheran, and her hours of availability at Family of God. This issue again ties back to the fact that Family of God is not yet financially able to meet our pledge to bring Pastor Sonja to a 75% contract this year. Pastor Sonja reiterated that she is the called minister to Family of God, and that service to Family of God is her primary focus. However, for reasons of her own family's finances, she needs to seek outside work and outside income. The Council reiterated our understanding of this situation and our support for her work with Sharon and Our Savior's. Sherri remarked that the letter must demonstrate transparency to the Congregation on this issue. The key here is that Family of God only has a 65% contract with Pastor Sonja, but the Congregation needs to know when she is available to us so as to avoid any misunderstandings.

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September 2011 Church Council Minutes ...

(- Minutes continued from page 8)

The Council discussed this issue in depth and reached the following conclusions:

- **The letter needs to be finalized and sent sooner rather than later**
- **The letter must clearly state Pastor's availability**
- **The letter must clearly state the reason Pastor is seeking outside work**
- **Church office hours do not necessarily equate one-to-one with Pastor's physical presence in the office due to her other duties (home & hospital visits, community meetings, etc.)**

The Council determined that neither draft met all of the above-mentioned needs, but that a committee format was not the most efficient way to compose a letter. George offered to prepare a new draft and circulate it by e-mail to the Council membership by Wednesday, September 28th for comment and revision. Once the Council members approve, the letter will be sent to the Congregation, with the goal of a completed letter by October 1st. Council agreed with this course of action.

Other Business:

A member of the congregation volunteered to pay for a re-keying of the Church door locks with Council's approval. The Council accepted this generous offer. Dave Pankratz and the Property Committee will research the cost of keyed locks vs. a keyless entry system and will also look into including a re-keying of the locks into a possible replacement of the front entry due to the broken latch on the west door. George will also make available the key control and tracking system he and Paul Holje use for their business.

• **Committee Reports:**

Evangelism & Outreach – Scott Erickson stated that the “Kick-Off Sunday” event was a great success, and welcomed the new visitors that event brought to Family of God. In October, we will be officially welcoming two new members, and this growth is a very positive development for the church.

Stewardship – Bob Quamme reported on the Stewardship Committee's work. He stated that the Committee was very active and enthusiastic. October 23rd will be Stewardship Sunday, with a theme of “Keeping It Simple” and sharing enough of our blessings with our church. Pledge statements for the coming year will be distributed, with responses due back in late November for the church's 2012 financial planning.

- **Property** – Dave Pankratz reported that the Property Committee will meet again early next month. Steve Clausen completed the painting of the cross emblem on the east side of the church, and the Council thanks him for this effort. Dave remarked that there are still a few minor maintenance issues around the church but nothing too major. He did state that the old florescent light fixtures are still causing some intermittent problems (flickering, etc.), but that replacement ballasts and other spare parts are no longer available. We can live with some of these issues for now, but replacement fixtures would likely run in the range of \$50-60 per unit, and we need to be prepared for these eventual costs.

- **Music & Worship** – Tami Schumacher reported that Julie will be unavailable for the next two Sundays, so Tami will be playing at these services. The Council once again noted the wonderful job that Julie is doing as our new Music Director and thanked her for the beautiful contribution she is making to our worship services and the life of our church.

- **Education & Youth** – Lyn Pankratz reported that Sunday School classes started again on September 11th. There will be two teachers working with a group of younger and a group of older children. Sunday School has a lectionary-based curriculum, and begins each Sunday at 10:45 in the sanctuary.

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September 2011 Church Council Minutes ...

(- Minutes continued from page 9)

- **Mission** – George Kelley provided an update from the Mission Committee. Specific mission outreach projects for this fall include the East Grand Forks Food Shelf and the Northlands Rescue Mission. We have volunteered to again serve dinner at the Northlands Rescue Mission during the Christmas season, and have requested Sunday, December 4th, as our date. Northlands will be finalizing their meal service schedule in October and will get back to George. Pastor Sonja is seeking to have the Confirmation Class participate in this meal service as part of their community outreach. Also, Family of God's annual participation in "Undies Sundays" for the United Way begins on October 2nd, with collections of socks, underwear, and personal care items accepted until October 23rd.

Correspondence & Bulletin Statements: The next Bulletin should include the October upcoming events dates as noted in Pastor Sonja's report above. We will also include information on the Stewardship's pledge information as well as a flyer for the Undies Sundays effort.

Date and Time of Next Meeting: Sunday, October 30th, at 10:45.

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

Council Adjourned: 12:30 pm.



August Statistics

Average Attendance : 52

Income: \$5,868.92

Expenses: \$ 5,613.28

Less 2nd Quarter taxes : \$488.82 (not yet paid)

Deficit: \$233.18

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!



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Phone: 218-773-1433

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!



Family of God
Bazaar

Family of God Fall Bazaar

Saturday, October 1st, 2011

Bake Sale at 10:00 a.m.

Chili Luncheon at 11:00 a.m.

Come for Chili and all the fixings along
with a piece of homemade pie
and shop at the recycled
jewelry, purse and scarf boutique!



October 2011

1Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Family of God Bazaar 10-2 p.m.
2 16 Pentecost 8:30 Alleluia Choir 9:30 Worship 10:30 Sunday School 10:45 Coffee 6:00 Youth Group	3 7:00 a.m. Men's Group	4 6:30 pm Stewardship	5 4:00 pm Confirmation Crop Walk—Univ.Park 7 p.m. Choir Practice	6	7	8
9 New Member 8:30 Alleluia Choir 9:30 Worship 10:30 Sunday School 10:45 Coffee 6:00 Youth Group	10 7:00 a.m. Men's Group	11 6:30 p.m. "Bring a Dish and a Friend" Bible Study	12 4:00 pm Confirmation 7 p.m. Choir Practice	13	14 9:30 Gather Bible Study	15
16 Health & Wellness 8:30 Alleluia Choir 9:30 Worship 10:30 Sunday School 10:45 Coffee 6:00 Youth Group	17 7:00 a.m. Men's Group	18 6:30 p.m. Educ. Team Meeting	19 No Confirmation (MEA) 7p.m. Choir Practice	20	21	22
23 Stewardship 8:30 Alleluia Choir 9:30 Worship 10:30 Sunday School 10:45 Coffee	24 7:00 a.m. Men's Group	25 6:30 p.m. "Bring a Dish and a Friend" Bible Study	26 4:00 pm Confirmation 7 p.m. Choir Practice	27	28	29
30 Reformation Sunday 8:30 Alleluia Choir 9:30 Worship 10:30 Sunday School 10:45 Church Council	31 7:00 a.m. Men's Group Halloween			Pastor Sonja on vacation Sept. 27th– 31st		