



# Messenger

August 2011

Luther Memorial  
Church ELCA

**Pastor's Logos [word]**  
by **Column by Mike Widner, Associate Pastor**

## Contents

Thoughts on Stewardship	2
Regular Worship Schedule	2
New Staff Welcome	2
Ushers Needed	3
Upcoming Events	3
Worship Assistants	4
Youth & Family News	5
Confirmation News	6
Luther League News	6
Pastors Thanks	7
WELCA	7
VBS Thanks	8
Church Council Highlights	9
Movie, Book & TV Reviews	9

*The Messenger* is a monthly publication. To provide feedback, please contact us.

Phone: 402-269-2360

Email: [lm64049@windstream.net](mailto:lm64049@windstream.net)

Many of you have heard about the van breakdown on the Luther League mission trip, but for those of you that didn't here is a recap. On the first day of our journey home, the rental van broke down when we stopped for gas on Friday, July 1. The long and the short of it is that it blew a spark plug and damaged some coils. From the perspective of the person in charge, you don't ever really want to deal with breakdowns on mission trips. But thankfully this happened on the way home and not the way there (which could have set the tone for the whole trip). Nonetheless, we broke down in Temple, Texas and that put a kink in my plan to arrive in Ft. Worth that night and stay at the church of a seminary colleague and then to drive the rest of the way home the next day. The kids had plans too – many of them were supposed to work on Sunday. So a breakdown didn't work for them either. After much rigmarole, we finally got the van towed to a dealership to be serviced the next day.

Despite the breakdown and the kink in our plans, God was at work in this. I was frustrated by this delay as was everyone else, but as y'all know life doesn't always cooperate with our plans or expectations. I saw God in this breakdown in that we were in Temple, a town of approximately 54,000, instead of somewhere along the highway with nothing close by. Temple had a dealership that could repair the van and it was only a block from where we broke down. I also saw God in the fact that we broke down directly across the street from another ELCA Lutheran congregation. Even though I was unable to get a hold of anyone to see about us staying there, I did get in touch with the pastor of the other ELCA congregation in town, Covenant Lutheran. And, they allowed us to stay in their Fellowship Hall. A couple of their members (Jean and Gary) even gave up their Friday night (on a holiday weekend, no less) to shuttle us and our stuff to their church about 15 minutes away. They helped us get settled in and offered to get us food that night and also brought us food the next morning for breakfast. They gave us such a beautiful picture of what Christ means by serving others.

Finally, I saw God at work among us in this setback to our plans. The youth didn't get upset or demanding. They made arrangements for their work to be done by others and they made the best of the situation. God was at work throughout our mission trip as we helped the Volunteer Center of North Texas in their mission to provide food, clothing and other necessities for other non-profit organizations to accomplish their missions and ministries. God was at work in the leadership skills that were developed and enhanced in all of us who went to the Disciple Project and in the friendships that were made there.

I primarily wanted to share this story to remind us just how much God is at work in the daily happenings of our lives. We just need to slow down (even if forced to do so by a van breakdown or something else) and look for where God is at work. Listen for the whispering of the Holy Spirit and feel the presence of Christ in our lives through the people around us.

Shalom y'all!

# STEWARDSHIP



**STEWARDSHIP IS FOR EVERYONE!!!** Whatever age you are, whatever your social economic status, whatever your religious affiliation, if you have a generous heart and give to help others and thank God, you are a healthier more positive person. A person is never too young to learn to share and care, or care and share. The order doesn't matter, the action does. Once a pattern of giving is made into a habit, a person lives their life with a more positive and compassionate outlook. This translates into living longer and healthier. In other words, give to live.

By the way, this doesn't come from a church stewardship study, it comes out of Mayo clinic that did a survey of folks over an extended period of time. The results were clear - generosity leads to longevity . Jesus said, "If you want to gain life, you must lose it." Apparently Jesus knew what he was talking about. Go figure! Let us be people who live our lives more fully by caring and sharing the gifts we have received from God. By doing so, we really do live more fully!!



Regular Worship  
**RETURNS**

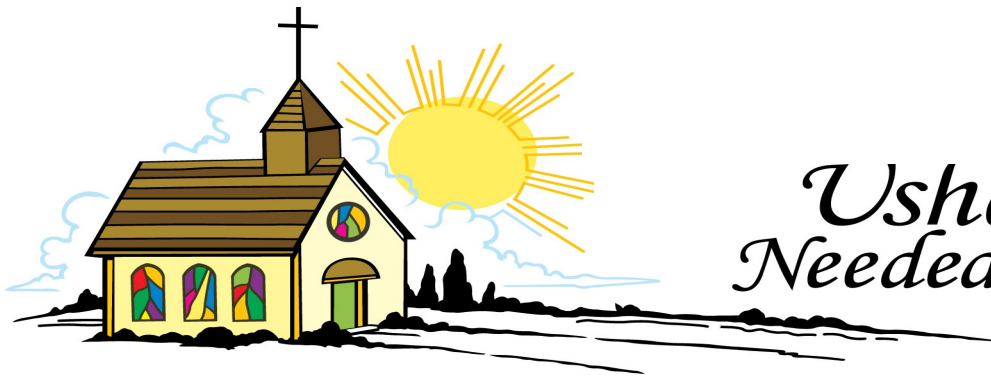
**SEPTEMBER 4TH  
LAST SUMMER  
WORSHIP!**

That's right, our last Summer Sunday Worship is Labor Day week-end, September 4th. The next Sunday, September 11th, will begin our Fall Worship and Programs, as Rally Sunday kicks off the beginning of the 2011-12 Sunday School year. We will go back to the 8 and 10:15 am worship schedule. Make sure you put the change in your calendar and remember you are always welcome in God's House, here at Luther Memorial Church!



**SPECIAL WELCOME TO  
LuRAE HALLSTROM!**

Beginning Sunday, August 14th, LuRae Hallstrom will become the TEEM intern here at Luther Memorial. She will be working 20 hours a week and be responsible for three new emerging programs here at the church: Women's Bible Study & Faith Growth, Children's After School Programming, and Senior Citizen Programming. In addition, she will occasionally lead worship, teach confirmation and preach once a month. LuRae will also be doing seminary class work at the same time. We are excited to have LuRae begin her ministry training here at LMC and are looking forward to celebrating, in several years, her becoming an ordained pastor in the ELCA.



# Ushers Needed

## USHERS NEEDED FOR THE FALL MONTHS!

We are in need of ushers for the fall months for both the 8 am & 10:15 am worship services. If you can't usher the whole month, how about two Sundays? There are sign-up sheets on the South bulletin boards, and you can pick the time that works best for you. If you have questions, please contact Patty Engelbrecht at 402-269-3335



## SCOUT SUNDAY AUGUST 21ST

On Sunday, August 21st at 9 am, we will highlight the contributions and opportunities that scouting offers for both boys and girls. This is a great opportunity to encourage young people and their parents to consider scouting as a positive way of helping children grow into young adulthood. I truly believe that the values that scouting offers our young people are some of the best outside of our community of Faith, here at LMC. Come celebrate and learn about Scouting on Sunday, August 21st at 9 am.

**FAITH - FOOD & FAMILY** (Wednesday Evening Meals) Beginning Wednesday, September 7th at 5:30 pm at LMC, we will be serving meals for those who come from confirmation, children's programming time or for Evening Worship. The cost is \$3; those under five years are free. No family will have to pay more than \$15. This time of food and fellowship is to help busy families find time together, feed our hungry confirmation students and allow folks to have a good meal and come to Worship as well. For more information, contact us at the Church office.



## "JESUS AT THE BAR"

Because of the busy August schedule with the County Fair and the beginning of school, there will be NO "Jesus at the Bar" from August 16th - September 6th. We will begin again on Tuesday night, September 13th, at TC's at 6:30 pm. All are welcome and invited to this casual kick back discussion on a variety of topics. This isn't a Bible Study or Worship, but a time of food and discussion. Come as you are for "Jesus at the Bar"!



*Worship*

*Assistants*

# LUTHER MEMORIAL CHURCH

**August 2011 9:00 a.m. only**

## Service – 9:00 a.m.

### READERS

AUGUST 7

Deb Kuhr

AUGUST 14

Kent Kuhr

AUGUST 21 & 28

Sallie Agena

### ACOLYTES

AUGUST 7

Lauren P. & Kirsten S.

AUGUST 14

Emily W. & Jenna S.

AUGUST 21

Mack F. & Connor C.

AUGUST 28

Kiley H. & Morgan L.

### USHERS

AUGUST 7

Steve & Elaine Hofker  
Dale & Darla Johns

AUGUST 14

Dale & Darla Johns  
Billie Farley

AUGUST 21

Steve & Elaine Hofker  
Randy & Glenna Bohling

AUGUST 28

Steve & Elaine Hofker

### VISITATION

AUGUST

Carlene Keim

### VIDEO & AUDIO COORDINATOR

AUGUST 7

Jerry & Rhae Werner

AUGUST 14

Ron & Diane Hawkins

AUGUST 21

Arlin Rohlfs, Ron & Mary Ann Wenninghoff

AUGUST 28

Ole Schavland & Alan Maier

### \*POWER POINT OPERATOR

AUGUST 7

Madalynne S.

AUGUST 14

Ethan W.

AUGUST 28

Patty W.

**PLEASE GET YOUR OWN SUBSTITUTE, IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO SERVE!!**

# Youth & Family NEWS



## CHILDREN'S BELL CHOIR

The Children's Bell Choir would like to invite children Kindergarten through 5th grade to join this year! We will have lots of fun and only a minimal commitment of one practice and performance a month October through May. We will have the bells at Rally Sunday on Sept. 11th so the children can try them out to see if they like it. We will also be there to answer any questions and will have sign-up forms to send home.

Contact Roxy Schutz at 402-269-5866 with any questions.

## Blessing of the Backpacks

School  
Starts



We will have a blessing for all students, teachers and faculty at worship on **Sunday, August 21st**. As part of this, we will also have a blessing of the backpacks, tote bags, briefcases or whatever you'd like to bring for a blessing of your school or work.

August 18th!

PS - This is not just for those going to school.

Everyone can bring in an item that represents their work to be blessed.

## Our Congregational Promise!

We need everyone's help to insure we pass on our faith to our children and youth. So if you're able to help as a Sunday School teacher or with Confirmation as a small group guide,



## Sunday School Teacher & Confirmation Small Group Guide Training

All Sunday School Teachers and Confirmation Small Group Guides are asked to attend either ONE of two sessions to be trained, refreshed and/or re-energized for the vitally important ministry which you do with the youth of Luther Memorial. Please RSVP to the church office.  
Thanks!

# Confirmation & Luther League NEWS

Confirmation -  
Introduction Night  
& Parents Meeting

Luther League  
Leadership  
Team



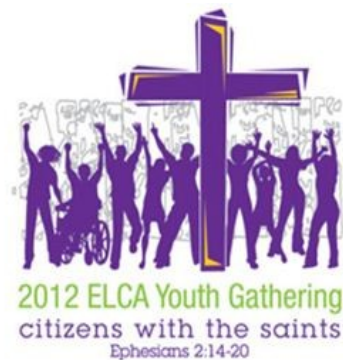
LEADERSHIP TEAM

Confirmation will start on September 7th. So, we will have an introduction to the year for all 6th - 8th grade students **AND** parents on Wednesday, August 31st at 6pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Any interested High School youth and adults are invited to be on the Luther League Leadership Team. This team will work with Pr. Mike to plan and organize Luther League activities as well as to publicize them. We will meet on **Sunday, August 21st at 6pm** to begin planning events for the following months. (It looks good on your resume for college!)

**CONFIRMATION**  
Planning  
Team

All confirmation students and parents are invited to be on the Confirmation Planning Team. We will meet on Sunday, August 21st at 10:15 am to plan out the fellowship and service activities for the year. So bring your ideas about how we can have fun together and serve others!



2012 ELCA Youth Gathering  
July 18 - 22 in New Orleans

Registration opens Oct. 9th for the 2012 Youth Gathering. We will have our first meeting to discuss our plans for this on Sunday, Sept. 11th at 6pm.



My deepest appreciation to all of you who have sent cards, shared gifts and helped Pastor Roger and I celebrate our 55th and 25th ordination anniversaries, respectively. I want to thank the Lay ministry committee, the church council and my family for your love, support and prayers. Bless all of you, as you have so richly blest me!!

Pastor Paul

What an outstanding, kind and thoughtful gesture— a gift of a lovely, fantastic, wonderful and charming wind chime. The gift was given by Luther Memorial Church during the parish picnic, June 17th, upon my 55th anniversary of ordination. THANK YOU and blessings as we all minister and share the grace of God in Christ Jesus!!

Pastor Hoffman

**WELCA NEWS. WELCA NEWS.** The next WELCA meeting will be September 7th at 9 am.

**Check out the school desk in the narthex!** The bags are made, but they need to be filled!!! WELCA is gathering items for the **School Kits for LWR**. Items needed are four 70-sheet notebooks, one 30-centimeter ruler, or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other, one pencil sharpener, one blunt scissors, five unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers; secure together with a rubber band, five ballpoint pens (no gel ink), and one box of 16 or 24 crayons. If you want to make bags, there is a NEW pattern in the kiosk. For more information, contact Carol Wallman, 402-269-3220..



to the July Ushers & Worship Assistants.

- to Jon Husen & Bill Wirth for work in the men's restroom so the new floor could be laid.
- to Bill Wirth for all of the "extra" outside work.
- to Deb Lamblin for going on the Luther League Mission Trip to Texas.
- Wendy Werner, Jeanette Wellsandt & Lynn Lyon for driving to Mahoney State Park Aquatic Park with confirmation kids.



## Thanks to all the volunteers who helped make VBS such a success!

- to the leadership team: Traci Bjork, Jamie Hesterman, Linda Liesemeyer, Linda Shanks, Jo Weiler, Pr. Mike Widner, & Terry Zimmers.

- to the family leaders, marketplace vendors, drama folks, game players, music leaders, youth helpers & general supporters: Carrie Brandt, Lindsey Bjork, Fred Bredehoeft, Shirley Conradi, Donna Crownover, Karen Danner, Andy DeGolyer, Brenda DeGolyer, Braxton DeGolyer, Cecilia Dilley, Moriah Dilley, Kathy Emanuel, Tina Engelbrecht, Pr. John Finster, Shirley Finster, Mitch Goering, Dottie Halvorsen, Emily Harsin, Haley Harsin, Ann Hoppe, Sam Hoppe, Baylee Hughes, Beccy Jensen, Betsy Jensen, Laurie Kuenning, Jo Lewis, Lisa Lintner, Sydney Lintner, Katie Mahar, Mariah McWilliams, Tracy McWilliams, Ally Mead, Tammie Mead, Paula Nichols, Cheryl Panko, Lauren Panko, Jennifer Panko-Rahe, Susanna Porter, Deana Reichmuth, Kirsten Schutz, Jordan Shanks, Jill Sprague, Andrea Stubbendick, Madalynne Stubbendick, Susan Thies, Sharon Underwood, Sam Varney, Amy Vodicka, Emily Wellsandt, Jeanette Wellsandt,

**And thanks to the congregation for supporting VBS!**

**Thanks also to the Syracuse Library for letting us use their lot!**

# CHURCH COUNCIL NEWS—Highlights of the July 13th meeting:

- Wednesday night meals will be offered beginning September 7<sup>th</sup>; funds will be reallocated from Blessed Evening with Friends to get it started, with free will donations funding the program long-term.
- The LMC newsletter will be changing to a quarterly publication; timeline of the change is yet to be determined.
- Work is in progress on fixing the odor in the men's restroom. Linoleum will be laid shortly; new vanities, sinks and faucets have been ordered for the women's and men's restrooms.
- The air conditioner on the south side of the building no longer works and needs to be replaced.
- Fall programming (confirmation, meals, children's ministry) will begin Wednesday, September 7<sup>th</sup>. The Council approved Pastor Mike's recommendation to hold a concert by "Tangled Blue" in place of worship that evening. Stillahn funds will pay for the program.

Jeanette Wellsandt  
Council Secretary



## MOVIE, TV & BOOK REVIEWS by Paul Coen, Senior Pastor

**“Tree of Life” Rated PG-13 \*\***  
**Currently in selected theaters.**  
This very deep and thoughtful movie is about creation, life and the value of life and what gives humanity worth. The movie is well written and acted and it has very positive usage of the Bible and theology. The big drawback with this movie is that only 40% of the film uses dialog. In other words, there is a lot of beautiful music and visuals, but little character interaction. I found this film very thought provoking, but not greatly entertaining. When or if you watch it, I am sure you will want to talk about it.

**“Cars 2” Rated G \*\***  
**Currently in theaters.** This Disney/Pixar collaboration is visually entertaining and the story is good for ages 7. However, I was there as a grandparent, with a five-year old, and we were both bored. The theme of “Be Yourself, because that is the best way to be”, is good and the animation makes up for a child-focused storyline. However, I have enjoyed other movies by Disney and Pixar that were for all age groups and this certainly was not one. When you go, there will not be much to talk about afterwards.

**“Season of the Witch” Rated PG-13 on DVD and Blue Ray \*** I was hoping for more and got a lot less! This film is visually interesting, but not much of a storyline or acting. Superstition and a violent Church make for a very negative understanding of faith in the Middle Ages. Consider a movie where the first 10 minutes focus on the violence of the Crusades, combined with Witch Trials and executions; this is not a good start. I found this movie to be overly violent, not very deep, with little or no positive moral or ethical messages. If you watch this movie, well I am sorry!