



Messenger

FEBRUARY 2012

Column by Mike Widner, Associate Pastor

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"And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.... He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us."
2 Corinthians 9:8-11

Back in October, Pastor Paul and I attended the Nebraska Synod Theological Conference in Kearney. Bishop DeFreese reminded us that we are a people of blessing. In Genesis, the Bible tells us how God blessed Abraham so that he would be a blessing to the rest of the world. We join Abraham in being blessed so that we will be a blessing, also to the rest of the world. Bishop DeFreese mentioned how church is **NOT** a place you go to; it is a place you go **FROM!** For many years now, he has been calling churches in our synod "Mission Centers" instead of "congregations". A "congregation" is a place where people congregate within the walls of a building. Whereas, the term "Mission Center" reminds us how that is a

place where we come together to be strengthened and taught in order to go out and do mission. When we go out into the world, we are in turn able to bless it simply by our presence OUT there in it. I think it is easy for us to get wrapped up in our lives and forget that we are called to bless the rest of the world. Parents remember it is your job to bless children. Children, it is your job to bless parents. Spouses, it is your job to bless each other. It is our job to bless our neighbors, co-workers, friends and everyone we meet – whether we know them or not (especially if we don't know them).

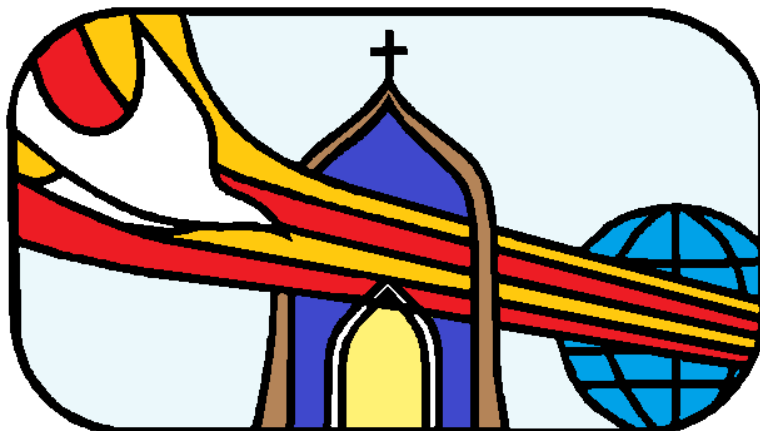
Think about how you have been blessed by people in many and various ways throughout your life. Then, take the opportunity to pass on those experiences and life lessons so that others are blessed by you. None of us have gotten where we are without the help of others. So now it is our joy to get to help someone else in thanksgiving to God for all the blessing we have received.

Shalom y'all

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

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Remember in Prayer...

Ginny Bartels
John Kastens
Peg Coen
Aiden Clarke

Kristy Clarke
Normadine Bredehoeft
John Bremer
Rev. Steve Billington

Levi & Dylan Woods
Ty Gorton
Frances Nicholson
Herman Mueller

Marvin Halvorsen
Phyllis Buessing
Karla Sitzman
Delores Bruns

Prayer is a very powerful aspect of our faith and in an effort to have more people praying for those in need, we will begin listing the names on our prayer list in the newsletter (see above) and will post them in the church lobby. This will serve as our ongoing prayer list and the weekly announcements prayer concerns will be limited to those “new” names that haven’t yet appeared in the newsletter or people who only want their name listed for a few weeks. When we publish the monthly newsletter, we will move all people who have been previously listed in the weekly announcements to the ongoing list. As prayer concerns arise, please continue to call the church office (or email) to have those names added



Luther Memorial Church Apparel

That's right - Luther Memorial Church Apparel! The Luther League will be selling T-shirts, Sweatshirts and Polo shirts as a fundraiser for the National Youth Gathering trip. Watch for more details to come soon.



DAFFODIL SUNDAY – MARCH 11 DEADLINE FOR ORDERING: February 12



Daffodil Days is one of the American Cancer Society’s oldest and most beloved fundraising programs. It celebrates the Society’s mission to eliminate cancer as a life-threatening disease by offering daffodils to donors in appreciation of their contributions.

If you would like to order daffodils, please complete this form and send it to **Donna Crossover , 370 S. 20th Road, Unadilla. 68454 or the church office. (Donna’s phone number 269-5522)** The deadline for ordering is February 12th.

An individual bouquet with 10 flowers is \$10; Sunshine Bouquet (10 stems & a vase is \$15), and a “Bear and a Bunch” with 10 daffodil stems if \$25. (see Daffodil Days flyer on kiosk in church lobby)

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

NUMBER BOUQUETS: _____ AMOUNT ENCLOSED _____

IN HONOR OF/OR IN MEMORY OF: _____

Make Checks payable to the American Cancer Society.



WHAT A DAY!!!! Sunday, January 22nd was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate Pastor Beckman’s 100th Birthday, invite visitors to come and join us on this special day and to begin the new year with a positive vision on Luther Memorial Lutheran Church and where it is going. My thanks to all of you who helped make this Sunday so very special! What an honor and privilege to give thanks to God for the ministry of Pastor Beckman and how our cup at LMC overflows with the blessings given to us by God. What a great day! Praise be to God!!!

WHY WE DO MISSION??

In 2011 we dedicated the mid-week offerings from both Lent and Advent to the ELCA's Malaria Project. This special approach to world mission is an important way to help others, to see our role in the greater world and teach our children about serving God by helping our neighbors, wherever they live. I believe that in 2012 we are still called to reach out to others in significant and concrete ways that encourage a vision that looks beyond the local and into the world beyond our boundaries, and even our comfort zones.

We are blessed with many members with generous hearts, an "Endowment Fund", the Elmer & Lois Stillahn Memorial and the Mission Matching Fund. Combined, we can do remarkable things to make the world a better place and teach our children and the world what it means to follow Christ by serving others. In the upcoming days and weeks you will be getting more information about our 2012 mission project. You will also hear about how we can individually or collectively help children, the homeless, the sick, those in prison and those whose lives that have been changed by natural disasters in life saving ways.

I believe that a mission center (church) that lives out its mission in the greater world is healthy and growing. Beside Christ, himself, has called us to do mission numerous times in God's Word. There is no lack for instructions from Jesus as to how we serve God best through mission.

If anyone has questions about the mission of Luther Memorial and the ministries that we lead and support, Pastor Paul is always willing to chat. I hope and pray that in 2012 we can change the world in the name of Jesus Christ and witness to future generations what a joy it is to serve God by helping others.



Pastor Paul, Pastor Mike & Mary would like to thank everyone for all the wonderful cards, thoughtful gifts and many words of appreciation. Your kind words and generous sharing is deeply appreciated by all of us. God Bless!

FOOD FOR THE POOR

LUTHER MEMORIAL & PASTOR PAUL,
Again thanks for the hospitality and the generous donation of \$2,207.00. This provided 44,140 meals for some of God's vulnerable children.

Jesus still comes to us in Starlight and Straw. Thanks for the gift - and I wish you a wonderful New Year.

Peace!
Bob Berger
Food for the Poor

Mel & I want to thank everyone so much for the pretty cards, phone calls and flowers; especially to our wonderful family for making our 70th anniversary so special.

God Bless you all,
Melvin & Irene Kuenning



LENT BEGINS WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22nd. Ash Wednesday is February 22nd, with our first service at 11:30 am at LindenView Assisted Living and the evening worship at Luther Memorial at 7 pm. Both services will have Holy Communion and the imposition of ashes. This will be the only Wednesday service in which NO meals will be served following the 11:30 am worship or preceding the 7 pm worship.

Beginning Wednesday, February 29th through March 28th, **our 11:30 am location will be at LindenView, followed by a meal;** Everyone is WELCOME TO COME THERE! The evening worship at Luther Memorial will be at 7 pm preceded by a supper beginning at 5:30 pm. We will have four dramas to highlight our Lenten worship experience in the evening. Holy Week begins April 1st. So, be sure to get these important dates on your calendar to help prepare yourself with Word and Sacrament, Prayer and Song, Drama and fellowship. We are looking forward to seeing you at our Lenten Worship!

Our theme for Lent this year is "Unity in Christ" and we will explore how we are united together in Christ, despite our myriad of differences, experiences and outlooks. In an effort to improve our unity (as well as to receive many other benefits), we are also embarking on a journey to be "Complaint Free" and we hope you join us. Philippians 2:14 says, "Do everything without complaining or arguing." Complaining has become such an automatic response to life's little setbacks that people don't even realize they're doing it. When things don't go the way we planned, when we have to do things that we don't want to do, when personalities clash, or when our patience runs thin, we often complain. However, the consequences of complaining can be hazardous, not only to our relationships, but to our spiritual, emotional, and physical health as well! Negative talk produces negative thoughts; negative thoughts produce negative results.

Reverend Will Bowen, founder of the Complaint Free World campaign, writes, "When we complain, we are using our words to focus on things that are not as we would like. Our thoughts create our lives and our words indicate what we are thinking. It is vital that we control our minds in order to re-create our lives." The first step to controlling your minds is to become aware of what comes out of your mouth. By Bowen's logic, once you notice your complaints, you'll start to notice your negative thoughts and can learn to reframe them with more positive ones. Then you'll be happier and healthier.

Therefore, we are providing purple (the color of Lent) bracelets to help us in this pursuit. The challenge is to go 21 consecutive days without complaining, criticizing, griping, gossiping or using sarcasm. For how to use the bracelets and other information, check out the Welcome Center beginning in Lent. A common practice during Lent is to give up something - so this year, you can tell people you are giving up complaining



beLOVED After School Program

**Dodge Ball Tournament /
Concessions and Bake Sale
Sunday, February 19, 2012
Unadilla Community Center (Gymnasium)**

Registration: 4:00 p.m., \$3.00 per person suggested donation
Pre-registration available at beLOVED on Wednesday, Feb. 15th.

Ages: K-4th Bring your friends! Teams will be assigned

Questions: Call Pastor Andrew DeGolyer at 402-873-2125
or LuRae Hallstrom at 402-269-7147

Soup Dinner / Silent Auction

March 25, 2012

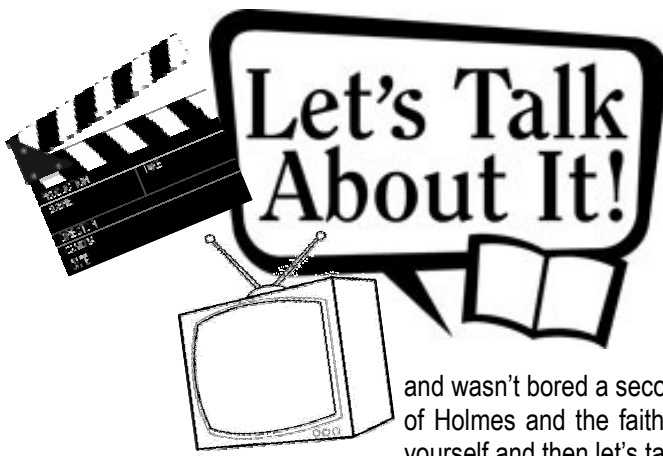
Fair Center

120 Plum St.

Syracuse, NE

Serving 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Silent Auction ends promptly at 1:00 p.m.



Movie, TV & Book Reviews

by Paul Coen, Senior Pastor

"Sherlock Holmes #2"

Rated PG-13 in theaters

*****1/2**

This is a fun and exciting movie that follows Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson as they battle their arch villain, Dr. Moriarty. I enjoyed this movie a whole lot and wasn't bored a second. This new version still stays true to the remarkable mind and detective work of Holmes and the faithfulness of Dr. Watson who is no slouch himself. Go to this movie and enjoy yourself and then let's talk about it!!!

"The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo"

Rated R in theaters

This film is a powerful and violent one with graphic sex and hideous violence. Yet the mystery and the relationships are told in such remarkable ways that you get hooked. This is a very good story, but not for everyone. The struggle between good and evil sometimes gets mixed up with what is just and legal, but only when it comes to trying to defeat evil. This movie falls into the area of an excellent movie, but not always a fun one. You have to have a strong stomach and open mind to be able to watch this movie to see the heart of the story.

"Super Volcano" novel by Harry Turtledove.

This new novel by the author, Harry Turtledove, is a set up for a series of books that follow what happens to the United States and the World after the eruption of a Super Volcano in Yellowstone Park. The novel begins slow, gets exciting midway through and slows down again. The science of the eruption is very interesting and the characters don't really grab you. I found the story predictable and not all what I had hoped for as in previous Turtledove novels. If you read it, we can talk about it.

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

January 18, 2012

- Fred Bredehoeft & LuRae Hallstrom were approved for nomination to represent LMC at this year's Synod Assembly & Feb. 4th Cluster meeting in Nebr. City. Two more delegates are needed and should notify the office, if interested.
- A potential TEEM site for LuRae Hallstrom has surfaced - American Lutheran Church in Filley, NE; and is on the agenda for candidacy committee approval in February.
- Agenda for the semi-annual meeting was approved.
- Council approved the slate of nominees for Council positions: Roger Kuenning, VP; Karen Danner, Treasurer; Bill Schulte, Education; Annette Block, Parish Ministry; and Fred Bredehoeft, Lay Ministry. The Stewardship position remains open; members should notify one of the Pastors or any Council member if interested.
- The offerings from the upcoming mid-week Lenten services will be donated to Nebraska Lutheran Campus Ministries.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeanette Wellsandt, Council Secretary.

- To everyone who wrote Advent Devotions for the 2011 booklet.
- To the January worship assistants.
- To Stephanie Kosiba for driving to the LL Bowling event and Dan Watermeier's for the use of their suburban.
- To Jeff Hoppe & Loren Stubbendick for providing transportation for the Confirmation skating party.
- To Roger Kuenning and Carol Wallman & family for setting up the Nativity scenes.
- To Beccy Jensen, Julie Werner & Ann Hoppe for coordinating the semi-annual LL meal.
- To Penny & Mary M. for assisting in the office when Mary was on vacation!



Youth & Family NEWS

It's Never too Late to Become a Better Parent!

Dr. Kevin Leman

**value-
packed
parenting**

Raising Rock-Solid Kids
in a Pleasure-Driven World

Did you say it starts at 10:15am? Yes, this class will be happening at the same time as worship, but what we will be learning and discussing can be seen as another way of worshipping and so the pastors are encouraging attendance by any and all parents who are interested.

Call the church office to RSVP!!!

STARTING Sunday, February 5th at 10:15am, we will offer "Value-Packed Parenting". This is a video curriculum by internationally-known psychologist, Dr. Kevin Leman.

It includes seven timely lessons for today's parents:

The 10 Best Gifts You'll Ever Give Your Kids

How to Listen so Kids will Talk

& How to Talk so Kids will Listen

Discipline isn't Spelled P-U-N-I-S-H-M-E-N-T

10 Ways to Improve Your Child's Self-Confidence

Caution: Anger Ahead!

Birth Order—and What You Need to Know About It

Standing up to the New Goliath (helps kids overcome the negative influences of the internet, media & technology)

- Parents are asked to contribute \$10 for the cost of the workbook (but don't let this deter you).
- Childcare will available if you tell us of your need for it beforehand for children up to age 7. Older children (7 and above) are still encouraged to attend worship in the sanctuary. We will have some other adults and high school youth who will sit with these children to help out as needed.
- We will meet in the Youth Room.



Confirmation Laser Tag

Feb. 26th at 11:15am

Meet at church to head to Lincoln for lunch and then to Laser Tag. Bring \$16 (for two games) and money for lunch.

Let Pr. Mike know if you want to go by Feb. 23rd. Y'all can bring friends but only if you RSVP so we can get drivers.



Luther League



2012 ELCA Youth Gathering
citizens with the saints
Ephesians 2:14-20

2012 ELCA National Youth Gathering NEWS

Getting Ready!!

REQUIRED MEETING:

Sunday, February 19th at 6:00pm

We will spend some time together exploring the importance of New Orleans as well as the theme "Citizens with the Saints".



Luther League Lock-In

on Sunday, February 19th at 7:00pm

There is no school on Monday, Feb. 20th - so let's have a lock-in. We'll start after the Gathering meeting ends (around 7ish) until 9am on Monday.

WE WILL be sleeping some so bring a sleeping bag, pillows, etc.

RSVP to Pr. Mike by Wed., February 15th.

Luther Memorial Church

Apparel

That's right - Luther Memorial Church Apparel! The Luther League will be selling T-shirts, Sweatshirts and Polo shirts as a fundraiser for the National Youth Gathering trip. Watch for more details to come soon.



LMC Scholarship applications

will be available February 12th on the Welcome Center. All applications are due to the church office by April 1st.



Come join us in the youth room on the 2nd & 4th Wednesday night of each month for Youth Group at 7:30ish. We will have food, play some FUN games and discuss "Sticky Faith: Nurturing Faith Beyond High School" (at least for now). Talk to Pr. Mike if you have questions. Friends are welcome!





Worship

Assistants

LUTHER MEMORIAL CHURCH

1st

Service – 8:00 am

2nd

Service – 10:15 am

READERS

February 5
February 12
February 19
February 26

Deb Kuhr
Carlene Keim
Kent Kuhr
Carlene Keim

Goldie Badberg
Bill Wirth
Beccy Jensen
Bev Sporhase

ACOLYTES

February 5

February 12

February 19

February 26

Brendon L
Morgan L

Christian F
Cody F

Connor C
Izaak P

Jenna S
Laura B

Kiley H
Kirsten S

Morgan L
Brendon L

Christian F
Cody F

Connor C
Izaak P

USHERS

FEBRUARY

Gary & Ellen Kuenning
Bruce & Carlene Keim

Brent & Regan Harsin
Jeff & Ann Hoppe

VISITATION

FEBRUARY

Don & Sharon Harms

VIDEO & AUDIO
*POWER POINT
OPERATORS

February 5

February 12

February 19

February 26

Jerry & Rhae Werner
*Emily W

Eric Lamblin & Alan Maier
*Madeline W

Ron & Mary Ann Wenninghoff
Arlin Rohlfs

Andy Brace & Jim Pfeiffer
*Nathan H

Alan Maier & Eric Lamblin
*Carlie K

Ron & Diane Hawkins
*Patty W

Dan Watermeier & Eric Lamblin
*Lauren G

Eric Lamblin & Alan Maier
*Kobe B

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

