



Luther Memorial  
Church ELCA

# Messenger

OCTOBER 2011

## Pastor's Logos [word]

Column by Mike Widner, Associate Pastor

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One day, a professor picked up a large empty jar and proceeded to fill it with some large rocks. He then asked his students if the jar was full. To which, they unanimously agreed that the jar was full. So the professor then picked up a box of smaller rocks and placed them in the jar. These rocks settled into the open places and he then asked if the jar was full. Again, the students agreed that the jar was full.

Then the professor picked up a box of pebbles, gravel and sand and poured them into the jar. He gently shook the jar and the pebbles rolled into the remaining open areas between all the rocks. He then asked the students if the jar was full. Yet again, the students agreed that the jar was full and there was room for nothing else. Then the professor picked up a pitcher of water and poured it into the jar. Naturally, the water filled in all the crevices and minuscule spaces left.

The professor said, "Now, the jar is full! I want you to recognize that this is your life. The large rocks are the important things: your family, your spouse, your friends, your health, your faith and things that if everything else was lost and only they remained, your life would still be full. The small rocks are the other things that matter like your job, your house, your car. The pebbles, gravel, sand and water is everything else. If you put the sand into the jar first, there is no room for the small or large rocks. The same goes for your life. If you spend all your time and energy on the small stuff, you will never have room for the things that are important to you."

Many of you may have seen this story before. It is such a powerful illustration and a great reminder for all of us. I've been thinking a lot



lately of how busy we all are in life. So many things are placing demands upon our schedules. We have work and school and the rush every morning to get ready for the day ahead. We have chores around the house, the lawn to mow, the toilets to clean, and piles of laundry to do. For those of us with children still at home, we have homework to do and extracurricular activities to taxi them to and from. For those who are "retired", your to-do lists have grown exponentially compared to when you were just "tired 😊" (before retirement when you worked in your career's). Grandparents try to keep track of all the grandkids and their schedules. The list is endless! So what are the "large rocks" (priorities) in your life?

One thing we forget is the power we have to say "No!" or to ask that things get rescheduled. If you don't say no and keep some time set apart for yourself and your family, then no one else will set that time apart either. Others will continue to make demands upon your time. God gave us the example of resting on the seventh day for a reason! (Remember the third commandment – "Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy.") God knows our ability to get caught up in everything there is to get done, but God

knows even more so, the importance of resting and spending time together with our loved ones. Holy means "to set apart for a special purpose". PLEASE for the sake of your own well-being, find a day (it doesn't have to be Sunday) that can serve as your "Sabbath" and set it aside from the rest of the chaos in your life so that you can make room for the priorities in your jar. Remind me to do this too! Thanks!!

Shalom y'all!

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

Phone: 402-269-2360

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

"Be still. . .and know that I am God."

Psalm 46:10

## Gracious Women

Learning together in Faith and Fellowship

Monday, October 17th, 2011, 7 - 8 pm  
Luther Memorial Church Fellowship Hall,  
"LISTENING FOR GOD"

All women of faith are welcome.

Please RSVP to 269-2360 by October 14th so  
that we can have ample materials.



Anyone interested in joining LMC (or if you just want to know more about this community of faith) is invited to come to the **New Member Class** on Sunday, October 2nd

at 11:30 am. Food and beverages will be provided. We should be done in less than 90 minutes and all are welcome! Please RSVP by September 30th. If you cannot make this class, please contact the church office and we will find a time we can meet. We will be welcoming new members at both services on Sunday, October 9th or at 7 pm on Wednesday, October 5th. Come, see and hear what God is calling all of us to be at Luther Memorial Church!!



**WELCA NEWS.** The next WELCA meeting will be November 2nd at 1 pm. The next **Blanket Work Day** will be October 10th at 8:30. Seventeen blankets were completed in September and that makes 103 that are ready for LWR!!

WELCA has asked that anyone who is furnishing cakes for funerals, now bring frosted cupcakes instead of sheet cakes. One cake mix makes approximately 2 dozen cupcakes.

A new coffee - **Tanzanian Jubilee** - has arrived. It is light and exotic coffee and is available in the Fair Trade Display. Try the tea & enjoy the other Fair Trade products!!!

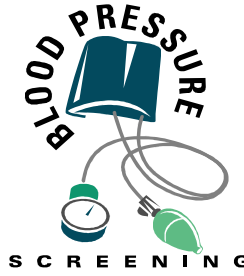
**COMMITMENT SUNDAY - OCTOBER 16TH** On Sunday, October 16th at both services we will be handing out commitment cards for folks to fill out. You are being asked to estimate your giving/offering for the year 2012. You don't have to put your name on the card and you can estimate it by the week, by the month or for the year. This will help us in planning for next year. Studies have shown that when people make a commitment, they generally fulfill it and giving, in general for all members, is usually 15% to 25% higher. Please take note that this is entirely voluntary and that all the information is completely confidential. We will also give the folks on Wednesday, October 19th, the same opportunity. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Paul.





## "beLOVED"

"beLOVED", after school program, got off to an exciting start on Wednesday, September 14th with 39 students, 10 youth helpers and 3 adult helpers. We will meet every Wednesday, this month, except October 26th. It is not too late to register as a student (K-4th) or as a youth or adult helper (which are desperately needed). Contact the church office (269-2360) for additional information and registration forms.



## FREE BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING

October 16th  
from 9:00 am - 10:15 am at  
Luther Memorial Fellowship Hall.

Screening provided by  
Health Care Professionals  
who are members of LMC.



**Update from the Food Pantry** - Through the end of August, we have already received 95 requests for food, which is way ahead of where we normally are at this time. Donations are always appreciated and can be placed in the shopping cart on the steps in the NW corner of the building. Some suggested items would include: pancake mix and syrup, meal helpers (beef or tuna), mac n cheese, can vegetables or fruits, instant rice or potatoes. Or if you prefer, you can drop off monetary donations at church or at First National Bank and they will be deposited in our account. We then use the money to purchase the items we need as well as gift certificates for perishables. Thanks for your support and thanks also to our members who volunteer their time to fill orders or take food down to the pantry!



## Faith Food & Family

### FAITH, FOOD & FAMILY

#### October Menu:

- October 5: Biscuits & gravy, fruit
- October 12: Chicken noodle soup, meat sandwich, fruit
- October 19: Lasagna, bread sticks
- October 26: Chili dogs, French fries, pudding

Wednesday night meals are continuing in October. A suggested donation of \$3.00 is suggested for anyone 6 years and older, and no more than \$15 per family. Come have a good meal, good fellowship and stay for 7 pm worship!!!!

## NEBRASKA SYNOD PRISON MINISTRIES

The Nebraska Synod has initiated a fund raising campaign to raise money for four programs in the Nebraska Synod Prison Ministries.

- Followers of Christ Church in the Nebraska State Penitentiary
- Bridges to Hope - a program to help former prisoners make the transition to life on the outside, with clothing, household furnishings / supplies, other assistance, and friendship.
- The FEAST - a program at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Lincoln bringing prisoners to worship, Sunday dinner and classes on life issues.
- Muriel's Fund - a fund set up to provide continuing support for prison ministry.

Here's how you can help:

- Attend the "Freed for Life" dinner (or buy a table) on November 13, 2011, 6 - 8 pm at Sheridan Lutheran Church in Lincoln.
- Make a cash donation.
- Buy an advertisement in the Freed for Life dinner booklet.

The address for donations, reservations, etc. is Freed for Life, PO Box 292, Ashland, NE 68003. For more information, contact Pastor Bud Christenson by phone at 402-499-2763 or by email at [rmcmclc@windstream.net](mailto:rmcmclc@windstream.net) or Pastor Bob Bryan at 402-640-7145 or [bob.bryan@nebraskasynod.org](mailto:bob.bryan@nebraskasynod.org).



### WHY USHERS & GREETERS????

When someone comes to your house for a party, you greet them at the door and if they don't know folks, you introduce them to others and of course, show them where the food and fun is. Right?

Well, we are the surrogate hosts at God's House (church). It is our responsibility to meet and greet folks as they come in. If they are new, we welcome and introduce them to others. We show them where things are and are willing to answer their questions. Also, as surrogate hosts (ushers & greeters), we make sure the party goes well: ushering folks up for communion, receiving the offering, helping folks who need our assistance and of course, welcoming them into God's House and then out into the world (mild form of crowd control).

We need our members to help with ushering and greeting at **every service on Sunday**, and soon on Wednesday night because of growing popularity, as well. However if you haven't helped in the past, **WE WANT YOU!!!** If in the past you have just handed out the paper with announcements, as many of us have, then we need to be aware how important it is to be hosts just like at home. God is counting on us and so are those who come to worship at LMC. Thank you!



### OUTREACH COMMITTEE, NEBRASKA SYNOD

In October the Nebraska Synod Outreach Committee will meet with the Cluster Groups for their annual Fall Doing. The Rolling Hills Cluster (LMC belongs to this group) will meet October 9th at 2 pm at St. Paul's, Auburn. Each congregation is asked to bring items for a Care Package to be distributed at the Prison. We are asking our congregation to donate any of the following items for the Prison Ministry: (one each)

- |                               |                |
|-------------------------------|----------------|
| Measuring cup/spoon set       | Hot Pad        |
| Hand can opener               | Dish clothes   |
| Dish Soap                     | Stirring Spoon |
| Spatula                       | Scrubby Sponge |
| Pint sized storage containers |                |
| "flour sack" cloth/towel      |                |



*Worship*

*Assistants*

# LUTHER MEMORIAL CHURCH

## OCTOBER 2011

		1 <sup>st</sup> <u>Service – 8:00 am</u>	2 <sup>nd</sup> <u>Service – 10:15 am</u>
<u>READERS</u>	October 2	Marcy Paden	Fred Britton
	October 9	Ron Wenninghoff	Susan Wellman
	October 16	Jenniffer Panko-Rahe	Susan Wellman
	October 23	Jenniffer Panko-Rahe	Jenny Panko
	October 30	Jenniffer Panko-Rahe	Fred Britton
<u>ACOLYTES</u>	October 2	Abigail H Sydney P	Lauren G Alyssa R
	October 9	Madeline W Patty W	Ethan W Nathan H
	October 16	Ethan W Nathan H	Madeline W Patty W
	October 23	Madalynne S Grant H	Mackenzie D Aubrieanna K
	October 30th	Mackenzie D Aubrieanna K	Madalynne S Grant H
<u>USHERS</u>	October 2 & 9	Ron & Mary Meyer, John & Dee Rudolph	Harsin Family, Bill & Marilyn Farmer
	October 16 & 23	Ron & Mary Meyer, John & Dee Rudolph	Bill & Marilyn Farmer, Jon & Barb Hughes
	October 30	Ron & Mary Meyer, John & Dee Rudolph	Jon & Barb Hughes, Bruce & Kerri Meyer
<u>VISITATION</u>	OCTOBER	Jane Coen	
<u>VIDEO &amp; AUDIO</u> <u>*POWER POINT</u> <u>OPERATORS</u>	October 2	Jerry & Rhae Werner *Mack F	*Kobe B
	October 9	Eric Lamblin & Alan Maier *Madalynne S	Ron & Diane Hawkins *Tanner H
	October 16	Ron & Mary Ann Wenninghoff Arlan Rohlf	Dan Watermeier *Justin H
	October 23	Andy Brace & Jim Pfeiffer *Lauren P	*Carlie K
	October 30	*Joshua P	* Alyssa R

# Youth & Family NEWS



All 3rd grade students (and older students who have not yet received communion training)\* are invited to a training session and lunch on **October 23rd** at **11:30am** in the Fellowship Hall. Please RSVP to the church office by Thursday, Oct. 16th. Child care is available if you tell us of the need.

\* - younger children may receive training if parents think they are ready - please talk to one of the pastors.



## Children's Ministry:

### Family Fall Festival

October 9, 2011

2 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Carol Joy Holling, Ashland

Come and enjoy an afternoon at Camp Carol Joy Holling! They will be having **free** fun for the whole family including a moon walk, hiking, face painting, hayrack rides, zipline rides (for anyone 2nd grader and older) and fun activities at the lake such as fishing, canoeing and paddle boating!

Don't miss out on this fun afternoon enjoying a few of camp's fun activities!

**NO beLOVED or Confirmation on Oct. 26th due to the Parent / Teacher conferences**



Confirmation  
Bonfire &  
Hayrack Ride  
October 15,  
4:00 - 7:00 pm

Look for more details to come soon, but **SAVE THE DATE!** If you know you plan on going, tell Pr. Mike.

## Middle School Gathering

December 28 - 29, 2011

at Sheridan Lutheran, Lincoln

It'll be a luau in the middle of winter!! The theme is "Heat It Up" and we'll explore Matthew 5:16 (go look it up). There will be a live band, an indoor "snowball" fight, service projects around Lincoln, high energy fun, & meaningful worship—all in one overnight experience.



Talk to Pr. Mike if you're interested.  
Early Bird registration: \$50 by 10/31  
Reg. Bird registration: \$60 by 11/30

# 9th Grade Confirmation

## Sunday Morning Events / Reminders

10/2 - Faith Statements Due

10/9 - Serving trip to People's City Mission

10/16 - Faith Statement Presentation /

Dinner w/ church council & parents

10/23 - Worship at Sheridan Luth. Church



Confirmation Rehearsal  
& Pictures

Saturday, Oct. 29th, 9am



Happy Fall Y'all!

# Luther League

## Haunted House: Mystery Manor

Sat., Oct. 22<sup>nd</sup> - Admission cost is \$10 but go online to print a \$1 coupon

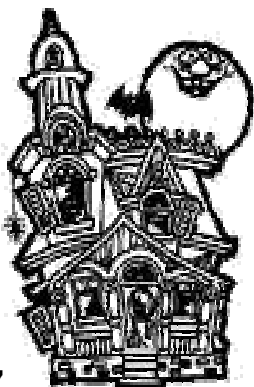
[www.mysterymanoromaha.org/tickets-schedule.php](http://www.mysterymanoromaha.org/tickets-schedule.php). We

will meet at church about 6:30pm to head up to Omaha. HOWEVER, if you are in band and want a ride from Lincoln, talk to

Emmie Kosiba (but also be sure to get permission from Ms. Poe).

Either way, please RSVP to Pr. Mike so we know who is planning to be there.

Friends welcome but must RSVP too.



## LYON Assembly:

### Extreme Faith Makeover

Lutheran Youth of Nebraska will be gathering November 18-20 in Kearney for a fun weekend of service work throughout the area. There will be an opening concert by AGAPE & Rachel Kurtz (both of whom will be performing at the National Youth Gathering) and Tangled Blue will provide music for the rest of the weekend.

If you're interested, talk to Pr. Mike SOON! Discounted registration of \$150 ends Oct. 7th. Otherwise, the cost is \$180.


# Church Council NEWS



## Highlights of September 21st meeting:

New pictorial directory will be done in November  
 Property Committee will host a workday soon.  
 Approved necessary adjustments to the TEEM Program.  
 Approved the Long Range Planning Committee to investigate any possible use for LMC of the Railsback house, currently for sale, across the street on Mohawk.

Jeanette Wellsandt,  
 Council Secretary



October is Pastor Appreciation Month. It is a time to recognize Pastor Paul and Pastor Mike for the many wonderful things they do in guiding us on our own personal faith journeys, as well as helping us fulfill our mission at Luther Memorial.

Please take time to thank them for their service to Luther Memorial and please continue to pray for them as they help this congregation and community in connecting through faith.  
 Lay Ministry Committee

## MOVIE, TV & BOOK REVIEWS

By Paul Coen, Senior Pastor

The Fall line-up of Television/Cable shows are now on your home screens and what is good and what isn't is always in the eye of the beholder. Some returning series that still make the grade are:

- "Big Bang Theory"
- "Castle"
- "Blue Bloods"
- "The Good Wife"
- "The Mentalist"

Some new shows that could make the grade:

- "Ringer"
- "Unforgettable"
- "A Person of Interest"

Some new really bad shows:

- "The Playboy Club"
- "Two Broke Girls"
- "I Hate my Teenage Daughter"


Movies in the Theaters that I recommend:

- "The Help"
- "Captain America"
- "Dolphin Tale"

Movies on DVD I recommend:

- "X-Men First Class"
- "Pirates of the Caribbean 4"
- "Winnie the Pooh"

So, when you get the time, which I know is in short supply, check some of these suggestions out and let's talk about them.



- to the September Ushers and Worship Assistants.
- to the Evangelism Committee for organizing the Fair Booth and the float for the parade.
- to everyone who tended the booth and rode in the parade.
- Many thanks to Ole Schavland for all his work with the Worship & Music Committee and with the audio/video department. Ole will be moving to Washington in October. Good luck!!