



Vol. 68-2

THRU THE WINDOWS

St. John's Lutheran Church
Bennington, Nebraska

February 2008



February 6, 2008

**Disposition of Ashes-Holy Communion
10:00am and 7:00pm**

February 2008

ACOLYTES

Feb 3

8:30am Layne Laaker
11:00am Paige Depperman

Feb 6

7:00pm Paige Depperman
Michaela DiMauro

Counters

Jim Peterson, Jim Pinegar, Mert Opfer

Lectors/Cantors

Feb 3

8:30am Wade Junker

Feb 10

8:30am Lector: Heather Goertz
Cantor: Jan Braden

Feb 17 TBD

Feb 24

8:30am Lector: Julie Dunn
Cantor: Angie Sukraw

ALTAR

Janet Finken-Olsen
Holly Peterson

GREETERS

Feb 3

8:30am Ted & Suzanne Kirby
11:00am Roxanne Lenhart

Feb 10

8:30am Dick & Leanna Flynn
11:00am Amond & Delores Ohms

Feb 17

8:30am Ted & Suzanne Kirby
11:00am Roxanne Lenhart

Feb 24

8:30am Dick & Leanna Flynn
11:00am Amond & Delores Ohms

USHERS

Feb 3

8:30am Mark & Karla Backhuus
11:00am Nic & Stacy Laue

Feb 10

8:30am Butch & JoAnn Redel
11:00am Stacy & Nic Laue

Feb 17

8:30am David & Mary Larsen
11:00am Rob & Di Loptin

Feb 24

8:30am Curt & Jane Frost
11:00am Mark & Karla Backhuus

Lenten Journey-2008

Greetings Members and Friends of St. John's:

The Season of Lent is upon us. Lent is the season of the church year that is set aside for us to go on a spiritual journey, a pilgrimage if you will, walking with Jesus through the scriptures as Jesus makes his way to Jerusalem, and to the Cross where He will die to take our sins away.

Our Spiritual Journey will begin on **Ash Wednesday February 6**. On that day we will be offering two services for you to attend, either at 10am or 7pm that evening. Holy Communion will be offered at both services to strengthen you for your journey. During our Ash Wednesday Worship Service you will be invited to come forward for the imposition of ashes. The sign of the Cross is made on your forehead and you will be asked to remember that you are mortal with the saying, "From dust you came and to dust you shall return."

Then beginning on Wednesday February 13th, we will gather for a **Soup Supper** from **5:30 to 6:30**, just a simple meal to share as we enter into the life and ministry of Jesus Christ our Lord as we follow Him through Lent.

After our Soup Supper we will remain in the Fellowship Hall and begin working our way through Jim Cymbala's workbook and DVD, "**When God's People Pray**," from **6:30 to 7:30**. Each week there will be a different topic on prayer so be sure to bring your Bibles. We will watch a DVD and continue with our workbooks on the following topics:

1st week – God's Heart for Prayer

2nd week – The Amazing Power of Prayer

3rd week – Obedience in Prayer

4th week – The Word of God and Prayer

5th week – Why Prayer Matters

At **7:30** we'll **gather for Worship** in the sanctuary as we close the evening using the **Holden Evening Prayer service**.

My prayer for you is that through your participation in the **Breaking of Bread, in Prayer and in Worship** that you will experience a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ our Lord, His life, His suffering and the joy of His resurrection on Easter morning. May God bless us all as we journey with Christ these next 40 Days and may we rise to newness of life with Christ on Easter morning. See you in church, Pastor Jim Price

At the Sunday, January 27 annual congregational meeting the three Church Council Resolutions Passed.

Be it resolved:

1. - That St. John's Lutheran Church hire a part-time bookkeeper for 2008 at \$15/hr.
- 2 - That the budget for 2008 be adopted.
- 3 - That St. John's Lutheran Church support the Nebraska Synod Campaign for Leadership and Youth at \$35,000 from the Endowment Fund to be paid out on or before June 1, 2008.

At the January 27 congregational annual meeting, the following individuals were elected to the Church Council for a 3 year term: Scott Pierson, Jim Pinegar (incumbent), John McClelland and Dana Tompkins. Grace Baty was elected to a 2 year term. Greg Stichler was elected to the Endowment Fund Committee for a 5 year term.



Thank You to Wayne Andersen, Jan Braden, Sandra Kander and Ted Kirby, who completed their term of service on the Church Council and to Terry Loptin who completed his term of service on the Endowment Fund Committee.

Please help us save postage. Your 2008 offering envelopes can be picked up from your church mailbox located in the Fellowship Hall Foyer.

The 2008 altar flower chart is posted in the Fellowship Hall if you would like to sign up to give flowers during the year.

Men's Ministry Breakfast Meeting – Feb 9th

This month's Men's Ministry breakfast meeting will be **Saturday, February 9** at 7:15 beginning with a full breakfast, followed by the "That the World May Know" Video Bible Study, "*In the Dust of the Rabbi*," with Ray Vander Laan. Afterwards we will discuss the Adult Mission Trip that six members of St. John's will be going on February 9-18 to Ocean Springs, MS to rebuild hurricane damaged homes. We will be discussing our involvement in the "House for Jackson" project underway here in our community and how we can get involved along with other projects that we are working on. All men are invited to attend and are warmly welcomed. Come hungry.

If you want to take your sweetheart out to celebrate

Valentine's Day, here is your chance! The CFC will be sponsoring a Sweetheart Dinner at Boyd and Charlie's in Elkhorn on **Saturday, February 16** at 6:30. This event is open to EVERYONE! The cost is \$15 per person or \$30 per couple. We need to have a definite count by Monday, February 11.



We will be reserving that number of people to attend and have to pay for all of those who make the commitment. To reserve your place contact :

Kays 238-2529 Sukraws 238-2672 Kadings 399-0143

Remember, we need your response by February 11, 2008.

Hope to see you there!

If you are interested in being a congregational delegate for the synod assembly at Heartland Event Center in Grand Island, NE, May 30-June 1. Please contact the church office or check your "Sign Up" Opportunities form located in your bulletin.

The theme will be **Grace † Gratitude † Giving**

Next Inquirer's Class forming

Our next series of Inquirer's classes begin in February for those who are interested in becoming members before Easter this year. Pastor will hold two classes, the first on February 24, and the second on March 2. The classes will begin at **7:00pm** in the upstairs Conference Room next to the church narthex. Each class will last approximately 1 ½ hours. A make up class will be offered on March 9 for anyone who is unable to attend on 2/24 or 3/2. New Members will be received on Palm Sunday, **March 16**. A New Member luncheon will follow the second service. If you have any questions or are interested in being part of the next Inquirer's Class, you can sign up by using the back of your Worship Registration form found inside your Sunday bulletin, or by contacting the church office @ 238-2483.

1st Communion Class coming soon

5th and 6th Graders, along with their parent(s) and anyone else wishing to take Holy Communion during worship, are invited to attend the next 1st Communion Class that will be held on **Saturday, March 1 from 9am to Noon** in the Fellowship Hall. Please register your student and let us know how many will be attending with you so that we can prepare enough food and materials for the class. This is a wonderful class that both students and adults will enjoy. You can sign up by using the Worship Registration form found in your Sunday bulletin or by contacting the church office @ 238-2483.

Save the date-March 3rd.

Bennington Lions Club will hold their 6th annual BBQ Rib Feed at St. John's Lutheran Church.

ALL YOU CAN EAT:

Featherbone BBQ ribs, corn fritters, cole slaw, baked beans

Serving 4:30pm-7:30pm Carry Outs Available

Advance Tickets Adults-\$10 Ages 5-12-\$5 Under 5-free

Tickets available from Lions members or call 238-2131/238-2851

Proceeds will go towards the Jakson House project, LCIF Campaign Sight First II, graduate scholarships, and other community projects

A Bennington Community blood drive is scheduled for February 18 from 2-6:45pm in the lower level. If you would like to give blood, please call Carol Iltzsch at 672-4718.

Pre-school Registration

Dear Families:

The preschool is going very well. We have a new child on MWF mornings who just moved her from Milwaukee. The children have welcomed him and he fits right in. The registration open house for next fall will be **March 13, 6-7:30pm**. If you are interested and want a space, please let me know ASAP. There is a \$50.00 registration fee and classes offered are as follows

M W F 8:30-11:00 for children turning 4 by October 1

T TH 8:30-11:00am for children turning 3 by October 1

M T W TH F 12:30-3 for children turning 5 by December 31

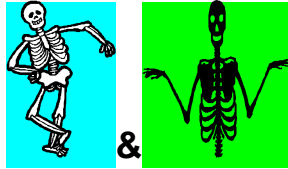
The 5 day afternoon class is for children who miss the cut-off date for kindergarten or if a parent feels they are just not ready to start kindergarten 5 full days as their birthday is late summer. The 5's program will include kindergarten readiness skills, sign language, and some Spanish or French lessons. The 3 day morning program is \$100 per month, the 2 day morning program is \$80 per month and the 5 day afternoon program is \$165 per month. If you have any questions or want more information call me anytime at 290-5014. Thanks, Diane Frizzell

West Omaha Lutheran Mission Church Update

Back in our November issue of the TTW we informed you of how, after 20 long years, the Nebraska Synod was once again starting several new Mission churches in the state. In Omaha, Rev. James Lindberg has been called to be the Mission Developer of a new mission congregation beginning on the west side of Omaha. Pastor Lindberg's wife, Lori, if you remember had just given birth back then to twin girls Sarah and Rachel, and whose newborn pictures were included in the article asking for our prayers.

Pastor Lindberg is now scheduled to come to St. John's on **Sunday, March 9**, to preach for us and to lead an Adult Forum about how the new mission church is coming and what we can do to help. Please attend and give Pastor Lindberg a warm welcome..





Benders & Stretchers
Tuesdays & Thursdays
9-9:30AM
Choir Room Lower Level



Give your self a gift of the *heart*

during the month of February by taking advantage of the free blood pressure screenings offered by the Wellness Committee. Look for the free information being offered at all screenings. Thanks to Carol for the donation of time and talents.

Lord, you know better than I know myself that I am getting older and will someday be old. Keep me from the fatal habit of thinking I must say something on every subject and on every occasion. Release me from craving to straighten out everybody's affairs. Make me thoughtful but not moody, helpful but not bossy. With my vast store of wisdom it seems a pity not to use it all, but you know, Lord, that I want a few friends at the end. Keep my mind from the recital of endless details-give me the wings to come to the point. Seal my lips on my aches and pains. They are increasing, and my love of rehearsing them is becoming sweeter. I dare not ask for grace enough to enjoy the tales of others' pains, but help me to endure them with patience. I dare not ask for improved memory, but for a growing humility and a lessening cocksureness when my memory seems to clash with the memories of others. Teach me the glorious lesson that occasionally I may be mistaken. Keep me reasonably sweet. I do not want to be a saint-some of them are so hard to live with-but a sour old woman is one of the crowning works of the devil. Give me the ability to see good things in unexpected places, and the talents in unexpected people. And give me the grace to tell them so.

St. John's Women in Action



*News and Information for all Women of St. John's
February, 2008*

Coming Events

Fair Trade Sales

February 10th

in Narthex between services
Coffee, Tea, Cocoa, Hot Chocolate, and
Chocolate Bars

Bold Women Day

February 24th

Coffee fellowship following 8:30 worship
In fellowship hall

Spring Gathering

April 12

Resurrection Church
Gretna, NE

2008 Saved to Serve Events

Refresh and Refurbish Camp Tomah Shinga
Junction City, Kansas
April 18-20, 2008

Create Banners and a Bible Garden at the Welcome Center

Wayne Campus Ministries, Wayne, NE
June 13-15, 2008

**Join us in Bible Study
All Women are welcome!**

Faith Circle Bible Study – Feb. 12, at 1:30 p.m.
Fellowship Hall
Lesson Leader – Bernetta Schroeder
Refreshments – Lorene Andersen

Rejoice Bible Study – Feb. 19, at 7:00 p.m.
Conference Room
Lesson/Refreshments – Emily Laaker

Executive Board Meeting
February 5th
6:00 p.m.

Don't forget to support the Western County

Pantry with food items. You can place them in the shopping carts located in the entries to the lower level and to the fellowship hall. Also, ***Campbell's Soup*** labels may be left in the box below the mailboxes.

Young Women of the ELCA – BE BOLD! – Check out this website! ***boldcafe.org***

Café is a free, monthly on-line magazine for young women offered by Women of the ELCA. Women of all ages are reading it!

Café stands for Community, Advocacy, Faith, and Enlightenment

QUILTERS IN ACTION-

Trust is built on a secure relationship. Trust God, who is always fair, just and forgiving.

The Quilting Frame: It's wonderful to have patience, or to simply start over when we make mistakes. But it's also wonderful to be forgiven and accepted just the way we are. Jesus loves perfection because it demonstrates the beauty of God, yet He loves people who are not perfect. Our imperfections shame us from approaching our Heavenly Father, so Jesus, who is perfect, offers to make up the difference we need to become perfect in the eyes of God. Some of us are a half-inch short of fitting God's template, while others of us are so overzealous we still miss the square. But, Jesus evens out the differences so that we all can receive the high prize of knowing God intimately.

On January 7th and 8th, five women met to sew tops, tied 3 baby quilts and 2 full size tops. We were given a gift of a partially finished quilt top. It is of the Yo-Yo pattern, diamond design. It was decided we will try to finish the top and complete the quilt for the auction in July at Camp C. J. Holling in Ashland, Ne. The ladies present were: Lorene Andersen, Addie Backhuus, Emily Laaker, Suzanne Kirby and Betty Deardoff.

We would like to invite others to come and join us each month for quilting. We have a good group of very talented people that come and we have a great time while we work on our quilts. No experience necessary, just the desire to help others by making quilts to keep others warm.

The Binding Stitch: Lord, I love what is right, but I don't have power always to carry it out. Thank You for accepting me the way I am and binding me into Your family quilt.

YOUTH NOTES...

God is good! God is amazing and He is definitely at work here at St. John's. We re-launched our Sr. High Youth group in January, and God is doing some awesome things. In three weeks, God has doubled our numbers. Many thanks to the students and parents of our Sr. High for supporting and making our Bennington Youth Group (BYG) a growing success. Please continue to pray and support this ministry. As we use the youth center more, we find that there are many items we need to replace. If you would like to help support BYG, we are specifically looking for a new sturdy ping pong table, a commercial foosball table, and/or a Wii. If you don't have one of these items but would like to donate with a monetary gift to purchase one of the items, please come visit with me.

February is a very busy month as we begin the month with taking another plunge. Pray for us this weekend as 14 of us take the short term mission trip here in Omaha. The middle of February will be crazy and Jen and I will be traveling to Anaheim, CA to attend the ELCA Youth Ministry Network Conference. This is a continuing education event the ELCA church puts on for Youth Directors, Pastors, and other in the Youth Ministry field. Upon returning home, the Sr. High Youth will embark on the Survive Tour in Lincoln, NE, a conference designed to deepen faith and learn to share that faith with others. In addition to these many events, the season of Lent begins. . . a time to reflect and focus intently on our spiritual life.

Remember this month that God is good, so trust God, and go with God.
Rock On! Jeremy Hansen

Okoboji Recharge, April 11-13

This Spring, Camp Okoboji is offering a Right Here, Right Now Recharge for all 6th-12th graders. A chance for you to relive the excitement and get recharged for what God has in store for you. Check out the youth Bulletin Board for a form and more details.

Confirmation Students: February, March and April Acolyte sign up forms are posted on the youth bulletin board. Sign up today!

Sr. High Events and Retreats...



“Survive” Tour February 22-23, 2008

presented by Dare 2 Share Ministries

Sign up today for an experience that will change your life. Come and see great artists perform, along with the amazing speaker Greg Stier. I guarantee this will be an experience that you talk about for a life

time. The cost is right: **NOW FREE**, for the first 8 people. Not sure yet, then you may check out the Dare 2 Share Ministries online, watch the videos, and check out what the conference may be like. Again, grab a form from the youth bulletin board.

Welcome to

THE BYG

Bennington Youth Group

BYG, Bennington Youth Group is for all youth in 9th-12th grade. We meet every Wednesday Evening, 7:30-9:00pm at the St. John's Youth Center. Each evening starts with a gathering time for you and your friends to join in a game of pool, PS2, Xbox, or just relax with some food and drink. Based on the night and the theme, we gather as a large

group varied activities; games, faith discussion, prayer, and/or videos (all depending on the night). BYG is meant to be a place for you to gather and grow in friendship and faith. **ROCK ON!** Jeremy and the BYG Team

- 1 _____
- 2 Kenneth Kramer
James Tompkins
Sarah Tompkins
- 3 Janice Braden
Julie Omer
Shelby Arp
- 4 Karla Backhuus
- 5 Carole Cox
Shari Griffin
Robert Frahm
Lauren Circo
Natalie McClelland
- 6 Joyce Paulsen
Connie Timm
David North, Jr.
- 7 Tara Meador
Michael Smith
- 8 Adrienne Kuhl
- 9 Brian Hemmer
Roxanne Lenhart
Paul Pooley
Troy Sass
Sonya Tompkins
- 10 Seth Backhuus
Patrick Baker
Kristy Johnson
- 11 Ryan Backhuus
Michael Murphy
- 12 Michaela Bohn
Nadine Frost
Ken Jensen
Frank Timperley, III
Kelsey Arp
Dana Tompkins
- 6 Hannah Misfeldt
Ella Cox
- 7 Darrell Logemann
Teri Nelson
Mertin Opfer
Kelly Pierson
Jeff Smith
Derik Knock

- 14 Kilie Trader
- 15 Grace Baty
Andy Christensen
- 16 Michelle Pierson
Ronda Bourg
- 17 Jason Boever
Michele Reed
- 18 Kacey Eggink
Nancy Mohr
Tammy Purdy
- 19 Dawn Metcalf
Stacy Laue
Sonny Schmidt
Allison Junker
David Bressman
- 20 Sheri Crawford
Terry Gochanour
Rob Loptin
- 21 Linda Book
Chris Circo
- 22 Jodi Grothendick
Zachery Christianson
Grant Lurvey
Jadyn Tomjack
- 23 Bethany Schmidt
- 24 Madison Dreessen
Christie Sather
Sue Goedeker
Erynn Westfall
Tricia Schneider
- 25 Jackie Weidner
Matthew Turner
- 26 Sandra Bergman
- 27 Virginia Andersen
Brenda Blacketer
Peggy Spicka
Helen Braesck
- 28 Katherine Andersen
Damon Miller
Annette Kay

SPECIAL BIRTHDAY WISHES TO:

- ❖ Paul Pooley, 86 (2/9)
- ❖ Nadine Frost, 84 ((2/12)

**Belated Birthday Wishes
to Keegan Bourg
who turned 2 on January 22!!!**

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- 4 Roland & Dorothy Sass
- 10 Michael & Lana Murphy
- 11 Robert & Janie Frahm
Marvin & Brenda Blacketer
- 14 Mike & Carol Iltzsch
- 22 Paul & Linda Holtapp
- 25 Howard & Phyllis Almquist
Dean & Deborah Slechta
- 26 Roy & Dorothy Eipperle
Tom & Michelle Wickstrom
- 27 Tyler & Angie Schmidt

SPECIAL TO ANNIVERSARY WISHES :

- ❖ Tyler & Angie Schmidt, 15
- ❖ Marvin & Brenda Blacketer, 30
- ❖ Roland & Dorothy Sass, 52
- ❖ Roy & Dorothy Eipperle, 53
- ❖ Howard & Phyllis Almquist, 57



Flowers-January 20

The flowers on the altar were given by Roxanne Lenhart in loving memory of her dear friend, Lil Hansen and her January 19.



Please keep Joe Elias and family in your prayers. His wife, Eleanor passed away. Joe & Eleanor are neighbors of St. John's and active participants of the Wednesday, Over 60 Center.

JANUARY CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES HIGHLIGHTS

The Church Council met on January 8.

Present: Bill Dunn, Jan Braden, Pastor Jim, Jenny Hansen, Jim Peterson, Jeremy Hansen, Caryn Stichler, Jim Pinegar, Ted Kirby, Mark Backhuus, Waune Andersen, Debbie Almquist, Mert Opfer, Mark Misfeldt **Absent:** Sandra Kander

Devotions: Given by Wayne Andersen Devotions for next month: Bill Dunn

New Business: 2008 Continuing Education and Professional Act for Youth Director, Council Resolutions for 2008, Job Descriptions for bookkeeper, Forums on Jan 13 and 20, Ray Johnson memorial.

Unfinished Business: Task force reports, membership roster, nominating committee, Insurance, 2008 Budget discussion, and Annual meeting,

Committee reports

Youth Ministry: Posted on bulletin board located in the office hallway

Evangelism: Posted on bulletin board located in the office hallway

Stewardship: Posted on bulletin board located in the office hallway

Finance: December Current Fund Beginning Balance: \$661.51

Mission Share for December: \$4,649.80. December Ending Balance: \$10,557.63

Pastor's report: Posted on bulletin board in the office hallway.

Complete Church Council Meeting Minutes are posted on the bulletin board in the office hallway.

The next church council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 12.

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

	<u>8:30am</u>	<u>11:00am</u>	<u>9:30am</u>
Jan 6	102	110	
Jan 13	89	99	
Jan 20	80	76	
Jan 27	Annual Meeting		136

THRU THE WINDOWS

St. John's Lutheran Church

322 North Molley Street

James M. Price, Pastor

238-2483 (Church)

238-2958 (Home)

WWW.STJOHNSBENNINGTON.ORG (website)

STJOHNSOFFC@msn.com (Email)

Worship Services

8:30am Traditional with Holy Communion

11:00am Contemporary*

*Holy Communion will be celebrated on the First and third Sunday of each month

2008 Church Council

Mark Backhuus

Grace Baty

Bill Dunn

Jenny Hansen

John McClelland

Mark Misfeldt

Mert Opfer

Jim Peterson

Scott Pierson

Jim Pinegar

Caryn Stichler

Dana Tompkins

* * * * *

Youth & Family Director.....Jeremy Hansen
 Secretary Debbie Misfeldt
 Organist.....Michael Bauer
 Choir Director.....Kerry Frey
 Junior Choir DirectorKerry Frey
 Custodians..... Tom Koziol/Cindy Koziol

