

Vol. 67- 10

THRU THE WINDOWS

St. John's Lutheran Church
Bennington, Nebraska

October 2007

German Heritage Festival Dinner, Bazaar and Bake Sale

Saturday, October 6

Bazaar & Bake Sale starts at 4:00PM

Meal 4:30-7:00PM

Consecration Sunday -October 21 11am Service Only

1 Chronicles 29:14 - "Giving back to God what
God has given us"



Reformation & Confirmation Sunday, October 28

Confirmation Service-2pm

OCTOBER 2007

ACOLYTES

October 7

8:30am Connor Eurek, Griffin Japp

11:00am Jordan Mohr

October 14

8:30am Colton Loftus, Ryan Baker

11:00am Jordan Mohr

October 21-Consecration Sunday

11:00am Erynn Westfall, Michaela Noble

October 28

8:30am Sam Steffes, Lizzy Noble

11:00am Cody Bridgeford

GREETERS

October 7

8:30am Richard & Lois Musel

11:00am Doris Ostronic

October 14

8:30am Richard & Lois Musel

11:00am Doris Ostronic

October 21-Consecration Sunday

11:00 Mary & Evangeline Meyer

Roxanne Lenhart, Doris Ostronic

October 28

8:30am Mary & Evangeline Meyer

11:00am Roxanne Lenhart, Doris Ostronic

ALTAR COMMITTEE

Donna Van Buren, Karen Arp

Joan Havekost, Freddie Schroeder

Counters

Caryn Stichler, Heath Johnson, Bill Dunn

USHERS

October 7

8:30am Donna Van Buren, Mert Opfer

11:00am Jim Peterson, Holly Peterson

October 14

8:30am Donna Van Buren, Mert Opfer

11:00am Jim Peterson, Holly Peterson

October 21 –Consecration Sunday

11:00am Evangelism Committee

October 28

8:30am Jim Witt family

11:00am Marlene Mohr

COMMUNION HELPERS

8:30am Jim Bonge

LECTOR/CANTORS

October 7

8:30am Lector: Fred Barnhard

Cantor: Fred Barnhard

October 14

8:30am Lector: Dick Fritz

October 21-Consecration Sunday

11:00am Lector: Heather Goertz

Cantor: Jan Braden

October 28

8:30am Mark Sukraw

Greetings Members and Friends of St. John's,

Joyful Giving

Psalm 54:6 says, "I will sacrifice a freewill offering to You; I will praise Your name, O Lord, for it is good."

Years ago, I was invited to preach for a pastor on Sunday while he was away. At his church, I got to see something very special happen. During the offering, a young boy 7 or 8 years old came forward, picked up a glass offering bowl and stood in front of the altar with it. Then, all the young children in the church excitedly got up and came forward to make their own kid's offering to the Lord. Their dollars were given silently but their coins rang out as they dropped them into the glass bowl. All this took place while the ushers were passing the offering plates up and down the aisles.

The contrast between the two groups couldn't have been more different. The adults acted with little apparent enthusiasm. But the children's faces were beaming as they leaped at the chance to give their offering to the Lord. It was clear to see that the act of giving something to God filled them with joy.

On Sunday September 30, the Stewardship Committee will kick off this year's stewardship campaign. Our theme is, "Giving back to God what God has given to us." (1Chronicles 29:14) Then on Sunday, October 21 we will hold our Consecration Sunday service when we will complete our "Estimate of Giving card" for 2008 and bring them forward as an offering to God.

The opportunity to give something to God from all that God has given us is certainly a cause for celebration. So after our Consecration Service, we will all gather in the Fellowship Hall for a free catered "Celebration Luncheon." So please come and celebrate with us.

God has blessed us so much, especially in the sending us His Son Jesus Christ to take our sins away and giving eternal life. I hope that every time we get to give to the Lord, we can feel that same joy I saw in those young children years ago. May God continue to bless us as we faithfully follow Jesus Christ our Lord!

See you in church!
Pastor Jim Price

Consecration Sunday Is Coming

Congregations that approach financial stewardship from a biblical perspective do not view the money Christians give to their church merely as a way to pay its bills. Rather, such congregations see financial contributions as a way to help people grow spiritually in their relationship with God by supporting their church's mission and ministry with a percentage of their incomes.

Our congregation's Stewardship Committee has selected the *New Consecration Sunday Stewardship Program* as a way to teach the biblical and spiritual principles of generous giving in our stewardship education emphasis this year.

New Consecration Sunday is based on the biblical philosophy of the need of the giver to give for his or her own spiritual development, rather than on the need of the church to receive. Instead of treating people like members of a social club who should pay dues, we will treat people like followers of Jesus Christ who want to give unselfishly as an act of discipleship. *New Consecration Sunday* encourages people toward proportionate and systematic giving in response to the question "What percentage of my income is God calling me to give?" During morning worship on Consecration Sunday, October 21st, we are asking everyone to make their financial commitments to our church, children's, youth and adult ministries and through our benevolent gifts to support ministries around the world.

Please note that we are not doing home solicitation to ask people to complete *Estimate of Giving Cards*. Therefore, everyone who completes an Estimate of Giving Card will do so during our one worship service at 11:00 on Consecration Sunday.

During morning worship our guest leader will conduct a brief period of instruction and inspiration, climaxed by everyone making their commitments as a confidential act of worship.

We encourage participation in Consecration Sunday worship and in the free catered Celebration Luncheon. Thanks in advance for your enthusiastic support.

St. John's Stewardship Committee

Did you know????

Voting members are confirmed members. Such confirmed members shall have communed and made a contribution of record during the current or preceding year.

If a member of this church hasn't communed and contributed to St. John's Lutheran Church in the current or preceding year, they are subject to removal from the roll due to inactivity per the church constitution. (C8.05E)

The church council is working to update our membership roster. We want to encourage all members to please sign the "Worship Registration" form in the Sunday bulletin when attending worship. If you have any questions regarding voter eligibility, please contact the church office or one of your Council Representatives.

Notice:

The 40 Days of Purpose Fall Campaign has been canceled! Watch for details of our exciting 40 Days of Community Campaign beginning in Lent 2008.



You are invited to the Bennington Volunteer Fire and Rescue Auxiliary Pancake Feed on **October 6, 2007 from 6am-1pm**. Everyone is welcome!

Three Unique Events, One Purpose, One Spirit

St. Timothy's Morning Star and First Lutheran Churches are partnering to sponsor the upcoming River City Renewal. Three evenings of renewal/revival worship with the ELCA Revival Evangelism Leadership and Prayer Teams leading each service. You are invited to come and share in any or all of these uplifting and inspirational renewal worship services.

The services will be held as follows:

St. Timothy's 93 and W. Dodge Road **Wednesday, October 10**
5:30pm Meal, 6:30pm Renewal Worship

Morning Star 331 S. 85th Ave **Thursday, October 11**
5:30pm Meal, 6:30pm Renewal Worship

First Lutheran 7:00pm 542 S. 31st Street **Friday, October 12**
5:30pm Block Party 7:00pm Renewal Worship

Each service will be unique and will feature choirs, a renewal message by a pastor from the ELCA Revival team, praise and singing. There will be a special time of intercessory and individual prayer. Our prayer is that each worshiper will be renewed and refreshed in their faith walk.

**Refreshing spirit, Let it Flow!!
"It's for you!!"**

Concordia Jr./Sr. High would like to invite any student interested in attending Concordia to their annual Open House Friday, November 2, 2007. Guests will follow classes of Concordia students with highlights including a mid-morning chapel service, and lunch served by Little Caesar's Pizza. The day will begin at 8:00am and conclude at 12:10pm. Come join us!!

Parents are invited to informational meetings at Concordia on Sunday, November 4, at 2pm or Monday, November 5 at 7pm. At these meetings, you will be able to visit the school and obtain information about the exciting educational opportunities at Concordia. Please call 445-4000 to confirm attendance for the Interested Student Open House, the Parent Information Meetings, placement Exam, or if you have any questions. They look forward to seeing us there.



TV needed! (new or slightly used)

Adult Education is in need of a TV with VHS/DVD player to be used in the Fall. For additional information, please call the church office.



A Scoutmaster is needed for a very active Boy Scout Troop 13 (boys in 5th-12th grade) There are currently 15 boy scouts that are in need of a leader. For additional information, please contact Suzy Allen, Committee Chairperson, at 203-0247.

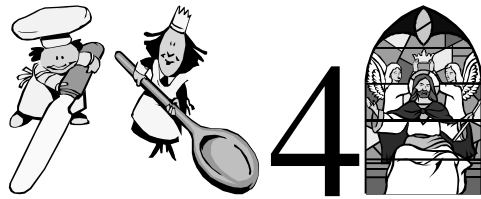
Festival of Trees 2007

Help support the Bennington Public library Building Fund Festival of Trees 2007 which is presented by Friends of the Bennington Area Libraries and GFWC Women's Club. We hope that you will join this project to benefit the Bennington Public Library Building Fund. This is a great opportunity to get exposure for your local business and/or organization!



When: Friday, November 16, from 10-8pm
Saturday, November 17, from 10am-2pm

Where: **St. John's Lutheran Church in Bennington**



Calendar

October: 3 WOW

OCTOBER 6 HARVEST FESTIVAL

October: 9 Benn View Noon
 10 WOW
 11 COOK-A-THON 1 PM Lower Level
 15 Keenagers
 17 WOW
 18 Benn View Noon
 24 WOW
 31 WOW/Halloween
 November 7 WOW
 8 Benn View Noon
 14 WOW
 19 Keenagers
 22 **Community Thanksgiving Noon Meal**

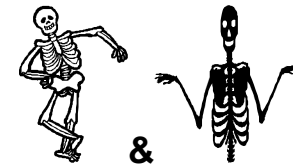
**A huge thank you to everyone
 who helped to make our
 Hoedown a success! We
 appreciate all of you!**

Jodi and Julie



Prayers 2 Christ-Weekly Prayer Schedule

October 7: Pray for a successful German Harvest Festival
October 14: Pray for all cancer patients
October 21: Pray for all fireman and rescue workers
October 28: Pray for the Reformation

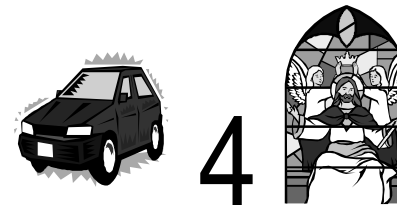


Benders & Stretchers

meet every
 Tuesday & Thursday
 9am Benn View Community Room

YOGA

For everyone Monday, Wednesday & Friday
 at 9am. Contact Emily @ 238-2543



Wheels 4 Christ

Our newly acquired vehicle is "hard at work" providing transportation. Thanks to all who helped in any way at the "hoedown".

FREE



**COMMUNITY
THANKSGIVING DINNER**

Noon

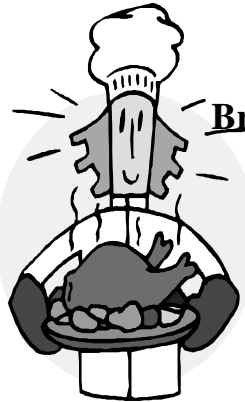
Thanksgiving Day

Thursday, November 22, 2007

St. John's Fellowship Hall

Turkey and Trimmings

Bring your favorite dish if you wish.



So we will have enough food:

**Reservations can be made by calling
238-2483 or 238-2659 or 238-2109**

Everyone is invited to come and share!

Who should attend?

- *Anyone who might not be going "home" for Thanksgiving.
- *Anyone who will be cooking for only one or two.
- *Families who would like to share.

+Rides to & from the church will be provided!

+Meals for shut-ins will be delivered after we serve, if requested.

Contact Julie @ 238-2659 for further details.



Benn Town Gals

Benn Town Gals rallied to accommodate our hosts by switching our destination at the last minute. Instead of trekking to Ashland we again invaded the Sugar Cubes. The restaurant had two parties booked so we squeezed into the Blue Room and all the side tables. There is no end to the adventures we have. Interested in our October event? Contact Emily @b 238-2543 or Joyce @ 238-2802. Women and gals of all ages are welcome.

**Community Events at St John's
Lutheran Church**

German Harvest Festival

Bazaar and Bake Sale

**October 6 Bazaar & Bake 4:00 PM, Meal
4:30 PM**

Advance ticket sales @238-2659

Adults \$8, Child 5-12 \$5

Bazaar & Bake proceeds to ELCA Seminary scholarships.

Meal proceeds to Wheels 4 Christ

St. John's Women in Action



*News and Information for all Women of St. John's
October, 2007*

Coming Events

German Festival October 6th

Bazaar & Bake Sale begins @ 4:00 p.m.
Dinner @ 4:30 p.m.

Fair Trade Sales

October 14, in Narthex between services
Coffee, Tea, Cocoa, Hot Chocolate, and
Chocolate Bars.

General Meeting October 22nd

Soup supper at 6:00

Join in Bible Study All Women are welcome!

Faith Bible Study – Oct. 9, at 1:30 p.m.
Fellowship Hall
Lesson Leader – Bernetta Schroeder
Refreshments – Addie Backhuus

Rejoice Bible Study – Oct. 15, at 7:00 p.m.
Conference Room
Lesson/Refreshments – Karen Anderson

Thank you!

The Women in Action want to thank all those who came to the Festival of Tables. There were few in number but, with matching funds from Thrivent, we are able to give \$280 to the Western Douglas Co. Food Bank. Also, there were generous donations of food items. The table settings were a treat to see and we thank you for sharing them. We were able to reminisce and share stories about our families' dishes. The lunch was delicious, too! Check out the photos Allison Junker posted on St. John's website. They are in St. John's photo album.

Don't forget to support the Western Douglas County Pantry with food items. You can place them in the shopping carts located in the entry 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

Quilters in Action

Lift ye up a banner upon a high mountain, exalt the voice unto them, shake the hand, that they may go into the gates of the nobles. Isaiah 13:2 KJV

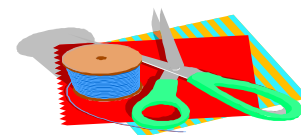
The Quilting Frame: Loving people seems to be second nature to quilters. Why else would they spend long, tedious hours piecing and quilting these beautiful works of art and then give them away? It must be love that binds the layers of fabric to give a quilt that “long-term feeling of security.” Quilts, unlike blankets, are never thrown away. They are passed on to a new family, or transformed into a jacket or pillow, but not discarded. The Bible says, in 1 John 2:17, “The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever.”

On September 10th and 11th eight ladies met: Lorene Andersen, Norma Collins, Betty Deardoff, Gloria Jacobsen, Mary Weberg, Delores Thorell, Addie Backhuus, and Doris Gottsch. The Lord has really blessed us with all the talent and devotion to making quilts and all the other things we have done at quilting. We completed: 7 full size quilts, 2 baby quilts and 1 fleece blanket. We, also, decided to donate 4 baby quilts to the bazaar in October. Addie completed 2, Lorene pieced and Mary Weberg hand quilted one and Norma pieced one and Vicki Japp is going to machine quilt it. The bazaar will take place on Oct. 6th.

I would also like to thank Carol Iltzsch for donating her mothers quilting frame to the quilters. It will be put to good use. Thank you, Carol.

The Binding Stitch: Thank You for loving me do much that You gave up Your only Son, Jesus, so that I could have eternal security because I believe in Him. (John 3:16)

Harvest Festival



Bazaar & Bake Sale Donation Sheet

Name _____

Items Donated	Quantity	Suggested Price
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Fill out this sheet and give it to the office or to Debbie Almquist or Deb Sass. Any items not sold should be picked up following the late service on Sunday, Oct. 7th. **All Proceeds go to ELCA Seminary Scholarships. Supported by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans.**

Thank You!



October National Health Observances

Fire Prevention Week
Children's Health Month
National Down Syndrome Awareness Month
SIDS (Sudden Infant Death Syndrome) Awareness Month
National Breast Cancer Awareness Month
Let's Talk Month

When a Stephen Minister comes to help there are some things they do *not* do:

- *They do not tell you they know how you feel.*
- *They do not tell you what you need to do.*
- *They do not tell you that you're wrong.*
- *They do not rush you, because they don't know where you are going.*
- *They do not take your burden from you.*

There are some things that they will *do* for you:

- *They will call you and let me know you exist.*
- *They will be there and care.*
- *They will ask you how you feel and let you tell them how you actually do feel.*
- *They will let you express your anger and loneliness, and let you cry if you need to.*
- *They will ask you if you want to be touched with a hug or a prayer, and then let you decide.*
- *When you say no, they will accept it.*
- *When you say yes, they will do it*
- *They will hear you, not only with ears, but also with eyes, touch, and hearts.*
- *They will let you feel your humanness, and be honest with you.*

They will care for you, and let God cure you. You will both grow. And when you are healed and whole again, they know they must let you go.

FLOWERS

Sept 2

Altar flowers were given by Vic & Deb Sass in celebration of their 35th wedding anniversary.

» » *Thank You* » »

A BIG THANK YOU to Tom & Cindy Koziol for all they do to keep our building and grounds in good shape. Tom has been cleaning the carpets throughout the building over the last couple months with the new carpet cleaner recently purchased. Fred Barnhard and Tom have completely stripped and refinished the Fellowship Hall kitchen and it looks great. **THANKS** also to Fred for all the various things he does with his many skills.

THANK YOU 40 Days of Purpose and Confirmation Youth for all your hard work at the summer car washes. We were able to raise over \$900.00. Thanks to all who had their vehicles washed and a special thanks to Carol Iltzsch for her dedication. Your leadership and support is very much appreciated.

THANK YOU to everyone who made the August 27, Bennington Community Blood drive a success. Special thanks to Deb Sass, Suzanne Kirby and Carol Iltzsch.

THANKS to Dick Fritz and Amond Ohms for re-drilling holes for all the pew pencils.



- 1 Ron Kruse
Adrienne Klahn
Hilda Meeves
Emily Jacobs
Cory Furstenau
- 2 Reid Japp
Matt Cox
Cole Klabunde
- 3 Elizabeth Weidner
- 4 Betty Deardoff
Mike Wesemann
Shane Jacobs
Michelle Knapp
- 5 Benjamin Japp
- 6 Karey Sass
Cory Havekost
Courtney Braesch
Wyatt Smith
- 7 Michelle Jacobs
Jake Depperman
Brooke Sass
Taylor Sass
- 9 Rita Timperley
Jim Curtsinger
Jacob Smith
Debra Muhleka
Wayne Wenz
Hayden Renter
- 10 Leola Bonge
Alanah Bonney
Alec Capps
- 11 Harriette Peetz
Gloria Wiedrick
Thomas Staats
- 12 Mark Backhuus
Debra Fuchser
Jamie Price
Steve Baehr
Mary Johaneck

- 13 Barry Braesch
Amy Japp
Ginger Sass
- 14 Courtney Leming
Richard Herzberg
- 15 Harold Schmidt
Darrell Kading
Jennifer Welchert
Larry Goertz
- 16 Jim Smith
Kevin Olson
Jami Sass
- 18 Mary Jensen
Wayne Andersen
Mike Smith
Jordan Rivera
- 19 Howard Almquist
Jon Weberg
Beverly Knoch
- 20 Jim Reed
Jeff Curtsinger
- 21 Christina Capps
- 22 Shanon Claeys
Shelby Backhuus
Ryan Korth
Hailey Teller
- 23 Nicholas Pollreis
Alvin Kander
Cheyenne Flynn
Dathan Hansen
- 24 Ila Mohr
- 25 Tyler Schmidt
Lori Moeller
- 26 Dee Micheel
Daniel Valandra
Trent Mumma
Sarah Christianson
Stacy Brown
- 27 Judy Hickman
Aidan Mohr
- 28 Scott Hansen
Kristen Bonney

- Dorothy Loptin
- 29 Alvin Andersen
- 30 Doug Stephens
- 30 Elizabeth Kuker
Bill Kinser
- 31 Jeff Pooley
Cory Baldwin
Crystal Goedeker
Daniel Bressman
Jacob Bressman

SPECIAL BIRTHDAY WISHES TO:

- Dorothy Loptin, 94 (10/28)
- Alvin Andersen, 88 (10/29)
- Howard Almquist, 86 (10/19)
- Hilda Meeves, 85 (10/1)
- Mary Jensen, 83 (10/18)
- Harriette Peetz, 81 (10/11)

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Jonathan & Genna Campbell
- 6 Mark & Sue Hinton
- 7 Terry & Carol Loptin
Troy & Julie Daly
- 9 John & Pamela Klabunde
- 10 Danny & Marlene Mohr
- 11 Dale & Victoria Dorau
Mark & Sheri Crawford
- 12 John & Shawn Klabunde
- 14 Larry & Heather Goertz
- 15 Andrew & Kristen Cook
- 17 Dick & Leanna Flynn
- 21 John & Annette McClelland
- 23 Walter & Gloria Sass
Roger & Michelle Hadan
Eric & Christina Capps
- 24 Kip & Amy Mildward
- 25 Terry & Kathryn Gochanour
- 31 Donald & Patsy Mahoney

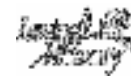
SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY WISHES TO:

- John & Shawn Klabunde, 10 (10/12)
- Dale & Vicki Dorau, 10 (10/11)
- Roger & Michelle Hadan, 25 (10/23)
- Terry & Kathryn Gochanour, 35 (10/25)
- Don & Pat Mahoney, 54 (10/31)



Katherine Bridgeford was received into God's Holy Kingdom through the washing of Holy Baptism on Sept. 23. Katherine is the daughter of Irwin and Helen Bridgeford. Her sponsors are Merlin and Annette Kay.

Cody Bridgeford was received into God's Holy Kingdom through the washing of Holy Baptism on Sept. 23. Cody is the son of Irwin and Helen Bridgeford. His sponsors are Shari Anderson and Jim Peterson.



We extend our sympathy to the family and friends of Michael Mahoney who passed away on August 28 after his battle with cancer. Michael is Don and Pat Mahoney's nephew. Michael was involved with the Boy Scouts as a Scout Master for over 30 years. The funeral service was held at Blessed Sacrament Church on August 31.

We extend our sympathy Kurt, Dawn, David and Alexis Farris. Kurt's mother, Eloise Farris passed away. Please keep the family in your prayers.

**SEPTEMBER
CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES
HIGHLIGHTS**

The Church Council met on September 11, 2007.

Present: Mark Backhuus, Bill Dunn, Jan Braden, Pastor Jim, Jenny Hansen, Jim Peterson, Jeremy Hansen, Caryn Stichler, Mark Misfeldt, Sandra Kander

Absent: Mert Opfer, Jim Pinegar, Heath Johnson, Ted Kirby

Devotions: given by Caryn Stichler Devotions for next month: Jim Peterson

Guests: Annette McClelland, Kingdom Quest Sunday school.

New Business: Discussed items for October Thru the Windows, Wheels for Christ, staff schedule

Unfinished Business: Task force reports, gift bibles, membership roster, insurance
Committee reports

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

Worship and Music: Fall schedule

Christian Education: No report

Social Ministry: DeLancy housing project

Stewardship: September 30 is the kick-off Consecration Sunday-October 21.

Finance: August Current Fund Beginning Balance: \$: \$2,119.19

Mission Share for August \$2,420.33. August Ending Balance: -\$2,084.69

Endowment Committee: Next Meeting December 18,7pm

Property Committee: Larry Goertz will do fall and spring fertilizing of the West hill at the appropriate time. The vines on the south side of the building and Youth Center are down, thanks to Ted Kirby and Bob Frahm. Bellaire Nursery pruned and shaped all the bushes and shrubs around the building. A Thank You letter was sent.

Thanks to Dick Fritz and Amond Ohms for re-drilling holes for all the pew pencils.

Pastor's report: Posted.

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

The next church council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 9 at 7pm.

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

	<u>8:30am</u>	<u>11:00am</u>	<u>10:00am</u>
Sept 2	82		82
Sept 9	134	85	
Sept 16	125	72	
Sept 23	128	102	

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

2007 Church Council

Caryn Stichler.....	President
Jim Peterson.....	Vice President/ Evangelism
Mark Misfeldt.....	Co-Current Fund Treasurer/Mission Share Treasurer/Music & Worship
Deb Almquist*.....	Co-Current Fund Treasurer /MissionShare Treasurer
Jan Braden.....	Secretary/Worship & Music
Wayne Andersen*.....	Financial Secretary
Heath Johnson.....	Special Fund Treasurer/Finance
Mert Opfer.....	Social Ministry
Jim Pinegar.....	Property
Ted Kirby.....	Property
Mark Backhuus.....	Mutual Ministry
Jim Peterson.....	Property
Bill Dunn.....	Stewardship
Sandra Kander.....	Christian Education
Jenny Hansen.....	Social Ministry
* Appointed	

* * * * *

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

