

Vol. 67-2

THRU THE WINDOWS

St. John's Lutheran Church
Bennington, Nebraska
February 2007

40 DAYS OF PURPOSE

What on earth am I here for?
A CHURCHWIDE SPIRITUAL GROWTH CAMPAIGN

Kick -off

February 18, 2007

Details inside



February 21, 2007

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

FEBRUARY 2007

ACOLYTES

Feb 4

8:00am Griffin Japp, Rebecca Kander
9:30am Katy Bridgeford, David Farris
11:00am Hannah Misfeldt

Feb 11

8:00am Jake Depperman, Colton Meador
9:30am David Farris, Colton Loftus
11:00am Logan Wright

Feb 18

8:00am Ryan Baker, Katie Iltzsch
9:30am Marisa Tomjack, Kacey Eggink
11:00am Jacob Schneider

Feb 21

7:00pm Connor Eurek, Jordan Mohr

Feb 25

8:00am Cody Bridgeford, Liz Kuker
9:30am Tayler Goertz, Shelby Sass
11:00am Kyle Fuchser

GREETERS

Feb 4

8:00am Greg & Jodi Pooley
9:30am Wendy Christensen
11:00am Jeannette Putney

Feb 11

8:00am Dick & Leanna Flynn
9:30am Amond & Delores Ohmns
11:00am Jeannette Putney

Feb 18

8:00am TBD
9:30am Betty Deardoff
11:00am Holly Peterson

Feb 25

8:00am Dick & Leanna Flynn
9:30am Wendy Christensen
11:00am Holly Peterson

ALTAR COMMITTEE

Early Karen Arp

Donna VanBuren

Late TBD

COMMUNION HELPERS

8:00am Janiece Coe
9:30am Jim Bonge

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

Feb 4 Troop 13

Feb 11 Boy Scouts

Feb 18 Coe

Feb 25 Schmidt

USHERS

Feb 4

8:00am Jerry & Doris Gottsch
9:30am Pierson family
11:00am Jim Peterson

Feb 11

8:00am Jerry & Doris Gottsch
9:30am Pierson Family
11:00am Gene & Joyce Baldwin

Feb 18

8:00am Clancy Laaker
9:30am Pierson Family
11:00am Gene & Joyce Baldwin

Feb 25

8:00am Clancy Laaker
9:30am Pierson Family
11:00am Jim Peterson



- 1 Sam Collins
- 2 Kenneth Kramer
James Tompkins
Sarah Tompkins
- 3 Janice Braden
Julie Omer
Shelby Arp
- 4 Karla Backhuus
- 5 Carole Cox
Shari Griffin
David DeLawter
Robert Frahm
Lauren Circo
Natalie McClelland
- 6 Joyce Paulsen
Connie Timm
- 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
- 13 Hannah Misfeldt
Sherry Fritz
- 14 Darrell Logemann
Teri Nelson
Mertin Opfer
Kelly Pierson

- 14 Jeff Smith
Derik Knock.
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 Pratt
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 Goedecker
Erynn Westfall
- 25 Jackie Weidner
Matthew Turner
- 26 Sandra Bergman
- 27 Virginia Andersen
Brenda Blacketer
Peggy Spicka
Helen Braesch
- 28 Katherine Andersen
Damon Miller
Gerry Johnson
Annette Kay

SPECIAL BIRTHDAY WISHES TO:

- ❖ Sam Collins, 81 (2/1)
- ❖ Paul Pooley, 85 (2/9th)
- ❖ Nadine Frost, 83 ((2/12th))

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

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

SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY WISHES TO:



- ❖ Roy & Dorothy Eipperle, 52
- ❖ Howard & Phyllis Almquist, 56
- ❖ Elmer & Freida Petersen, 69



**HAPPY VALENTINE'S
DAY!!!**

We extend our sympathy to **Joann Warrick and family**. Her husband, **Rollie** passed away on **January 25**. The funeral service was held **January 29** at **St. John's Lutheran Church**.

We extend our sympathy to Wilma Logemann and family in the recent death of her husband, Alvin Logemann on January 15. The funeral service was held at the Lutheran Church of the Master. Interment was at the Voss-Mohr Cemetery. Alvin and Wilma were past members of our St. John's family. Alvin made and donated a wooden carving of the Lord's Prayer in 1996 which is on display in the Fellowship Hall.

FLOWERS/BULLETINS

Dec 31

Bulletins were given in honor of the December birthdays of Andy and Amy by Bob and Janie Frahm.

Jan 14

Altar flowers were given by Jim and Faye Bridgeford and family in honor of the 70th wedding anniversary on January 14 of Faye's parents, Dale and Clara Wolf. Congratulations!

Jan 28

Altar flowers are given by Jeannette Putney in memory of her grandmother's birthday on the 28th and her mother's birthday on the 30th.

A memorial **was given in memory of Roger Petersen and his February 5 birthday by his mom, Lois Petersen**.

Greetings Members and Friends of St. John's:

I hope the New Year is going well for you, that you feel God's presence in your life, and that you follow Him each day, that you sense His blessings, and that you allow God to bless others through you as you live in the world.

As we move into February 2007 I feel it is once again important to ask the question, "Who are we?" The answer is "We are members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America" and we are proud of it. We understand that we have been claimed by God in baptism, marked with the Cross and gathered into the Church to learn about God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and to be a blessing to the world around us.

How do we do that? We do that by carrying out the "Great Commission" which is to make disciples of all nations. We do that through regular worship, by being generous stewards of all God has given us, by proclaiming the gospel in all we say and do and by loving God and caring for others in the world as Christ leads and guides us.

On Sunday, January 14, members of our Church Council and I attended a Nebraska Synod Workshop for pastors and their council members where we learned that the average age of the members of the ELCA is 54 years old while the average age of Americans is 35.7 years old. That means those that gather on Sunday mornings for worship are about 20 years older than the general population. The question then becomes: Why do so many people who seem to believe in Jesus Christ and who faithfully come to worship Sunday after Sunday and yet they never reach out to those around them to invite them to their church? I know we have the same problem here at St. John's. The average age of our members is too high and the younger families that are moving in all around us aren't becoming new members.

In the 1980's Aid Association for Lutherans, before it merged with Lutheran Brotherhood and became Thrivent, did a study and found that the difference between thriving Lutheran Congregations and declining and dying ones was this. The congregations that were focusing INWARD ON THEMSELVES were declining and dying. The congregations that were focusing OUTWARD AND BRINGING IN THE COMMUNITY AROUND THEM...they were thriving.

So what about us? Are we looking in the mirror at ourselves and our needs or are we looking out the window at all those around us and inviting them to come and worship with us.

According to the statistical information the Nebraska Synod gave us about the people living in our Zip Code **28% have no faith involvement, 33% have a moderate faith involvement, and 39% have a strong faith involvement.** The report states...**Overall Faith Receptivity is "Somewhat High."** It also states...**Overall Church Style Preference is "Somewhat Contemporary," and 96% are Anglo-American.**

The report goes on to say that in the next 5 years in our Zip Code (68007) the percentage of **Gen Z** generation (children born after 2001) will **double to 12%**. The percentage of **Millennials** (children born between 1982 and 2001) will be **29%**. The percentage of **Survivors** (people born between 1961 and 1981) will be **24%**. The percentage of **Baby Boomers** (people born between 1943 and 1960) will **decline to 25%**. The percentage of **Builder** Generation (people born between 1925 and 1942) will **decline to 9%**.

This report was based on a 10% growth rate over the next 5 years. I just spoke to Dr. Terry Hauck our School District Superintendent about the growth in enrollment in the Bennington Public School system that he has seen and he informed me that they have seen a 15% increase in attendance over just that past two years.

It is because of the age difference between our congregation and the growth of the surrounding community that we have started a Contemporary Worship Service on Sunday mornings at 11:00am. It is because of the increasing numbers of young children in our community that we have started the "Kingdom Quest" Sunday School program. It is because of all the new housing developments going in now and the new ones that are projected that our Preschool Task Group is proposing adding a Christian Preschool as part of the Mission and Ministry of our church to the greater Bennington community.

The reason we are doing all these things is clear...we either stay focus INWARD and DECLINE and DIE or we focus OUTWARD by inviting the community around us in and THRIVE.

I am thankful for your partnership in this ministry to which God has called us. Your faithful attendance, prayers, and financial support are making a difference. Together we have and will continue to make Christ known to the world around us. Praise the Lord! See you in Church!

Blessings,

Pastor Jim Price

The three Church Council Resolutions Passed.

Be it resolved:

1. That the budget for 2007 be adopted.
2. That St. John's Lutheran Church approve the findings of the Preschool Task Group to start a Christian Preschool in the Lower Level Sunday School area of the church to begin in September of 2007. The Preschool would be a new ministry of our church serving preschool age children in our church and community and would require the installation by the church of a fire sprinkler system in the lower level and a fenced playground area.
3. That St. John's Lutheran Church approve the recommendation of the Sanctuary Task Group to purchase a new Sound and Video System for the sanctuary from Midwest Sound of Omaha who would also do the installation.

LENT

On February 21, Ash Wednesday, we enter the season of Lent, our 40 day period of preparation for the coming of Easter. Worship services will be held at 10am and 7pm. During Lent, we will be gathering for our annual Wednesday Night Soup Suppers and Midweek Lenten Worship Services beginning February 28, with the Soup-Supper starting at 5:30pm followed by our Midweek Lenten Worship Service at 7pm. We will once again be using the "The Holden Evening Service" as our order of worship.

First Communion

Save the date! First Communion Instruction is scheduled for **Saturday, March 17th from 9am – Noon. We will be holding First Communion Instruction for all 5th Grade students who would like to begin taking communion as well as any others that would like to be part of this class.** The training will teach the participants about why we celebrate Holy Communion, enjoy a Seder Meal, witness a reenactment of the Last Supper and how our Holy Communion Service has its origins in the Hebrew celebration of the Passover. If you would like to be a part of this class sign-up using the Sunday "Worship Registration" form found in your bulletin or contact Debbie at the Church Office.

Altar Committee Volunteers are needed for 2007. If you are interested in assisting with altar preparations, (ex. set for communion), please check the "Sign up" Opportunity form enclosed in your bulletin. Volunteers usually are assigned monthly increments and usually no more than twice a year (maybe 1 month a year depending on the number of volunteers). This is a great call the church office at 238-2483 if you have questions.



Did you Know

The church council would like to recognize and thank all those that participated in the Christmas cantata. The music was magical and gave glory to the Lord on this special Christian holiday.

We also want to thank those that organized the Children's program which was fun, creative and gave the congregation a glimpse of the "Kingdom Quest" curriculum. The puppets were especially entertaining.

Kingdom Quest is an example of a new and life changing ministry offered at St. John's. We pray that those that didn't attend will want to and those that haven't been invited are invited to learn the great stories of the bible through a wonderful new ministry.

Last but not least we want to thank the congregation for meeting the financial challenge during the month of December that nearly closed the negative balance in the checkbook. Your contributions allow the church to make big visions for St. John's a reality. After all if St. John's is to be the "heart of the faith community" of Bennington we as disciples of the Lord have much work to do and with your help many lives can be touched.

Thank you and God Bless!

St. John's Church Council

At the January 28 congregational annual meeting,

the following individuals were elected to Church Council for a 3 year term:
Jim Peterson (incumbent), Mark Misfeldt, Jenny Hansen and
Heath Johnson (incumbent)

Deb Fuchser was elected to the Endowment Fund Committee for a 5 year term.

Thank you to Jim Bonge and Mark Sukraw who completed their term of service on the Church Council and Jerry Roe who completed his term of office on the Endowment Fund Committee.

Inquirer's Class Coming in March

If you are interested in finding out more about St. John's Lutheran Church and becoming a member, then please plan on attending our next Inquirer's Class coming up in March. The classes meet on Sunday night at 7 p.m. on March 4, 11, 18th and a make-up session for anyone missing a class will be offered on March 25. New Members will be received on April 1, Palm Sunday. To register for the class, you can use the back of your Worship Registration form or call the church office at 238-2483.

If you are interested in being a congregational delegate for the synod assembly at Midland Lutheran College in Fremont, NE, June 1st-3rdth, please contact the church office or check your "Sign Up" Opportunities form located in your bulletin. The theme will be

**"I have set before you an open door..":
Stand Up, Step Through, Shout for Joy!**

Everyone is invited to the
Frahm's 60-40-60 Celebration
Feb 10 5 to 8 PM
in the Fellowship Hall



Bob & Janie who been married 40 years invite you to share a meal with them as they also celebrate 60 birthday years.

SHRINE CIRCUS

Anyone 60+ years old who would like to attend the Shrine Circus on Friday, February 23 from 1pm-3pm, please call 238-2659 for reservations. We will meet at the church and begin loading the bus at 11:30am.

-- Travel with us to Ukraine - May 2007

That's right! Kelly Baehr will be going to Artemivsk once again in May, 2007. We are currently looking for those who are interested in meeting the kids we work with, touring the hospitals and orphanages and seeing the needs first-hand. We are estimating the cost for the trip to be between \$2000 - 2200 (this includes ALL costs - airfare, in-country travel, all food, all transportation, etc etc. etc.) The trip will run between two and three weeks. We are still determining what dates, but it looks like we will go the last half of May, possibly even the third week of May and into June. We will also be working on a service project...read on!

You're Invited to **JOIN A 40 DAYS OF PURPOSE VIDEO GROUP** **NOW!**

Cathy and I invite you to join us in a life-changing spiritual journey this Lent at St. John's Church. It's called *40 DAYS OF PURPOSE* and will answer the most important question of life: *What on Earth am I here for?*

We don't want you to miss this life-changing experience! People all across the nation will be talking about this, and you have the *once-in-a-lifetime* opportunity to participate in our first campaign. So please, sign up to attend one of our in-home, or Wednesday evening small group video studies as soon as you get this note. Every group member will receive a free copy of the book, *The Purpose Driven Life*.

We'll help you locate a group that fits your needs, your schedule, and is close to you. Just tell us which day & time of the week works best, and what type of group you'd like to be a part of for six sessions.

THREE EASY WAYS TO SIGN UP RIGHT NOW:

1. **E-mail:** juliedunn5@cox.net,
2. **By Phone:** Call Jodi @238-2109 or Julie at 238-2659.
3. **By filling out a response card** at a service this weekend.

We love you and can't wait to see what God has in store for you,
Pastor Jim and Cathy Price

40 Days of Purpose starts February 18

As long as there is blood pumping through your veins, God has a purpose for

YOU

Comments about Purpose Driven Life

"Make sure you're not missing the point of your life—read this book!

The Purpose Driven Life will guide you to greatness-through living the Great Commandment and the Great Commission."

- **Billy Graham and Franklin Graham**

"Destined to be a classic on the Christian life, I predict *The Purpose Driven Life* will become the *My Utmost for His Highest* of the 21st century. Timeless, profound, compelling, and transforming, this book is a priceless gift for everyone who wants to know their purpose and fulfill their destiny. *As The Purpose Driven Church* has had the most profound impact on the church worldwide of any book in this generation; Rick Warren's new, groundbreaking manifesto will set millions of people free to live the lives God intended. This is the book we've all been waiting for!"

- **Bruce Wilkinson**, Author, *The Prayer of Jabez*

"Disoriented about your direction in life? Are decisions tough to make and steps hard to take? If so, **Rick Warren has written a masterpiece of wise counsel** for you. Whether you are a seeker, a new believer, or a seasoned saint, let God use these pages to place your feet firmly on the right path!"

- **Max Lucado**, Author, *Traveling Light*

"If you only read one book on what life is all about-make it this one! This book is life changing. Rick Warren is absolutely brilliant at explaining our real purpose on earth and stating profound truths in simple ways. Give this book to everyone you care about. Believe me, you'll never be the same after reading this! What a gift!"

- **Lee Strobel**, Author, *The Case for Christ*

THE LIFE WE'RE MEANT TO LIVE

How to establish a "Spiritual BASE" for your life (from the Bible)

Believe God made me to love me and to live for his purposes.

"Everything got started in God and finds its purpose in him." Colossians 1:16 (MSG)

"Long before God laid down Earth's foundations, he had us in mind, and settled on us as the focus of his love." Ephesians 1:4 (MSG)

Admit I've lived for myself, then accept God's free forgiveness which was paid for by Jesus.

"We're all like sheep who've wandered off and gotten lost. We've all done our own thing, gone our own way. But God has piled all our sins, everything we've done wrong, on him (Jesus)." Isaiah 53:6 (MSG)

"Jesus personally carried the load of our sins in his own body when he died on the cross so we can be finished with sin and live a good life from now on." 1 Peter 2:24 (Living)

"Saving is all God's idea, and all his work. All we do is trust him enough to let him do it. It's God's gift from start to finish!" Ephesians 2:8 (MSG)

Switch to living for God's purposes in my life.

"Give yourselves to God ... and surrender your whole being to him to be used for righteous purposes." Romans 6:13 (TEV)

Express my desire for Jesus to be the Lord (leader) of my life.

"You will be saved, if you honestly say, 'Jesus is Lord,' and if you believe with all your heart that God raised him from death." Romans 10:9 (CEV)

"It makes no difference who you are or where you're from – if you want God and are ready to do as he says, the door is open." Acts 10:35 (MSG)

A simple prayer you can pray: Dear God, I don't understand it all yet, but I believe you love me and made me for your purposes. I'm sorry that I've lived for myself instead of for you, and I ask you for your forgiveness. Thank you for sending Jesus to pay for my sins. I want Jesus to be the Lord of my life. Please help me to learn to love you and trust you and live for your purposes. Amen."

Come for the inspirational kickoff
event for the 40 Days of Purpose
Campaign!

**SUNDAY, February 18,
2007**

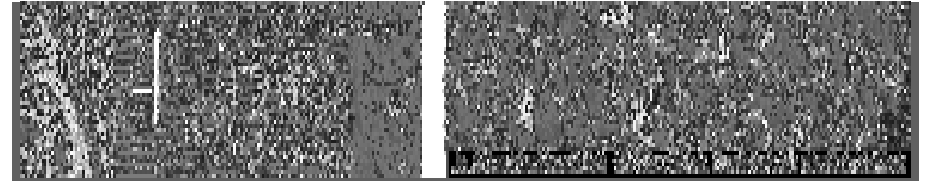
Kickoff immediately following
each service.

8AM, 9:30AM & 11AM

Fruit pizza in the Fellowship Hall
where you will pick up your free
copy of *Purpose Driven Life* by

Rick Warren

Your Group Assignment, Key
Chain, Weekly Workbook &
Week One Instructions



Memory Verses

- Week 1 – What on Earth Am I Here For?** Ephesians 2:10 (NIV)
For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.
- Week 2- You Were Planned For God's Pleasure** Mark 12:30 (NIV)
Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.
- Week 3 – You Were Formed For God's Family** Romans 12:5 (NIV)
So in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.
- Week 4 – You Were Created to Become Like Christ** Philippians 2:5 (NIV)
Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus.
- Week 5 – You Were Shaped For Serving God** 1 Peter 4:10 (NIV)
Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others.
- Week 6 – You Were Made For a Mission** Colossians 4:5 (NIV)
Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity.

FEBRUARY PRAYER CIRCLE

Feb 04

The Rev. Jerry Gilbreath and First/South Sioux City
The Rev. Harold Gillaspie, retired in Omaha
The Rev. Henry Gittler, retired in Homestead, FL
The Rev. Jeffrey Glawe and Immanuel/Glenvil
And for those in their ministry who are contractors

Feb 11

Parish Ministry Associate Jim Gonzales and Our Saviour/Broken Bow
The Rev. John Gosswein and Family of Christ/Kearney
Mrs. Lona Grabenstein and American/Gothenburg
The Rev. Heather Grell and First/Blair
And for those in their ministry who are medics

Feb 18

The Rev. Lee Griess, Assistant to the Bishop/Omaha
Associate in Ministry Cheryl Griess and Rejoice!/Omaha
The Rev. Donald Griffith, retired in Lincoln
Parish Ministry Associate Harold Grim/Dannebrog
And for those in their ministry who are dentists

Feb 25

The Rev. Arthur Grimm, Jr., retired in Beatrice
The Rev. Vitauts Grinvalds, retired in Lincoln
The Rev. Matthew Groenke and American/Gothenburg
The Rev. Harold Gronstal, retired in Kearney
And for those in their ministry who are farm implement dealers



Prayers 2 Christ-Weekly Prayer Schedule

This month we will concentrate on prayers for our 40 Days of Purpose campaign

- February 4: Pray for unity, harmony, and lasting friendships to develop among team members.
- Feb 11: Pray for each person's commitment to read *The Purpose Driven Life* daily for 40 days.
- Feb 18: Pray that each person's life will be enriched through the small group experience.
- Feb 25: Pray that everyone in our congregation would grow in their love of God - with all their heart, soul, and mind.

God, we come to you with our praise, worship, and adoration. You are wider than the farthest reaches of the universe, higher than the highest heavens, and deeper than the deepest ocean. We offer ourselves to you in prayer for the 40 Days of Purpose campaign. In confession, we bring to you those times we have fallen short. Help us to be spiritually ready for what you want to do. We know that without your power, God, we will labor in vain. Encourage us to saturate these important 40 days in prayer. God, we thank you for the graciousness that you extend to your children as you hear our prayer requests. We lay our petitions at your feet with anticipation and excitement about the way you will choose to answer them. Help us to be prayer warriors during the 40 Days of Purpose campaign and for the rest of our lives. We give you in advance all the praise and glory for what you are going to do in the hearts and minds of thousands of people. God, who fills the Heaven and earth with his glory, we pray ...

That our Celebration event will be an incredibly joyful time of testimonies of what you have done in our lives, groups, and marriages during the campaign. For our Campaign Directors and teams to accomplish everything through your power and strength in order that your glory would be magnified. That each person who is touched by your grace during the campaign would remember to give you the praise and glory for what you have done.

That the purposeful lives we are going to live will shine bright like the noonday sun in your honor.

That when asked for the reason for our changed lives, we will point others to you!



Volunteer Award Nominations accepted

To be eligible to receive the **PRESIDENT'S VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD**, Applicants' service hours must be confirmed by a registered Certifying Organization. St John's Wellness Committee is the local certifying organization.

There are three levels of the AWARD varying by hours of service completed within a 12-month period. If you would like to nominate a person to receive the President's Volunteer Service award, put a note in church box 57 or call Julie at 238-2659.

There are awards for individuals beginning at age 5 and there are also awards for families.

Here is a chance for you to say thank you to someone publicly. You don't have to sign your name, but be sure that you have the correct spelling of your nomination and which group they are being nominated for.

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION DINNER APRIL 20. Mark your calendar today!

NATIONAL HEALTH OBSERVANCES

February	2007 Dates
AMD / Low Vision Awareness Month	1-28
Burn Awareness Week, National	4-10
Cardiac Rehabilitation Week, National (Valentines week)	11-17
Child Passenger Safety Week, National (2nd week)	11-17
Children's Dental Health Month, National	1-28
Donor Day, National (Valentines)	14
Eating Disorders Awareness Week, National (last Sunday)	25-March 3
Give Kids A Smile Day (1st Friday)	2
Heart Month, American	1-28
Kids E.N.T. (Ears, Nose, Throat) Month	1-28
Pride in Food Service Week (1st work week)	5-9

St. John's Women in Action



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

Coming Events

Fair Trade Sales

February 11th

9:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. in Narthex
Coffee, Tea, Cocoa, Hot Chocolate, and
Chocolate Bars.

Metro East Spring Gathering

February 24th

8:30 a.m. – 3:15 p.m.

St. John's Lutheran Church

All St. John's women are invited to attend.

See registration blank in TTW

Bible Study Leaders for February

Faith Bible Study – Feb. 12, at 1:30 p.m.
Fellowship Hall
Lesson Leader – Mary Meyer
Refreshments – Doris Gottsch

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

Executive Board Meeting
Tuesday, Feb. 6, at 6:30 p.m.
Conference Room

Mustard Seed Project!!!



Thank you to all who have helped make the bracelets and those who have purchased them. **So far, we have given \$455 to the seminary fund.**

Anyone interested in helping with this project is invited to join in the fun! **Check the Sunday bulletins for time and place.** This is one way we can help future pastors of the church. We hope to have more bracelets for sale in February.

Vitamins are needed!

Vitamins are needed to be given to pregnant and nursing mothers in Tanzania to help stave off effects of HIV/AIDS.

Assistant to the Bishop Martin Russell can take an extra suitcase full of vitamins when he travels there in February. Please call Mary Mayfield at 778-0291 to find out more about the program. You can also call Karen Anderson at 238-2374.

You may place the vitamins in the basket in the narthex.

*Café is an online magazine for women ages 20-35, but its articles will inspire women of all ages. Check it out at their **new web address:** www.holdcafe.org*

Food Pantry

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.

Quilters in Action

Quilters in Action—February 2007

The Quilting Frame: We shouldn't let unfinished projects overwhelm us. Perhaps some of our projects are supposed to remain unfinished, so that we might inspire some daughter of a future generation to copy our work and carry on the vital arts. The Lord empowered King Solomon to construct the temple that his father David dreamed of building. The completion of London's Westminster Abbey took hundreds of years. Each generation somehow received inspiration to continue on with the worthwhile projects that their ancestors had begun. Time is not an obstacle for plans ordained by God.

On January 8th and 9th, the following ladies met: Betty Deardoff, Lorene Andersen, Carol Iltzsch, Gloria Jacobsen, Suzanne Kirby, Emily Laaker, Addie Backhuus, Delores Thorell, and Doris Gottsch. We completed 3 baby quilts. We also "ripped", "stripped (sewed strips)" and "rolled" bandages. These are being made ready for Lutheran World Relief to be used in their ministries.

We also donated 2 bed sheets, 4 full size quilts, and 1 baby quilt to a family in Bennington that requested a need for them.

We "thank" all who help us with fabric donations, sewing quilt tops, sewing monkey sock dolls. It is very much appreciated; we cannot do our job without the help of others. We can use more help with the making of "sock monkey dolls". If interested, please call Betty Deardoff @ 289-4306 for supplies.

The Binding Stitch: Lord, give me wisdom to see what is vital, courage to let go of the rest.

Metro East Spring Gathering

Saturday, February 24, 2007 at St. John's

8:30 Registration and Coffee

Visit Displays

Collect Tangible Offerings

9:00 Call to Worship

9:15 Opening Worship and Communion

10:00 Keynote Speaker -- Kathe Oleson

"Winks From Above"

Defining the concepts of grace, faith and love
and identifying their roles in serving.

Questions: (402) 274-3058

REGISTRATIONS ARE TRANSFERABLE,

BUT NOT REFUNDABLE

-----CLIP HERE-----

Name_____

Address_____

City, ST Zip_____

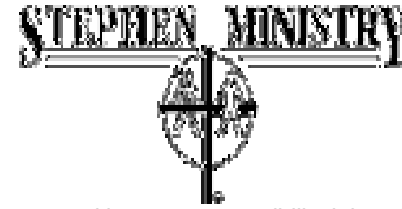
Phone_____

Home Church_____

Email_____

Childcare needed: no. children_____

Special Dietary Needs_____



Spring Gathering Workshops

Select On Arrival

1. Caregiving and conversations with loved ones who are seriously ill.
Kathe Oleson
2. Argentina
Pearl Anderson
3. Mosaic Embrace One update
Dan Dittman
4. Ronald McDonald House
Kevin Warneke

Tangible Offering

Ronald McDonald House

Monetary Offering

- 1/2 to Churchwide Women's Organization
1/4 to Nebraska Synodical Women's Org.
1/4 to Lutheran Disaster Response

O God, what an awesome--and heavy--responsibility it is to be a Stephen Minister!

To be invited in by someone to share her life . . . to hear his deepest fears, her loneliness, his pain, confusion, hurts, disappointments . . . to be given a glimpse into the most vulnerable places of that person's soul! Sometimes, God, it seems too much.

What a mystery it is that by being present, by listening, by caring, we can foster healing and hope. O God, is this really possible?

We misunderstand

We jump to conclusions

We're impatient, judgmental, frustrated

We ask questions as if there were easy answers

Well, have you tried . . . ?

Have you thought about . . . ?

Where do you see yourself in five years?

How do you see this (action/relationship) moving you toward your goals?

Who do you think could help you?

What red flags do you see?

Even, How's that working for you?

"Fools rush in where angels fear to tread."

Yes, God, being a Stephen Minister is awesome--a heavy responsibility, a mystery.

It is also a privilege. A gift. A high calling.

And your loving presence is our hope.

Nothing is more wonderful than walking alongside someone for a while on her life's journey. Yes, she does share her problems--but also her dreams and joys.

We know we are on sacred ground.

We listen

We speak

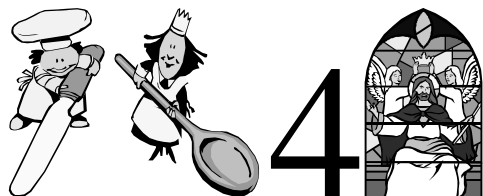
We pray . . .

believing that you are in our listening and in our speaking. For only then can redemption take place. You are here, loving us--both of us--into newness of life, into resurrection, into new ways of living and loving. Your grace and love offer each of us new beginnings, over and over again. Thank you, God. Amen.

Carol K, Stephen Minister

Christ United Methodist Church

To reach a Stephen Minister call 238-2659.



Calendar: Feb 1 Benn View Noon
 3 Cook-A-Thon
 10 Frahm Party
 11 Party 5 PM CANCELLED
18 40 DAYS KICK OFF
 19 Keenagers
 28 Soup Supper
 April 20 Volunteer Recognition Dinner
 May 4 Party

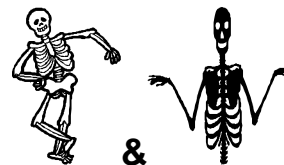
German Harvest Festival 2007 October 6

The complete 2007 calendar is available. Contact Julie or Jodi for a copy.

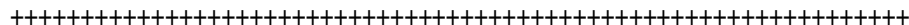
ST JOHNS WELLNESS COMMITTEE gets gift:

‘.....wanted to contribute a small gift for the consistent, caring, quality of service of your Wellness Committee. Your transportation, feeding, wellness checks, calling and caring make a huge difference in our loved one’s life. The spirit in which you call forth these gifts declares God’s abiding love to us all through Christ. Thank You.’

THANK YOU to all who donated furniture and linens to our local family. We have delivered most of the items. The family is most ever grateful. Thanks to Betty Deardoff, Jodi Pooley and Andy Frahm, who provided pickups and labor. Also thanks to Jim Biesendorfer. Bill & I appreciate your help. Thanks to all from St. John’s Wellness Committee.



Benders & Stretchers
 Tuesdays & Thursdays
 9-9:30AM
 Benn View Community Room



Wheels For Christ

Our fund is slowly growing. We are very thankful for all the donations. Some are small and some are large. Every \$1 brings us closer to a purchase of a handicap assessable vehicle that we really need. Wheels 4 Christ funds at this time are about \$2,700.00 thanks to a very nice memorial received in December. Please help support us with your gifts and memorials as the cost for a new, easy to access, stand up in, wheel chair accessible vehicle, that will transport up to 14 people is over \$40,000.00 and a good used one can run anywhere up to \$20,000.00. WE NEED THIS VEHICLE VERY SOON. If anyone knows of a vehicle that might fit our needs, PLEASE let us know.

In the mean time, we will continue to provide rides to Dr. appointments, to church and church activities for those who need a ride. Call as soon as you have an appointment so we can get a volunteer arranged. We could also use more volunteer drivers. If you have some spare time and a vehicle that can accommodate the needs of older people, call Bill at 238-2659 or Debbie at 238-2483. Our people who need rides *appreciate all who help!*

MINISTRY/MISSION FAIR coming to the Fellowship Hall
 Wednesday March 28 and Sunday April 1



By the order of the Queen,
SOUP / BUNCO meeting was called
to plan the events of 2007. On Friday January 26, Red Hatters came, ideas flowed,
the calendar was set, and appetites were quenched.

Bunko dice were shook and prizes were unique.
Lois is now the 'flasher', just ask her. Doris is the winner.

Red hat attire was to say the least a wide VARIETY
Anyone interested in being a part of this group contact Joyce @238-2802



St John's Wellness Committee is seeking input for scheduling another health
fair. Anyone who has an idea or opinion is asked to communicate with Carol, Jodi or Julie.

Coach at Purdue, Piggy Lambert, constantly reminded players: "The team that
makes the most mistakes will probably win."

That may sound a bit odd, but there is a great deal of truth in it. The doer makes
mistakes. Coach Lambert taught all that mistakes come from doing, but so does
success.

The individual who is mistake-free is also probably sitting around doing nothing. And
that's a very big mistake.

Get involved with 40 Days of Purpose!!!!!!!!!!!!



May the gentle whisper of divine love fill your thoughts with the melody of grace.
May the fountain of life spring up within you to delight you with hopeful dreams.
May the steadfast healing spirit of God ground you in peace.

God has a purpose for YOU.
Join us for the Kick Off event Sunday Feb 18
After ALL Services

A PRAYER FOR THE SHELTER OF RELATIONSHIP.

When winter slows our hurried lives and forces us to pause,
we can see again how connected we are by an infrastructure of relationship.

Without the gift of other's work we would have
no food, no shelter.

Without the gift of our work others would also be in need.

As we reflect on this web of connection, grant us your grace to celebrate
and honor it.

Teach us to think of the welfare of others as if it were our own welfare,
because indeed it is.

Give us the courage and humility to trust in the kindness of others when we
are in need.

Guide us as we seek to strength the bonds of compassion
and increase kindness in our lives.

Make us people who are gentle and hopeful.

Make of us people who are generous and kind.

With the bond that unites us all,
build a shelter of relationship where each individual may seek and discover
hospitality and peace.

VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD QUALIFICATIONS:

<p>To be eligible to receive the PRESIDENT'S VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD, Applicants' service hours must be confirmed by a registered Certifying Organization. St John's Wellness Committee</p> <p>There are three levels of the AWARD varying by hours of service completed within a 12-month period:</p>	
<p><i>Kids - 14 and younger</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bronze Award 50 - 74 hours • Silver Award 75 - 99 hours • Gold Award 100 or more hours 	<p>Adults - Ages 26 and up</p> <p>Bronze Award 100 - 249 hours Silver Award 250 - 499 hours Gold Award 500 or more hours</p>
<p>Young Adults - Ages 15 - 25</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bronze Award 100-174 hours • Silver Award 175- 249 hours • Gold Award 250 or more hours 	<p>Families and Groups (two or more people)*</p> <p>Bronze Award 200 - 499 hours Silver Award 500 - 999 hours Gold Award 1,000 or more hours</p> <p>*Each member contributing at least 25 hours towards the total</p>
<p align="center">PRESIDENT'S CALL TO SERVICE AWARD</p> <p>Individuals who have completed 4,000 or more volunteer service hours over the course of their lifetime are eligible to receive the PRESIDENT'S CALL TO SERVICE AWARD.</p>	



Give your self a gift of the *heart* during the month of February by taking advantage of the free blood pressure and blood sugar screenings offered by the Wellness Committee

January

CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES HIGHLIGHTS

The Church Council met on January 8, 2007. Members present: Mark Backhuus, Winston Anderson, Jim Peterson, Caryn Stichler, Ted Kirby, Bill Dunn, Jan Braden, Pastor Jim, Jeremy Hansen, Jim Bonge, Janet Finken, Mert Opfer, Wayne Andersen Absent: Heath Johnson, Jim Pinegar, Mark Sukraw

Devotions given by Bill Dunn. February devotions by Pastor Jim.
 Guests: Cole Stichler & Scott Wieczorek from Met Life Insurance

Unfinished Business: Annual Meeting on 1/28, Forums, Employee Insurance, Church Council/ Endowment Nominees, welcome table staffing, Committee sign-ups for monthly focus, March 24 Staff/Council retreat, Website update

New Business: Discussed items for February Thru the Windows, Synod Assembly

Committee reports

Youth Ministry: Written report

Worship and Music: Committee will have a retreat on January 13.

Christian Education: No report.

Evangelism: Written report.

Finance: December Current Fund Beginning Balance: -\$16,783.03

Ending Balance: -\$3,741.87, Mission Share for December \$2,131.95.

Property: Track lighting should be in soon

Mutual Ministry. Met on Jan 4. Goals set for 2007.

Youth Ministry: Written report.

Pastor's report: Written report.

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

The next church council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 13 at 7pm.

DECEMBER WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

	<u>8:00am</u>	<u>9:30am</u>	<u>11:00am</u>
Dec 31	22	52	30
Jan 7	63	142	50
Jan 14	46	73	68
Jan 21	not available		
Jan 28	--	166	--

Youth Notes...

The Lenten season is just around the corner and our journey to the cross is about to unfold. This season is special as we remember the connection that Jesus made by giving His life for us. During the Lenten season this year we have the opportunity to embark on a journey of purpose. Well, more like a journey to help us to find that purpose. What is it that God has made us for.

The youth and those involved in the youth ministries are working on creating a 40 Days campaign: "What's the Point?" that coincides with the 40 Days of Purpose material. The "What's the Point?" campaign will be geared just for the youth, with daily emails, small group study for the youth, and a youth worship service at the youth center Wednesday nights during 40 Days.

I look forward to the spiritual growth this campaign and bring to our congregation and community. Please look for more details throughout the Thru the Window, in the Narthex, or just call me to discuss were you can get involved.

Rock On!
Jeremy Hansen

2007 Mission Trip



I serve.

We are just about six months away from this year's Sr. High Summer Trip and I'm excited! We will be traveling south with other youth from the ELCA Nebraska Synod. This year we have an opportunity to serve and help with hurricane relief. This trip will include a variety of ways for you to serve, to see something new, be uplifted in your faith, and form a closer relationship with your fellow youth. Whether this is your first trip, or your fourth trip, my prayer is that this summer will be a blessing for your life's journey and an affirmation of God's great love for you, too.

Shrove Tuesday Youth 40 Days

Kickoff!

Join us on Tuesday, February 20 for the
40 Day: "What's the Point?" Kickoff!

5:30-7:30pm

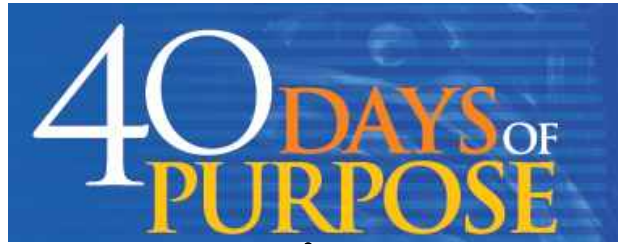
Pancake Feed!!!

Stuff yourself before the fasting of
Lent.

MMMMMMMMM...Pancakes...ahhhhhhh

"The Call"

With the start of our youth service for the 40 Days campaign we are looking at growing the call. We would like to find another guitarist, a bass player, keyboard player, and as always singers. For more details and information about when we meet call Jeremy.



4

youth What's the Point?

As we are gearing up a 40 Days of Purpose tailored to the youth, we want to make it clear that we will be working and walking hand in hand with our brothers and sisters in Christ (AKA your parents, friends, siblings, grandparents, and other youth and adults) through the 40 days of this campaign.

First, we will be having two KICKOFF Celebrations for the campaign. On Sunday, February 18 during each service, join us for the kickoff video, refreshments, and collect your free material for the beginning of our 40 Days of Purpose. We will also have a youth kickoff on Shrove Tuesday, February 20 with a Pancake feed from 5:30-7:30pm. You can get your free material and a full stomach at the same time.

Following the kickoff, we will immerse ourselves in readings, small groups, worship, and fellowship. We will begin daily readings from our hand outs, via email, or accessed from the webpage. Weekly you will take time to gather with your small group to discuss the readings and messages. Memorize a key theme verse each week. You can join in the youth worship service at the LLYC on Wednesday nights. Following the 40 Days Campaign, we will celebrate on April 22 with the whole congregation and then all youth completing the 40 Day will have a Celebration Outing on April 28.

Convenience Factor

The Campaign committee worked hard to make Wednesday nights a time that is conducive to the whole family. The youth team is also working that way. Our typical Wednesday evening will run as follows:

- 5:30-6:30pm Soup Supper (Optional)
- 6:30pm Small Group time @ LLYC
- 7:30pm Youth Worship Service with youth message @ LLYC

If your group wants to meet another time, please talk to Jeremy. If you miss the youth services on Wednesday nights, the 11am Sunday services will also have a 40 Days of Purpose message during the service.

Find the green youth sheet and sign up today!

ROCK ON! Jeremy

Lenten Schedule

Lenten Worship

Lent will begin February 21 on Ash Wednesday with worship at 10am and 7pm. Lent this year will have a focus of what our purpose is as we journey through the 40 Days Campaign together. Our Lenten Services will be at 7:30pm Wednesdays with Soup Suppers serving 5:30-6:30p.m. 40 Days small group have the option to meet between the supper and service.

Confirmation Soup Supper Small Groups Service.

Like last year the confirmation small groups will help share their servant like hearts with everyone. Each confirmation small group will be asked to help serve one Wednesday. Groups will help with set-up, serving, and clean-up. These nights will be a service project night for your small group which requires your **whole** groups participation. If you are unable to help with your group you will need to visit with Jeremy to discuss another service project.

Below you will see your small group by your Guides name and the date which your group will be serving. You will need to arrive at 5:15 so your group can make sure the final preparations are in order. We will serve and clean up until it is time for the 6:30p.m. small groups. Many hands will make light work.

Small Group Schedule

February 28	Jim Peterson
March 7	Mindi Laaker
March 14	Deb Depperman
March 21	Eileen Baker
March 28	Lori Kuker
April 11	Mark Carl
April 18	Allison Junker

WOW Watch...

February will bring change to our Wednesday nights. 7th & 8th grade confirmation will host their final class of the year on February 14th. Although are classes end this doesn't mean that our learning and service stop. You will need to work on any memory work, service hours, sermon note, or retreats that are not yet complete. We bring great opportunities for you and your family as the 40 Days Campaign will kick of on the 18th and 20th and run throughout the Lenten season. We will also be working on serving as again this year small groups will help serve and clean up during the Lenten soup suppers.