



Slice of Bread

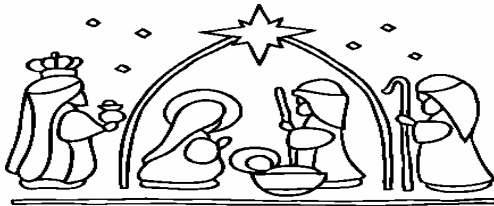


Monthly Newsletter of Bread of Life Lutheran Church
1415 17th Avenue Southwest, Minot ND 58701 (701) 838-3360

January 2010

* * *

Jeff Hoverson, Pastor
Email: jeffhoverson@yahoo.com Cell phone: (701)833-5601



The new year reminds us of newness of life that comes through Jesus Christ. "If anyone is in Christ," St Paul wrote, "he is a new creation, the old has passed away, behold the new has come" (2 Corinthians 5:17). The Apostle further says: "put off your old nature .. and be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and put on the new nature, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness" (Ephesians 4:22). What better advice could Christians heed?

Let every dawn of morning be to you as the beginning of life, and every setting sun be to you as its close; then let every one of these short lives leave its record of some kindly thing done for others, some goodly strength of knowledge gained for yourself.

Pastoral Acts

Bereavement

Carl Petersen

Baptisms

Katie Lee Brackel
Grace Isabel Marie Groninger
Ryder Lyndin Smith-Johnson
Kaleb Dane Martin

Memorials

In memory of **Reuben Espelien**
from *Rod & Joyce Shuman, Rod & Sue Wilson, Hilda Farstad, Ray & Judy Mock, Loren & Joylea Knutson, Kevin & Tracey Lawson*
In memory of **Gary Stenehjelm** from
Arne & Margaret Totdahl and Family
In memory of **Hazel Pettys** from
Lynn & Carol Martin
In memory of **Edna Solheim** from
Rod & Sue Wilson

Welcome New Members

Dianne Cormylo
Kayla Lawson
Robert and Susan Martin,
and Cassandra
Michelle Schoenberg-Carton,
Alex and Erik
Shirley Quigley
Linda Sperling
Vernon and Doris Sperling (Associates)
James Sprandel

SUNDAY, JANUARY 17, 2010

Worship times - 8:45 am and 11 am

Education hour - 9:45 am

Congregation potluck dinner -

Following the 11 am service. **Please bring a food item to share.**

Special Congregation meeting - 12:30

pm

Annual meeting - Immediately following
Special meeting



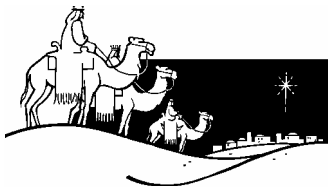
BIRTHDAYS JANUARY

- 1 Rodney Frey Jr, Rick Reiter, Jamie Bender
- 2 Marsha Dupre'
- 3 JoAnn Kjelshus, Frank Chonsky,
Micky Venable
- 4 Ana Drevecky
- 5 Jared Francis, Kristian Hoverson
- 6 Amanda Huber, Ashten Warmen,
Harley Abrahamson
- 7 Kynzee Bjordahl, Nathan Iverson
- 8 Kathy Wickman, Becky Svangstu,
Heather Lembke
- 9 Alexa Lauckner, Abigail Sitter
- 10 Jason Anderson
- 11 Kirk Abrahamson, Joyce Shuman,
Mindee Boyce
- 13 Stephanie Jespersion
- 16 Kaydee Boyce
- 18 Ron Kjelshus, Kayla Roos
- 19 Mel Diers
- 20 Ryan Branson
- 21 EulaVaughn Tangsrud
- 22 Eunice Halling
- 23 Sandy Gilbertson, Jordan Johnson,
Clarashea Roos, Kirstin Nelson,
Jessica Schilken
- 25 Lana Ferris, Taylor Godejohn,
Dean Brekhus
- 27 Erik Vang, Dan Danielson, Alex Emerson
- 29 Judy Mock, Barb Power
- 31 Michelle Davy

JANUARY

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

- 2 Bruce & Nancy Anderson
- 9 Jane & Rick Reiter
- 15 Tom & April Warman
- 19 Jerry & Janet Lawson



Bread of Life Men

Lutheran Men of Minot will have their January meeting on the 8th of January since the 1st is New Year's Day. It will be in the conference room in the northeast corner of the lower level of St. Joseph's-Trinity building. The meeting is scheduled for noon, January 8, 2010. There will be sandwiches, soup and coffee and/or water available for purchase in the conference room for a price of \$4.00. The speaker for this meeting will be Laurie Gotsvaslee, associate director of North Central Human Services.

Reservations for lunch would be appreciated to 852-2400.



Ministry Opportunity

The **Bread of Life Nominating Committee** is working to fill terms on church council. Are you called to this position? Consider it, pray about it, talk to current council members if you have questions about the position. Let the church office know if you would consider being a candidate or for more information.



It is a work in progress but check out the new web site. Send emails and prayer requests to the church office.

breadoflifeminot.com

FOR YOUR CALENDAR

SUNDAY, JANUARY 17, 2010

Worship times - 8:45 am and 11 am

Education hour – 9:45 am

Congregation potluck dinner – Following the 11 am service

Special Congregation meeting – 12:30 pm

Annual meeting – Immediately following Special meeting

Special Congregation meeting - 12:30 pm, January 17, 2010

The Bread of Life church council has voted to have a **special congregational meeting** which will be held on **January 17th, just prior to the annual meeting**. This meeting will be **for the sole reason of having discussion and a vote on the topic of whether BOL should stay with the ELCA**. There will be no other topics discussed at this meeting. **The ballot question for the special meeting will be as follows:**

Bread of Life Special Congregation Meeting January 17, 2010

"I believe the Bread Of Life Congregation should stay with the ELCA."

YES _____

NO _____

Constitution Bylaw Change – The Bread of Life church council is recommending that the date of the BOL annual meeting be changed from the 3rd Sunday to the 4th Sunday of January. **Bylaw B.05.02.01 currently reads** : *"The annual congregation meeting shall be held during the week beginning the **third Sunday** in January."*

The Recommended change: *"The annual congregation meeting shall be held during the week beginning the **fourth Sunday** in January."*

The vote for this change will be a part of the business at the **ANNUAL MEETING** on January 17. **The ballot question for the recommended change to be voted at the Annual Meeting will be as follows:**

Bread of Life Annual Congregation Meeting January 17, 2010

"I believe the Bread Of Life Annual Meeting date should be changed to the fourth Sunday in January."

YES _____

NO _____

Ministry Families

The “**Ministry Families**” rotation continues and we **thank everyone** who has participated and helped with the weekly needs of the congregation. Whatever your involvement level, your cooperation is appreciated.

Just a reminder - **EACH FAMILY UNIT** is a part of a family group. **FOR ONE MONTH**, you will work as a team to accomplish needed ministries.

By spreading the load and limiting the focus to one month, we reduce the need for sign up sheets and burnout, and at the same time, greatly strengthen the internal need for more success in the various ministries. When it is your turn, please respond faithfully, as we all share the load and the joy of God’s growing church. **“Growing To Serve”**

If you are not physically able to participate, you are invited to come for fellowship activities and support your group with your prayers.

Families serving in January will be:

Mike and Carla Bartuska
Carl & Crystal Cree
Ryan & Michelle Davy
Rodney & Melissa Godejohn
Jim & Candy Hamilton
Mandi Henderson
Daren & Renae Jesperson
Garrett & Tonia Kirk
Morris & Mardell Poirier
Scot & Patti Redding
Wanda Smith
Elaine Swanson
Renae Weatherspoon

Families serving in February will be:

Stacy & Patti Abrahamson
Bill & Shirley Finley
Bob & Marilyn Grosz
Andrew & Emily Hanson
John & Kim Haugen
John Haugen
Rick & Terry Huber
Ben & Maxine Juelich
Carl & Judy Lindlauf
Jenni Miller
Bob & Cindi Mintie
Barb Power
Brandan & Katie Ressler
Angela Roehm
Art & Donna Winden

Ministry Opportunity

Consider being on the sub list to call when a teacher needs a day off. Please contact the church office 838-3360 or Misty Weed 720-4923 if you can help.



Dear Bread of Life,
“On behalf of the Minot Area Homeless Coalition, we would like to thank you so much for your donation of food certificates and presents. Your support of our organization allows us to have an impact in the communities we serve. The gifts you donated bring more than smiles to those who are less fortunate than others but rekindles their faith in their fellow man. You truly are good stewards and display the true meaning of Christmas with your actions. Again, thank you for your donation.”
...Rev Louis (Mac) McLeod, Executive Director.

Through the contributions of Bread of Life Members and Edison Cub Scout Pack 422 four families were given Christmas gifts. Thank you to all who contributed and to Patti Redding for coordinating the project. “God’s work, Your Hands.”

HOSPITALIZED?

If a member of your household is hospitalized (or you have any pastoral need) let the office know (838-3360). Office hours are 9 – 1, Monday – Friday. There is also voice mail so you can leave a message at any time. Or you can call Pastor Jeff on his cell phone 833-5601. When a person enters the hospital they are asked if they want to have their name on the church list and published in the local paper. If a patient is not on the list, the pastor cannot visit or include in church prayers without the patient or a family member

Dear friends:

Jan 2010

There was quite a shake up following Jesus' departure from this earth. The Holy Spirit came and in the book of Acts we see demonstration upon demonstration of the mighty acts of God. These men and women of God proclaimed the truth, brought the gospel to a Gentile world, and even gave their lives for the Word of God.

You are invited to a special meeting on a major vote on Sunday, January 17, 2010, following worship: "Whether or not to remain in the ELCA"

There are two deeper questions I'd invite you to prayerfully explore ahead of time.

1. How do you really feel about God's Word? This issue, at it's core, is more about our view of the Bible than it is about a denominational affiliation.

2. What is our mission as a church called Bread of Life? Beyond the voting, God calls us, just as He did after Jesus' departure; to GO, and make disciples.

This year will be an excellent time to explore those two things.

I have already encouraged you to educate yourselves.

Websites like www.wordalone.org and www.lutherancore.org are helpful.

From an opposing view you can go to sites like www.goodsoil.org and www.lcna.org.

Some have asked about the book, "What's going on among the Lutherans?" by Leppien and Smith. I have three copies you can check out. It gives you a deeper look at other issues in question, such as the deity of Christ, the Virgin birth, Adam and Eve, miracles, atonement, resurrection, way to Heaven, etc.

Please, also consider the attached recommendations I offer should we vote to remain.

Although there is tension on these issues across our nation and even in our own church, I am encouraged that Bread of Life has decided to be a leader congregation. Whatever the outcome, I commend the BOL council. They did not wait around to see what other churches will do. Being a leader has a cost. We give up the warm feelings that accompany waiting for someone else to lead. In the end, can we look back and say, we did what God wanted us to do? Did we follow His Word? Did we have integrity? These are the blessings that come with long-term decisions rather than short-term emotions.

Can we view this season, not merely as a conflict, but as a season of opportunity? An opportunity for us all to explore God's Word, pray for all, and grow theologically. That is the mark of discipleship. I look forward to a time of re-visioning our mission, together with other believers. How will we, now, carry out God's mission?

His love and prayers, your pastor and friend – pj

IMAGINE

Imagine churches, one by one, recommitting themselves and covenanting with each other to prepare a way for a new generation of Lutheran Christians. Lutheran Churches of the Common Confession (LCCC) is an association of churches who are lifting up such a vision. We are asking what "Lutheran" will mean in this post-denomination age. It is not our intent to form a new denomination, but to inspire a Lutheran Confessional witness within our own context. Such churches are working to commit themselves to a Christian witness founded on a Lutheran theology that is grounded in the authority of the Word of God and the Lutheran Confessions. Our common mission is the Great Commission (Matthew 28). Our common purpose is clarity on how a Evangelical and Confessional church would act today.

By first covenanting with each other around a Common Confession, we seek to bring clarity to the Lutheran witness and work with mission partners to bring the gospel of Jesus Christ to a world who hungers for it. Beginning with our neighbors, the LCCC will work from the ground up to imagine together a Lutheran witness faithful to our callings to witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ.

The Common Confession

1) The Lord Jesus Christ

We are people who believe and confess our faith in the Triune God; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We trust and believe in Jesus Christ as our Savior and Lord.

2) The Gospel of Salvation

We believe and confess that all human beings are sinners, and that sinners are redeemed by the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. God alone justifies human beings by faith in Christ, a faith which God creates through the message of the Gospel. As ambassadors for Christ, God uses us to speak his Word and build his kingdom.

3) The Authority of Scripture

We believe and confess that the Bible is God's revealed Word to us, spoken in Law and Gospel. The Bible is the final authority for us in all matters of our faith and life.

4) A Common Confession of Faith

We accept and uphold that the Lutheran Confessions reliably guide us as faithful interpretations of Scripture, and that we share a unity and fellowship in faith with others among whom the Gospel of Jesus Christ is preached and the sacraments are administered in accordance with the Gospel.

5) The Priesthood of All Believers

We believe and confess that the Holy Spirit makes all who believe in Jesus Christ to be priests for service to others in Jesus' name, and that God desires to make use of the spiritual gifts he has given through the priesthood of all believers.

6) Marriage and Family

We believe and confess that the marriage of male and female is an institution created and blessed by God. From marriage, God forms families to serve as the building blocks of all human civilization and community. We teach and practice that sexual activity belongs exclusively within the biblical boundaries of a faithful marriage between one man and one woman.

7) The Mission and Ministry of the Congregation.

We believe and confess that the church is the assembly of believers called and gathered by God around Word and Sacrament, and that the mission and ministry of the church is carried out within the context of individual congregations, which are able to work together locally and globally.

If you would like more information on how your congregation
can join the Lutheran Churches of the Common Confession
Email lccinfo@optonline.net

From: Mark Nygard
[mailto:mnygard001@luthersem.edu]
Sent: Wednesday, December 30, 2009 4:34 AM
To: ELCA Western North Dakota Synod
Subject: January 7th with the Nygards

8 El-Seka El-Beda Street
Abbasia, Cairo, Egypt 11381

December 30, 2009

Dear Family and Friends,

We have not yet experienced an Egyptian Christmas (January 7th, we understand), but we have experienced Christian after Christian here who holds dear their Christmas faith. Most Coptic Christians have a small cross tattooed to their wrist from the time of their youth to remind them whose they are in a questioning hour. The evangelical seminarians packed into the chapel belt out Middle Eastern-sounding hymns at one steady volume - full-blast - in heartfelt praise of the one who died on that cross. Amir approaches me in the library and asks to visit with me about the divinity of Christ at the moment of Christ's death. "How shall we understand that God in Christ gave God's own life there for us?" he asks. "That's not an academic question," he assures me. "Our Muslim neighbors press us with questions about this matter, and we need to know how to answer." It makes me wonder: if our American children were pressed to explain their faith from an early age by neighbors of other religious traditions, perhaps they would cherish Jesus more dearly, too. May our celebration of Jesus' birth nurture our Christian faith to that end.

The last you heard from us was just before our breathtaking trip to our son John's wedding at the end of October. That was a fast one, but even getting bumped from our return trans-Atlantic flight didn't prevent us from getting home with hours to spare before my class.

Since then we have finished our first semester of teaching at Evangelical Theological Seminary in Cairo, and I am grading term papers: how a religion of peace like Christianity could end up sending warriors into the crusades, how Muslim rulers treated Christians

during the Abbasid era, how Christians may have influenced Muslim thought during the time of Mu'tazilite dominance, and so forth.

These are sharp students, and they pursue interesting questions. In January we will be hosting a class from Chicago in a course called "Egypt in the Bible," and in spring term I will be coteaching a course called "Christian-Muslim Encounter in Egypt." At the same time we will be receiving students from Pittsburg joining our students in a course on Christian history in the Middle East since Napoleon. All of this, in English, of course, as our Arabic slowly and unsteadily grows to where it can become, as they say, dangerous. We covet your prayers in all of this.

The end of the school term meant our first breather, and we have used the freedom to see a bit of Egypt. We were in our third month here before we went to see the Pyramids - 139 double-paces on a side, if you want to pace it out in your neighborhood. Last week we accepted the invitation of friends to go see Alexandria, one of the great centers of early Christianity and the seat of the famous library of antiquity, though it was cold this time of year and the Mediterranean required sweaters. On Christmas Eve a friend from church invited us up to see the "cave churches" in the cliffs of the Muqattam Mountains which ancient saints are reputed to have floated in the air at the bequest of the Muslim caliph. The most massive of these churches was an amphitheater carved out of the cliffs - 77 rows of seats, 61 yards wide halfway, if you want to pace it out in your church - with biblical themes carved massively into the cliffside. In January we have been invited upriver for the first time to celebrate Christmas (January 7th, you remember) with the family of one of our students. And later on in the month we will accompany students to Luxor as part of the Egypt in the Bible course. I would say we are entering chapter two of our work here.

Grace and peace to you at Christmas (need we remind you, that's January 7th).

Sincerely in Christ, Mark and Linda Nygard