



APRIL NEWSLETTER



EBENEZER LUTHERAN CHURCH
Northwood, North Dakota

Rev. Tim Johnson, Pastor

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From the Pastors Pen

“That I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death; in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.”
Philippians 3:10-11.

How many times have you heard people talk about a deceased person and say, “Well, at least I’m better off than him?” Or some may talk about being sick and then preface their illness with “Well, it’s better than the alternative.” My response is almost always, “Well, that depends...”

In each case they are talking about death as a negative thing. I suppose death is negative if you don’t know where you’re going. However, eternal life/heaven for the believer is an amazing place. Far better than we can even imagine. That is the mindset that the Apostle Paul is coming from in the above text. He can’t wait to experience the power of Christ’s resurrection.

Later in the Philippians text, the Apostle Paul says, *“Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.”*

Paul was saying that there was more for him to do yet. The Christian walk to him was a race to accomplish all he could and get to the finish line. In Philippians 1:22-23 he says, *“But if I am to live on in the flesh, this will mean fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which to choose. But I am hard-pressed from both directions, having the desire to depart and be with Christ, for that is very much better.”* To die would mean he was with Christ (the ultimate goal) but to live on would mean fruitful labor.

Do you get the idea that heaven is our goal but until then, there should be fruitful labor. Hmmm. On one hand: eternal life or heaven. On the other hand: fruitful labor. Well, since we don’t choose the timing of heaven, what should be our focus? Our focus should be to reach forward to what lies ahead and press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. In other words, we are to focus on fruitful labor.

One of the ways that we are going to reach forward to what lies ahead as a congregation in the coming months is through a series of evaluating and planning with our main ministries. I am going to be organizing a meeting with each of six different ministry areas within our church: Adult Education, Children & Nursery, Men, Music, Women and Youth. Anyone interested in being involved in evaluating and planning for the future of these ministries will be encouraged to attend. Each ministry will be scheduled on a separate evening sometime after Easter.

PASTOR'S MESSAGE (Cont.)

The meeting for each ministry will answer 5 basic questions:

1. Is this ministry needed? If so, why is this ministry needed?
2. What would we ideally like to see happening in this ministry? (This is vision.)
3. What resources are needed for the above to happen (people, materials, place, etc.)?
4. What can we realistically do within the next year?
5. What people will be involved in leading or organizing this ministry toward our vision?

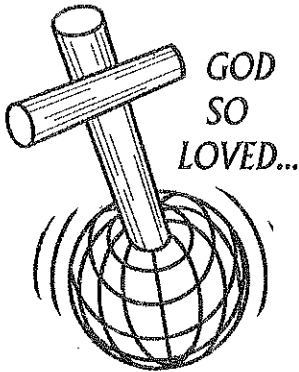
Christ died and rose to give us eternal and abundant life. He has called us to fruitful labor. The prize is coming, but until then, let's press on!

In the power of His resurrection,
Pastor Tim

P A S T O R A L A C T S

FUNERAL: Otto Tyler (March 22, 1941 – March 17, 2009)
March 21, 2009 (non-member)

W O R D S T O L I V E B Y



For the week of April:

- 5 - "For Christ also died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, so that He might bring us to God."
(1 Peter 3:18a)
- 12 - "We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us." (1 John 3:16a)
- 19 - "For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him." (John 3:17)
- 26 - "The LORD is my strength and song, and He has become my salvation; This is my God, and I will praise Him; My Father's God, and I will extol Him."
(Exodus 15:2)

Special Holy Week Services

Maundy Thursday – All day individual prayer at the Swarstad Chapel Altar.
Prayer suggestion sheets will be available.

Maundy Thursday – 7:00 PM Short Prayer & Praise Service

Good Friday – 7:00 PM Service @ NDHC Dakota Chapel/Dining Room with several special music numbers.

Easter Sunday – 9:00 AM Celebration Service @ NELC

Council Highlights from the February 26th Meeting

Mike called the meeting to order and Nathan Larson from Farmer's Union reviewed our insurance for the parsonage and stored church contents as well as the new building (school library) and building supplies that have been bought.

Pastor Tim led in devotions and council orientation.

Old Business

Windows have been installed in the new building.

Membership will be reviewed over the year and an attempt will be made to contact those who do not meet the constitutional membership requirements in order to update our membership roster.

New Business

Pastor Tim's vacation days for the summer were approved and will involve the following Sundays: June 7th & 14th and September 6th.

The Holy Week schedule was discussed as was Confirmation Sunday. There will be a Maundy Thursday prayer vigil with a prayer service that evening and a Good Friday service at NDHC. Confirmation Sunday will be the last Sunday of April at 4:00 PM followed by a congregational supper.

The Building Permit was renewed and the Stewardship Committee will audit the books monthly and report at each meeting.

The Council broke into committees to select their chairs: Worship & Music – Mary, Property & Management – Mike, Stewardship – Grady, Parish Ed – Chris and Evangelism is waiting to select their chair.

The meeting closed in a time of prayer requests and open prayer.

Council Highlights from the March 19th Meeting

Mike opened the meeting and Janice Bilden led in devotions and prayer. The secretary's minutes and treasurer's report were approved.

Old Business

Nothing new to report with building or membership except that Curtis Construction has given us several samples of various items for the new building. These have been passed to the appropriate committees to decide on colors and types.

New Business

Pastor Tim introduced a plan to review our main ministries one at a time by inviting any who are interested in such ministries and work with them to complete 5 questions in order to help each ministry have a solid vision to work toward. The council chose to divide the ministries as follows: Adult Education, Children & Nursery, Men, Music, Women and Youth.

Committee reports were given, next months responsibilities were secured and the meeting closed in a time of prayer requests and open prayer.

Confirmation Sunday Service & Dinner

April 26th

4 PM Worship & Confirmation Service at NELC (Please note that this service will take the place of our morning service and there will be no Sunday School)

5:15 PM Congregational Supper in honor of our Confirmands.

Congregation please bring salads

The Church will provide the ham & buns

Senior Confirmation families will provide the cake, plates and napkins

The 7th grade families will help serve

AFLC District

Bible Camp at Camp Fa Ho Cha

(faith, hope, charity)

Pre-Teen Camp is July 29th - August 2nd

Theme: Christ Lives In Me

Speaker & Lay Leader Mr. Jon Dryburgh

Teen Camp is August 3rd - August 8th

Theme: Upgrades (2 Corinthians 5:14-15)

Speaker & AFLC Youth Director, Pastor Jason Holt

Brochures and registration information are available on our sound table in the back of the church.

MARCH FINANCIAL REPORT

\$ 16,718.23 - Regular Offerings
\$ 2,620.00 - Needed per Sunday (General Fund)
\$ 3,274.00 - Average received for 2009
\$ 200,000.00 - Building Fund Goal for 2009
\$ 22,683.60 - Building Fund to Date for 2009

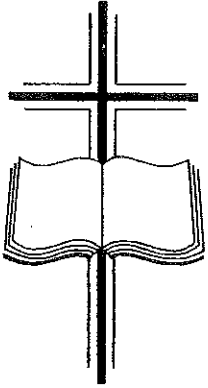
PASTOR'S SCHEDULE

Pastor will leave Sunday afternoon, April 19, for an Evangelism Committee Meeting on Monday, the 20th, in Minneapolis. He will be returning Monday evening.

ANNUAL AFLC CONFERENCE

Tuesday, June 16, - Friday, June 19
Fergus Falls, MN

Host: Calvary Free Lutheran, Fergus Falls
Conference Site: Bigwood Event Center, 925 Western Avenue, Fergus Falls



THEME

"MY WORD, A FIRE AND A HAMMER"

"IS NOT MY WORD LIKE FIRE?" DECLARES THE LORD, "AND
LIKE A HAMMER WHICH SHATTERS A ROCK?"

JEREMIAH 23:29

For a downloadable form, and for more information,
visit www.aflc.org and click on "conferences"

NOTE: There will be several options available for children and youth:

* Nursery Options

A nursery will be available for children 4 yrs. and younger.

* Young Adult Activities

Young adults with special needs, aged 16-25, will be given an opportunity to serve the conference as well as participate in recreational events.

* Youth Activities

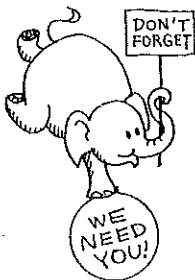
Daily outreach events, Bible studies and recreational activities are planned for youth in grades 6-12.

* Vacation Bible School

This will be offered to children, ages 5-10.

For more information on the above options, visit www.aflc.org.

FLY INFO UPDATE



Thank you to everyone for supporting the youth through their fund raisers. Twelve youth will be going to Colorado this summer for the youth gathering.

UPCOMING EVENTS

It's time to clean out your closets!! The youth will be having a rummage sale on Saturday, June 6th, in conjunction with the city-wide rummage sale.

All items can be dropped off at Chad's garage the first week of June. BE SURE TO CALL BEFORE YOU COME. Items also can be brought to the Community Center on Friday, June 5. If you have large items that need to be picked up, call Chad and Sue (587-6350).

The youth will continue to meet Wednesday evenings, 7:00 PM, at Chad and Sue's starting the 15th of April.

BUILDING FUND MEMORIALS

Jerome Carroll
Curt & JoAnn Funseth
Denny & Linda Gabriel

Harriet Foss
Wally & Arlayne Gylten
Shari Sherva
Roger & Becky Korsmo

Alice Hagen
Denny & Linda Gabriel
John & Loretta Sherva

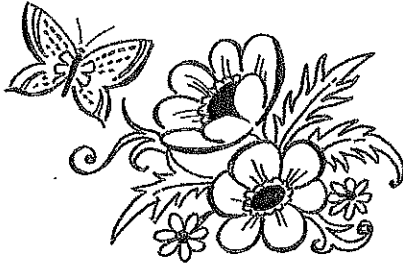
Family & Friends
LeRoy & Carol Carroll

Robert Thompson
Don & Marian Savage

Joyce Rusk
Shari Sherva

Otto Tyler
Gary & Janice Bilden
Roger & Becky Korsmo

EBENEZER-NELC WOMEN'S MEETING



The Ebenezer-NELC Women will meet on Wednesday, April 8, 2:00 PM, at NELC. All area women are invited to attend.

Shelly Nannenga from the Anne Carlsen Center for Children, Jamestown, ND, will give a video presentation on the Center's mission of empowering children and adults with disabilities to achieve the greatest independence possible. She will also relate the amazing story of Anne Carlsen, former administrator of the Center. Born with-

out fully-developed arms or legs, Anne Carlsen learned to write without hands, feed herself, play baseball, swim and even drive a car refusing to let her physical impairments limit her in any way.

A fellowship time will follow with lunch served by the NELC Women.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Wednesday, April 15, 2:00 PM, @ Senior Center
Lesson 3 - "Storms of Life"
Lunch @ Northwood Floral

W M F SPRING RALLY

Saturday, April 25, @ Trinity Bergen Lutheran Church, Starkweather
9:30 - Registration & Coffee +++ 10:00 - Opening Session
LEAVE FROM PARSONAGE PARKING LOT @ 8:00 SHARP!!!

APRIL RESPONSIBILITIES

Offering Counters
Grady Thorsgard
Susie Johnson

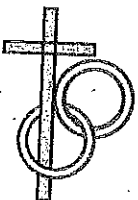
Communion Servers
Erik Thorsgard
Chris Howson
Mike Schwartz

Altar
Evy Arnett

Nursery (during worship)
5 - Ben & Missy Larson
12 - Susie Johnson
19 - Mark & Debbie Korsmo
26 - Mya & Beth Segerholm

BRIDAL SHOWER


An Open House Bridal Shower for Kari Funseth will be held Saturday, April 11th, 10:00-12:00 in the Bethany room at NELC.



2009

April

2009

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY																																																																																																									
<table border="1"> <tr><td colspan="7">MARCH 2009</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td></tr> <tr><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td></tr> <tr><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td></tr> <tr><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> <p>5⁰⁹⁵ Palm Sunday 9:00 Worship/ Communion 10:30 S.S. for all ages</p>	MARCH 2009							S	M	T	W	T	F	S	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31					<table border="1"> <tr><td colspan="7">MAY 2009</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td></tr> <tr><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td></tr> <tr><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td></tr> <tr><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> <p>6⁰⁹⁶ 7:00 Worship Team</p>	MAY 2009							S	M	T	W	T	F	S					1	2		3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31							<p>7⁰⁹⁷ 7:00 Worship Team</p>	<p>1⁰⁹¹ No Confirmation 5:30 FLY Supper 7:00 Lent Service 8:00 Choir</p>	<p>2⁰⁹²</p>	<p>3⁰⁹³</p>	<p>4⁰⁹⁴ Men's Break- fast Fellowship @ Swarstad Chapel</p>
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