

EBENEZER LUTHERAN CHURCH - "stone of help" - (1 Samuel 7:12)
Rev. Tim Johnson, Pastor.

THE BELL

I KNOW WHO I AM

I am God's child (John 1:12)
I am Christ's friend (John 15:15)
I am united with the Lord (1 Cor. 6:17)
I am bought with a price (1 Cor 6:19-20)
I am a saint (set apart for God). (Eph. 1:1)
I am a personal witness of Christ. (Acts 1:8)
I am the salt & light of the earth (Matt 5:13-14)
I am a member of the body of Christ (1 Cor 12:27)
I am free forever from condemnation (Rom 8: 1-2)
I am a citizen of Heaven. I am significant (Phil 3 :20)
I am free from any charge against me (Rom 8:31 -34)
I am a minister of reconciliation for God (2 Cor 5:17-21)
I have access to God through the Holy Spirit (Eph. 2:18)
I am seated with Christ in the heavenly realms (Eph. 2:6)
I cannot be separated from the love of God (Rom 8:35-39)
I am established, anointed, sealed by God (2 Cor 1:21-22)
I am assured all things work together for good (Rom. 8:28)
I have been chosen and appointed to bear fruit (John 15:16)
I may approach God with freedom and confidence (Eph. 3: 12)
I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me (Phil. 4:13)
I am the branch of the true vine, a channel of His life (John 15: 1-5)
I am God's temple (1 Cor. 3: 16). I am complete in Christ (Col. 2: 10)
I am hidden with Christ in God (Col. 3:3).. I have been justified (Romans 5:1)
I am God's co-worker (1 Cor. 3:9; 2 Cor 6:1). I am God's workmanship (Eph. 2:10)
I am confident that the good works God has begun in me will be perfected. (Phil. 1: 5)
I have been redeemed and forgiven (Col 1:14). I have been adopted as God's child (Eph 1:5)
I belong to God.
Do you know
who you are?

Soon after Marie Bye lost her father, she emailed the above bell out to many. At first glance, it is very eye catching. However, when you start actually reading it, the message is gripping. And when you start internalizing the message, you can't help but view life differently.

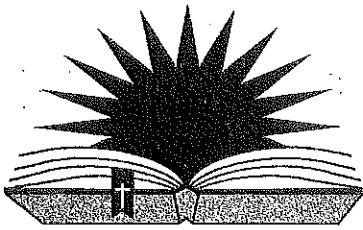
The message of the Christian bell above is a Christ centered message. It identifies who a Christian is in light of God's Word. There is no better source to determine one's identity than the Word of God in Christ.

The question begs to be asked, "Where will you find your identity in 2010?" I pray that you can read through the bell above and say, "Amen!"

Have a Blessed New Year!
Pastor Tim

WORDS TO LIVE BY

For the week of January:



GOD'S WORD IS A LIGHT

3 - "Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with an attitude of thanksgiving."
(Colossians 4:2)

10 - "For I am the LORD your God, who upholds your right hand, Who says to you, "Do not fear, I will help you.'" (Isaiah 41:13)

17 - "...walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love." (Ephesians 4:1-2)

24 - "Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you." (Ephesians 4:32)

31 - "The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance." (Joel 2:13)

BUILDING FUND MEMORIALS

THELMA HOLTE

Dennis & Kathy Sherva
Carol Slettebak
LeRoy & Carol Carroll
Shari Sherva
Roy & Irene Disselbrett
Gilman & Betty Beck
Enoch & Madeline Thorsgard
Curtis & JoAnn Funseth
James & Karen Tangen
Arleen Funseth

ADELINE OLSON

Carol Slettebak

DEAN WILSON

Sherry Carroll

MAE VESTE

LeRoy & Carol Carroll

KEN JACOBSON

Alfred & Melba Antonson
Charles & Faye Swenson
Dennis & Kathy Sherva
Shari Sherva
Gary & Janice Bilden
Gilman & Betty Beck
Mary Spaeth
Arleen Funseth
Chad & Sue Peterson
Mike & Tina Schwartz

VIRGIE SEBEKOW

Don & Marian Savage
Shari Sherva
Sherry Carroll
Denny & Linda Gabriel

DOUGLAS KNAIN

LeRoy & Carol Carroll

NANCY JOHNSON

Curtis & JoAnn Funseth
John & Dona Thorsgard
LeRoy & Carol Carroll
Shari Sherva
Arleen Funseth
Dennis & Kathy Sherva
Wes & Marlys Kunz
Gilman & Betty Beck
James & Karen Tangen
Enoch & Madeline Thorsgard
Gordy & Marian Peterson

ANNIE SPONHEIM

Gerald & Adeline Evanstad
Garnett & Linda Gray
Gilman & Betty Beck
Dennis & Kathy Sherva
Charles & Faye Swenson
Shari Sherva
Denny & Linda Gabriel
LeRoy & Carol Carroll

SCOTT PERCY

John & Dona Thorsgard
Shari Sherva

Council Highlights

December 17, 2009

Call to order by Mike. Devotions by Maxine.

Secretary's report: Motion by Maxine to approve, 2nd by Susie.

Treasurer's report: Motion by Derek to approve, 2nd by JoAnn.

Old Business

1. **Church Building Update:** The framing for the window between the sanctuary and the gathering room is in. Sheetrock in the sanctuary is complete. The staining is moving along, and the parking lot has been leveled and graveled. Because of complaints about ice build up on the street do to water coming from our sump pump, we reached an agreement with the city that our sump pump can pump the water into the sewer system until March 1st. Our carpet is almost complete. Change orders in the new church have thus far totaled \$25,458.
2. **Pledges Update:** Our building fund has reached approximately \$168,000 for 2009. We still have outstanding pledges of about \$10,600.
3. **Finalize Budget for 2010:** The budget was almost finalized, but we decided to table the funeral expense line item until the next meeting.

New Business

1. **Pastor's Report:** The new member's class was attended by four people. There will possibly be more new member classes after Christmas. There are 4 students in the 8th grade confirmation class. This is our first year of starting them as 8th graders, and Pastor Tim feels it is going well. Adult Sunday School has been well attended. The local pastors met about the worship service for the 125 plus 1 celebration that will be held this summer. Community Bible Church will be in charge of the message for this. Also included will be a choir and praise band made up of community members from various churches.
2. **Church Property Insurance:** Property and management is in charge of insurance. They will be receiving bids from various companies and making a recommendation to the council.
3. **Annual Meeting Reports Reminder:** Committee chairmen need to have their reports turned in to Marion.
4. **Printer:** Pastor Tim's printer had to be replaced at a cost of approximately \$105.00

Committee Reports

1. **Evangelism:** They are still working on organizing a card mission.
2. **Worship and Music:** Erik will be speaking January 3rd when Pastor Tim is on vacation.
3. **Property and Management:**
4. **Stewardship:**
5. **Parish Education:**

Prayer Time

Next meeting January 21, 2010 at 7:00. Devotions by Ben. Adjournment.

Building Fund Update

Our Building Fund Goal for 2009 is \$200,000. We currently (not counting Sunday, Dec. 27th) have received \$177,424.46 with \$4,582.99 outstanding in pledges. Our fiscal year ends January 31st and more will be needed in early 2010 giving to fund things like

1) painting & staining, 2) gravel parking lot, 3) sidewalk on south side of building, 4) floor covering, 5) sanctuary seating, 6) sound/video system, 7) kitchenette & cabinets, and future things such as chandelier, seating furniture for gathering area, bell tower & paved parking. These have been prioritized and will be completed in their order as possible and as the funds are available. We will also need to work on cancelling our \$750,000 debt too. Certainly God has provided and will provide!

MEMBERSHIP @ EBENEZER

Are you interested in membership at Ebenezer or just want to know more about our church? Membership informational meetings will be January 4th, 7:00 – 8:30 PM and Sunday, January 10th, 7:00 – 8:30 PM both at the NDHC Swarstad Chapel Basement. Choose either night. Let Pastor Tim know if you're interested and can't make either night. He will work out another time.

Special Congregational Meeting

Sunday, January 3rd toward the end of the 9:00 AM worship service. We will entertain a formal motion to allow the congregation to encumber property in order to secure a \$750,000 loan from the Small Business Administration (SBA).

Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, January 31st after the 10:00 AM Worship Service and following Potluck Dinner. All activities will be at the Community Center (or new church building if possible).

Free Lutheran Youth (FLY)

Will meet at the Community Center during the month of January on Wednesday nights at 7:00 PM

Thank you to all who helped with and bid on the FLY Christmas Baskets. We had 12 baskets and made \$656.

Thank You

Thank you to all the ladies who filled out a survey. We really appreciate your help! We will be telephoning the ladies we have not heard from to see what their wishes are as far as serving. In the meantime, please continue to use the WMF "Blue Book" for serving until the new book is completed.

Happy New Year from the Servant Team Coordinators!

Kathy Sherva, Anna VandenBos & Cindy Johnson

NOTES FOR THE WOMEN



* Women's Bible Study will be on Wednesday, January 20, 2:00 PM @ the Senior Center -- Hostesses: Surprise! Lesson 1 - "Panorama, Peanuts..." Bible study books are \$10.



* Quilting Day is scheduled for Wednesday, February 17, 9:00 AM sharp, @ NELC WITH Potluck Dinner. Bring completed quilt tops (if you have any).

TRUTH PROJECT

Truth Project (by Focus on the Family) will start on Monday evenings, January 11th, 7:00-8:45 PM, at the Woodward's. This is a twelve-week video/discussion curriculum encouraging cultivating a Christian worldview. If you are interested in committing to this study, talk with Pastor Tim.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT ON PSALM 23

The Lord is my Shepherd...**THAT'S RELATIONSHIP!**

I shall not want...**THAT'S SUPPLY!**

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures...**THAT'S REST!**

He leadeth me beside still waters...**THAT'S REFRESHMENT!**

He restoreth my soul...**THAT'S HEALING!**

He leadeth me in paths of righteousness...**THAT'S GUIDANCE!**

For His name's sake...**THAT'S PURPOSE!**

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death...**THAT'S CHALLENGE!**

I will fear no evil...**THAT'S ASSURANCE!**

For Thou art with me...**THAT'S FAITHFULNESS!**

Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me...**THAT'S SHELTER!**

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies...**THAT'S HOPE!**

Thou anointest my head with oil...**THAT'S CONSECRATION!**

My cup runneth over...**THAT'S ABUNDANCE!**

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life...**THAT'S BLESSING!**

And I will dwell in the house of the Lord...**THAT'S SECURITY!**

Forever...**THAT'S ETERNITY!**

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

FUNERAL

Nancy Johnson (December 19, 1939–November 27, 2009) on December 2.

WEDDING

Alise Marie Skrove–Lloyd/Daniel Jeffrey Chin on December 19.

BAPTISM

Sawyer James Howson, son of Chris & Amber, born November 18, 2009 and baptized on December 27, 2009. Sponsors: Grant & Lyndsay Violanti.

C A L L E D T O S E R V E

OFFERING COUNTERS

Sue Lloyd
Mike Schwartz

ALTAR COMMITTEE

Evy Arnett

COMMUNION SERVERS

Faye Swenson
Eric Thorsgard
Jerry Thingelstad

USHERS

3 - John & Adam Thorsgard
10 - Perry Johnson, Dwight Johnson
17 - John & Brock Sherva
24 - John & Adam Thorsgard
31 - Perry Johnson, Dwight Johnson

NURSERY

SUNDAY SCHOOL

3 - No S.S.
10 - Janice Bilden
17 - Sue Lloyd
24 - LuAnn Stevens
31 - No S.S.

WORSHIP

3 - Mark & Debbie Korsmo
10 - Todd & Sandy Enger²
17 - Pat & Anna VandenBos
24 - Randy & Heidi LaMarr
31 - Worship @ Community Center

PASTOR TIM'S SCHEDULE

** Pastor Tim will be on vacation through January 3rd.*

** Pastor Tim will be attending the Pastors' Conference at the ARC January 19-21.*

DECEMBER FINANCIAL REPORT

\$ 12,335.90 - Regular Offerings
2,620.00 - Needed per Sunday (General Fund)
2,988.88 - Average received for 2009
352.00 - Additional Income
(\$344.00 - FLY
8.00 - Confirmation Material)
200,000.00 - Building Fund Goal for 2009
182,246.46 - Building Fund to Date for 2009*

** This may not be the final total for 2009, since additional pledges/donations may still come in during this last week in December.*

2010

January

2010

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY																																																																																																		
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