



JANUARY NEWSLETTER

E B E N E Z E R L U T H E R A N C H U R C H

NORTHWOOD, NORTH DAKOTA

Rev. Tim Johnson, Pastor

Office - 587-6464 === Home - 587-6357

E-mail - pastortim@ebenezer-lutheran.net

Web page address - www.ebenezer-lutheran.net

A New Year = A New Opportunity

How many times have you looked back and realized that you missed a great opportunity? Maybe it was a business or investment decision or a chance to be a Christian witness or a Bible study that would have been helpful or a friendship that would have been encouraging. We all miss out on opportunities that we easily spot with our hindsight. The only problem is that by then it is too late to experience the blessing of such opportunities.

When I think of a new year, I automatically think of the opportunities before me. Many will try to develop a new lifestyle for eating and exercise in order to become healthier. Some will seek to get their finances in order and develop a healthy financial plan. Some will be taking classes in order to advance their learning or career. And hopefully everyone will be seeking to grow in their faith while serving their Lord and Master.

Ephesians 5:15-17 says, "*Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of your time, because the days are evil. So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.*"

Christians in America have so many opportunities for growing in their faith. At Ebenezer alone we have worship, Sunday School for all ages including adults, women's Bible study the third Wednesday of every month, men's breakfast fellowship every first Saturday of the month, youth group and choir every Wednesday, worship team practice every Tuesday night, the prayer chain along with other opportunities. There is some preliminary talk about starting small groups in homes for couples this New Year for special studies.

What do you suppose God means when He talks about walking not as unwise men but as wise? How would one walk unwisely and wisely this new year? How would one make the most of their time? How would one best learn to understand what the will of the Lord is? I'm not going to answer these questions for you but I am encouraging you to study this text and seek God's answers to these questions for the New Year.



Happy New Year

*Let God be your Guide
in the days ahead...*



PASTOR'S MESSAGE (Cont.)

As you seek answers for these questions, you will find yourself on your way to walking wisely. And as you begin walking wisely, you will find your hindsight turning into foresight. And as your hindsight turns into foresight, you will find yourself taking advantage of the opportunities set before you. And as you take advantage of the opportunities set before you, you will no longer see so many missed opportunities in the past but you will understand what the will of the Lord is for your life. And that, my dear friends, is powerful! It gives one a sense of purpose and the desire to achieve that purpose.

The New Year is set before you. Will you be taking advantage of the opportunities or will you look back a year from now at the missed opportunities? May God bless us as we press forward!

In His Amazing Grace,

Pastor Tim

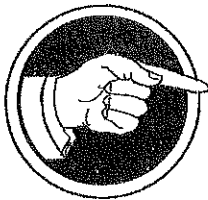
PASTOR'S SCHEDULE

**Pastor Tim will be attending the AFLC Pastors' Conference
January 20-22 at the ARC in Osceola, Wisconsin.**

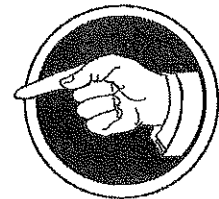
CHURCH OFFICE PHONE NO.

587-6464

SUNDAY, JANUARY 25, SCHEDULE



*11:00 - Worship @ Community Center
No Sunday School -- Potluck Dinner
1:00 - Annual Meeting of the Congregation*



JANUARY RESPONSIBILITIES

Offering Counters

Janice Bilden
Chad Peterson

Communion Servers

Maxine Bachmeier
Grady Thorsgard
Ted Lloyd

Music

Marilyn Thorsgard

Altar

Evy Arnett

NURSERY SCHEDULE *(during Worship)*

*4 - Tara Thorsgard
11 - Susie Johnson
18 - Mya Segerholm
25 - Mark & Debbie Korsmo*

BUILDING FUND MEMORIALS

Tom Balstad

Denny & Linda Gabriel

Elmer Hillesland

Roger & Becky Korsmo

Irene Spitzer

Derek & Laura Sanda

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

Ebenezer officially purchased the school land on December 10, 2008. The 'library' building has been closed up and heated.

Evangelism Committee is responsible for coordinating membership list updating.

Annual meeting will be January 25th following morning service. There will be no Sunday School that day. A potluck dinner is planned.

An electric boiler was installed in the parsonage.

Our insurance coverage with Farmers Union Insurance will be reviewed with a report for next meeting.

Worship locations and times will be researched for our next meeting and discussed further then.

Next meeting January 15, 2009

Debbie Korsmo, acting secretary

EBENEZER "E-ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sign up for Ebenezer e-mail announcements by sending Chad Peterson an e-mail and stating in the subject line or in the e-mail that you would like to receive Ebenezer e-mails. We will use e-mail to notify you of upcoming events and activities and volunteer opportunities at the church.

For example, we'll soon be needing volunteers to do some work at the new church site (in the old school library). It would be very convenient if we could just send an e-mail to everyone that had signed up and then whoever could volunteer would have all the information they needed.

Chad's e-mail address is: chad.peterson@ndhc.net

Thanks!

EBENEZER FLY UPDATE

Happy New Year! Thank you to all who supported the youth group by ordering Thanksgiving Pies or by bidding on Christmas Gift Baskets. We raised more than \$1,500 through these two fundraisers.

January Schedule:

Wednesday, January 7, 14, 21, 28 (7 PM) - FLY at Chad & Sue's house
Saturday, January 31 (Time TBA) - FLY Ski Trip to Frost Fire (Walhalla)

Early Registration forms and deposit money for the 2009 FLY Convention are due to the AFLC by February 1. We will be working with the interested youth and their parents to get the necessary forms completed.

In Him,

Chad and Sue Peterson

2009

January

2009

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY																																																																																											
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