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THE SONSHINE

The Newsletter
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• Rev. Paul A. Krueger, Pastor • Anders Davidson, Vicar

• Bonnie Rennich, Director of Music & Congregational Ministries • Peggy Trondson, Administrative Secretary/Editor

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Looking Back...

Wow! What a wonderful weekend as we celebrated the 25th Anniversary of our church three weeks ago as members and guests from all over the state (and beyond) attended the Saturday and Sunday events. The weekend was filled with wonderful events, including a Saturday night banquet under the tent, an outdoor concert featuring the choirs, soloists and talented musicians at Our Savior Lutheran Church and more! Following the concert, the new fire pit, built by the 9th Grade Sunday School Class, was lit and the group kicked back and enjoyed the beautiful night with singing, laughter, and smores! Then on Sunday morning, worshippers were greeted with the delicious aroma of a hog

that was slow roasted over an open fire all night—served with all the fixings following the 11:00 service. Our special guest for the festivities was the Rev. Dr. James Baneck, North Dakota District LCMS President. He shared a heartfelt message with the congregation at the 3:00 afternoon Celebration Service. It was a wonderful way for us to celebrate and give thanks to God for His wonderful blessings of the past 25 years. Special thanks to Barbara Bethel, our 25th Anniversary coordinator, and all the volunteers and staff members who worked to make the celebration a wonderful event!

Looking Forward ...

The summer shuffle is soon to begin. Sunday, July 5th will be the farewell Sunday for Vicar Davidson. Anders and Sarah will be returning to the St. Louis seminary to complete his last year of school. It was a fast year to say the least,

but truly we have been the ones who have been blessed by their time here with us! Following the 11:00 service, we'll have a "Picnic Farewell" for Anders and Sarah. Burgers, hot dogs, chips, beans (all the "fun food") will be on the menu, served once again by our "grill masters"! Join us as well for a short program that recognizes the wonderful work that Vicar Anders provided for our church family during his time with us. I hope you'll join us!

The summer shuffle, "Part Two" will take place on August 1st as our next year's Vicar Rick Jones and his wife Betsy, make the move to Minot. Rick and Betsy will be arriving and unpacking the weekend of August 1-2, traveling to the Minneapolis area for weddings, visits with friends and family, and then Rick will officially begin his duties with us on August 16th. Both Rick and Betsy are excited about their upcoming time in Minot, and we're looking forward to having them here with us!

Two other big items that will impact our future are in the works right now. Following what you could call an "all-leaders brainstorming meeting," which took place at the end of June, the wheels were set in motion for filling our Youth Director's position and the calling of a second pastor. While there is nothing specific to report with either right now, July will be the month where the "yes/no" decisions, the steps, and timetables for each one will be put in place. My hope is that by mid-July we as leaders will have something specific to bring before the congregation.

Looking Up ...

Are you training to finish strong? I just read the story of a man named Eric Liddell. Eighty years ago, Liddell electrified the world by capturing an Olympic gold medal in the 400 meters—a race he was not expected to win. Liddell was the favorite at 100 meters, but he had withdrawn from that race after learning the qualifying heats would be on Sunday, a day he personally set aside to be with God. Instead of lamenting his lost chance in the 100, he spent the next 6 months training for the 400—and set a new Olympic record. Throughout Liddell's life, he disciplined himself spiritually each day by spending time in God's Word and in prayer, and his life was blessed in remarkable ways because of it.

Strengthened by the grace and power of God, Eric Liddell ran well and finished strong in the race of life. And so can we! Some things, such as time with God, the encouragement (and encouraging) of other believers, and the commitments that give life eternal meaning, are just worth it and carry their own reward. Thanks for your commitment to the work of the Lord here at OSLC.

In the Master's Service,
Pastor Krueger

P. S. See you Sunday!

VICAR'S CORNER

In the Blink of an Eye

What an amazing year this has been! In the blink of an eye our time has run up. It is difficult to fathom that, about a week from when you have this newsletter in your hands, Sarah and I will be back on the road with our 45-foot moving rig cruising toward St. Louis. There is much to say; yet there are few words to adequately wrap up a year's experience of friends, growth, and faith.

Just for a moment, take a look at these lyrics with me ["In the Blink of an Eye" by Mercy Me]:

*I'll embrace every moment I'm given
There's a reason I'm alive for a blink of an eye.*

These words are true for our year...and true for life. At the Seminary, the vicarage year sounded like a lengthy task. A whole year in a place that was not familiar. A whole year with people you've never met. A whole year away from the friends you've studied with through undergrad. Now, it has become a whole year of blessing that has flown by in the blink of an eye!

Together, Sarah and I have attempted to embrace and enjoy every moment that has been given to us. And oh, there have been some unique 'moments.' This past year has been filled with experiences that will go with us for the rest of our lives.

"Thank you" from the both of us! Your welcoming and supporting spirit made our time with you wonderful; and it will do the same for Rick and Betsy

Jones, and for future Vicars as well. Thank you for being who you are – the hands and feet of Jesus Christ at work in this seeking world!

God had great reason to bring us into your family for these months. And He has great reason for bringing each of you to this family as well. Life can sneak by so quickly that we all sometimes forget to see God at work. As Sarah and I prepare to make the transition that lies ahead, I want to leave you with this...

*In your life, be sure not to blink too long –
God's greatest blessings go by
in the blink of an eye!*

With love and gratitude in our Lord,
Vicar Anders and Sarah

MUSIC BEAT SMALL GROUP AND VOLUNTEER MINISTRIES

Music Ministries

I thought I'd return to one of my favorite devotional books called "Amazing Grace, 366 Inspiring Hymn Stories for Daily Devotions" by Kenneth W. Osbeck. I chose the devotion for the 4th of July as it is just around the corner. The song listed for that day? – "The Star Spangled Banner" by Francis Scott Key. We're all familiar with the first verse, but I've included the beautiful second verse which speaks of God's power and our trust in Him.

"During the War of 1812, while on the deck of a truce ship, Francis Key paced nervously as a fierce battle raged

nearby during the British attack on the harbor of Baltimore. As District Attorney of Georgetown and a spiritual lay leader of his church, Key had been sent by President James Madison to negotiate with the British for a physician who had been taken prisoner. All night Key and his party were detained as the heavy bombardment continued. When the firing suddenly stopped just before morning, Key was fearful of the outcome; but as he looked hesitantly across the water, he saw the American flag still triumphantly flying with the assurance of our nation's freedom!

With joyful relief, Key wrote his poem hastily on the back of an envelope and put finishing touches on it after being released later that evening. One month later the song was published, accompanied by an old hunting tune, "Anacron in Heaven," attributed to John Stafford Smith of England. Although enthusiastically received by the people, the song was not officially adopted by Congress as our national anthem until March 3, 1931."

*O say, can you see, by the dawn's early light,
what so proudly we bailed at the twilight's last
gleaming,*

*Whose broad stripes and bright stars thru the
perilous fight, o'er the ramparts we watched were
so gallantly streaming?*

*And the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in
air, gave proof thru the night that our flag was
still there.*

*O say, does that star-spangled banner yet wave
o'er the land of the free and the home of the
brave?*

*O thus be it ever, when free men shall stand
between their loved homes and the war's
desolation!*

*Blest with vict'ry and peace, may the heav'n-
rescued land praise the Pow'r that hath made
and preserved us a nation!*

*Then conquer we must, when our cause it is just;
and this be our motto: "In God is our trust!"
And the star-spangled banner in triumph shall
wave o'er the land of the free and the home of the
brave!*

Small Group Ministries

Some small groups continue to meet weekly throughout the summer, others meet occasionally and still others have chosen to take a break for the summer. However, it's important to continue our daily devotions everyday, year round. So whether you meet with a group or whether you are continuing your discipleship growth on an individual basis, I thought you might be interested in shaking things up a bit with something called The African Bible Study Method. Here's how it works:

"African Bible Study Method" for Groups

This is the

"African Bible Study Method"

It's a great way for a group to dig into a text and pull out meaningful and practical applications. Follow along on each step and have each person or just someone from each table share the answers. Open and close in prayer and enjoy God's Word.

The Steps:

1. One person opens in prayer.
2. One person reads the passage slowly.

3. Each person identifies (underlines in their personal Bible) the word or phrase that catches their attention.
4. Each shares the word or phrase around the group.
5. Another person reads the passage slowly (from a different translation if possible).
6. Each person identifies where this passage touches their life today.
7. Each person then shares.
8. The passage is read a third time. (Another reader)
9. Each person names or writes (in their journal) the answer to this question(s): *“From what I’ve heard and shared, what do I believe God wants me to do or be?” “Is God inviting me to change in any way?”* (5 minutes is given to think and write)
10. Each person shares their answer with the group.
11. Each person prays for the person on their right, naming in prayer what was shared by that person in the other steps.
12. One person closes in prayer.

You can adjust the steps if you are doing individual Bible study. It can be pretty interesting to have different translations of the Bible available to get the most from a passage. So, give it a try and let me know what you think! Any time spent in the Word of God is a blessing for your life.

Volunteer Ministries

Where would I begin to talk about how many volunteers it took to make our 25th Anniversary a very special occasion? A huge thank you to Barb Bethel for taking on the project, and to all of you who took part in so many ways: setting up chairs, serving meals, roasting the pig, clean-up, musicians, wood haulers, publicity, cooks and bakers, grass-cutters, flower arrangers, etc., etc., etc. It couldn’t happen without everyone pitching in. It was obvious that we felt God’s blessing throughout the entire celebration! Thank you!!!!

In His service,
Bonnie Rennich
Director of Music and
Congregational Ministries

“My purpose is that they be encouraged in heart and united in love . . . in order that they may know Christ.”

Colossians 2:2

LHLH CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

“Reflecting the light of God’s love by embracing children and their families and encouraging growth in mind, body, and spirit.”

Day at the Zoo

Kim, Terry, Marissa Williams and Leandra Olson painted dozens of children’s faces at the Coldwell Banker sponsored day at the zoo on Wednesday, June 10th. A donation of \$100 was made to LHLH CDC for our efforts!

Community Option, Inc.

Beth Feist-McHenry and Heather have been assisting Bonnie and I in manageable tasks at the church. They have been marking puzzles, stamping envelopes, etc. We have decided to tackle the room piled high with ING equipment! One or two days a week we will begin to sort, clean, and distribute equipment. How exciting to prepare for the day we know not yet- trusting our Heavenly Father's orchestration!

Foster Grandparents

We contacted these folks a couple of years ago, and just this week I got a call "out of the blue" that there is a grandma, maybe even 2, ready to volunteer with our program. She is moving here from Bismarck and is highly skilled in rocking babies! I will meet with the director of this program the week of July 24-31st as she will be here for the State Fair.

SCRIP will continue to be available each Sunday after services at the LHLH CDC booth in the fellowship hall. Stop by and order gift cards for your favorite stores or to learn how easy it is!

Forward in faith,
Terry Voeller, CDA
LHLH CDC Director

STEPHEN MINISTRY

After the long, cold winter, summer is finally here. The sun is shining and flowers are blooming. Everywhere you look people are outside working,

exercising, or just sitting back and enjoying the warm weather. In North Dakota we learn to truly enjoy the summers for another winter will be here before we know it.

Life is the same way. In order to appreciate the joys, we often have to endure the pains. We never know when the next challenge is going to come. In the midst of life's struggles, it's important to know we are not the only one who has ever experienced pain. Our pains may not be exactly alike but if we reach out to others we may discover that the woman who sits behind us in church, or the cashier at our favorite grocery store, or the man sitting next to us at the dentist's office have been where we are and can help in some small way.

Sometimes we can be so caught up in our own lives that we don't realize others are hurting. When you are out in public, take a look around and really notice the people you encounter. How can you be a blessing to them? Think about the ways in which a small gesture can make a difference. It's as simple as a warm smile, a door held open, a friendly greeting, etc.

How will you be spending your summer? Will you spend your summer days with family and friends going on picnics and taking trips to the lake? Is your family planning a reunion with relatives across the country? Or will your summer this year be a little less joyful as you struggle with your own or another's health difficulties? Or does the thought of summer bring back painful memories of a loved one?

Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ suffered for us and understands our pain. He knows we all struggle and we all need

love. Reach out to people and let them feel the difference love makes in their life. Give them a shoulder to lean on or a hand to hold. In the words of a Casting Crowns song, *“Love them like Jesus”*.

In faith,
Kathie Spaulding
Stephen Ministry Leader

SEWING DISCIPLES

We will be meeting the last Monday of the month, July 27th at 9:30 a.m. We have lots of quilt tops ready to tie!

We would LOVE to have some new faces (and hands!) join us for this wonderful mission opportunity. You do not need to know how to sew!! It is a wonderful time of fellowship as we “tie” for approximately 2 hours and then we enjoy a sack lunch together before going home. Do you have a couple hours to spare? We may not be able to change the whole world, but we can make a difference one family at a time!

Soon school supplies will be going on sale. If you would like to help with our school kits, the following are items that we need:

Spiral Notebooks
Blunt Scissors
Ruler (with centimeters)
Pencil Sharpener
2½” Eraser
Construction Paper

We do NOT need pencils or crayons at this time. Items may be dropped off at the church office. Thank you!

JULY USHERS

8:30 a.m.

Darrell Bernsdorf
Dennis Oothoudt
Rudy Steinke

9:45 a.m.

Ushers Needed!

11:00 a.m.

Ted Krause
Wayne Schumaier
Richard Whorley
Sharon Ellis

If you are willing to serve in this vital area of ministry, PLEASE call the church office at 852-6404 and let Peggy know or sign up on the “Usher Sign Up” sheet hanging on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

July 2	Faye Zurcher Katlin Marshall
July 3	Julie Schriock Kerri Ring Alex Gange
July 4	Olive Boots Scott Adkins Reese Kanyuh
July 5	Robert Herzog Thomas Vera I Ryan Dodd
July 6	Barbara Racine Janel Brandt

July 7 Allan Bonness
 Steve Huenneke
 Hunter Klug
 July 8 Larry Atwood
 Dana Brandt
 Taylor Mattson
 Abigail Juma
 July 9 Marie Marshall
 July 11 Lois Marchus
 George Saltsman
 Tayton Kramer
 Allan Gange
 July 13 Linda Lee
 Beth Feist-McHenry
 Thomas Steenstrup
 July 14 Cambrey Benno
 July 15 Nicole Hoskin
 July 16 Paul Klug
 Nancy Zorn
 July 17 Jason Strandlien
 Jeramy Leifson
 Ian Oja
 Hunter Anderson
 July 18 Karen Aga
 July 19 Gayle Fimrite
 Katherine Fimreite
 July 20 Wayne Johnson
 Jeffrey Melchert
 July 21 Mylon Racine
 July 22 Jason Rust
 Tammy Olson
 July 23 Brynley Benno
 July 24 Addison Krueger
 July 25 Charles DeMakis
 Clint Nordstrom
 Breanna Meckle
 Ashley Chabot
 July 26 Loretta Witt
 Tayler Wallstrum
 Averi Graham
 Jayci Swallers
 July 27 Liana Holman

Michael Hoffart
 Theresa Meyers
 Earl Reinish
 July 28 Debra Schwede
 Larry Anderson
 Daniel Schriock
 July 29 Alex Gilseth
 July 30 Donna Pederson
 McKensie Popinga
 Rylee Womack

Happy Birthday and God's richest
 blessings to each of you! If your birthday
 is not listed, or if the date is incorrect,
 PLEASE call the church office and let
 me know!

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

July 1 Randal & Joan Bailey
 July 2 Justin & Amanda Olson
 July 5 Paul & Susan Dodd
 Patrick & Allison Torbit
 July 7 Glenn & Jolene Klebe
 Ken & Jolene Lewis
 July 8 Larry & Karen Atwood
 Wayne & Laureen Johnson
 Robert & Faye Herzog
 July 9 Jeff & Nadine Dockter
 Kendo & Nichole Carlson
 July 11 Thomas & Angela Vera
 Ricky & Lavetta Melchert
 July 12 Ludvig & Myrtle Bachmeier
 July 13 Anthony & Stefanie Williamson
 July 15 David & Donna Richard
 July 18 Shawn & Elizabeth Benham
 July 20 Craig & Deb Eraas
 Michael & Donna Chester
 July 22 Kevin & Carol Dahly
 July 23 Tony & Ann Mutzenberger

July 24 Lester & Sharon Dionne
 July 25 Keith & Pam Kanyuh
 July 27 Steve & Robin Erdman
 Paul & Barb Dockter
 July 28 Rod & Bonnie Plesuk
 July 28 Jim & Betty Schweyen
 July 29 Allan & Deborah Hemstad

Offering (General Fund):
 May Average:
 \$5,624.15/Week
 Designated Fund Average:
 \$236.36/Week
 June Average (so far):
 \$6270.72/Week
 Designated Fund Average:
 \$395.33/Week

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Serving Away From Home

Nicole Raney
 Scott Howe
 Matthew Schmitz

Health Difficulties

John Bethel
 Vicki Carstens (former member)
 Warren Howe
 Delia McLain
 Ray Mertz
 Marilyn Nelson
 Lisa Pott's Mother
 Donna Richard
 Sue Saltsman
 Don Simonson
 Carol Tribitt
 Doug Voeller
 Archie Zahursky

ATTENDANCE AND OFFERING AVERAGES

Attendance:

May Average: 299

June Average (so far): 286

FROM THE CHURCH RECORDS

Baptisms

June 14, 2009
Maxim Tryon Hall
 Son of Steven and Kristin Hall

June 21, 2009
Theodore Allen Manuwal
 Son of Thad Manuwal and Amanda Rice

June 28, 2009
Henry James Fazardo
 Son of Christopher Fazardo
 and Erika Walker

Wedding

June 6, 2009
Jason Proper and Alyssa Kallias

FIVE STEPS TO A FRIENDLIER CHURCH

1. Speak to the other person first. Don't wait for him or her to take the initiative.

2. If there is someone you don't know, introduce yourself to him or her.
3. Be pleasant in your words and expressions. A great church cannot be built with frowns.
4. Invite newcomers to a worship service or to a church event and introduce them to other members.
5. Encourage people to participate in those church activities that interest them.

BETTER LATE THAN NEVER

A few years ago, 97-year-old Edmond Fryar became a pastor in North Carolina. When someone asked him why he waited so long to be ordained, he answered, "I wanted to be sure God was talking to me."

Christians don't need to wait for God to tell them that they're needed to serve. Not only is this the day the Lord has made, it's the day Christians have kingdom work to do!

GRACE IS A GIFT

When we work an eight-hour day and receive eight hour's pay for our effort, that is a **WAGE**.

When we compete with an opponent and receive a trophy for our superior performance, that is a **PRIZE**.

When we receive something in recognition for our service or achievement, that is an **AWARD**.

But when we can earn no wage, can win no prize and deserve no award—yet we receive such a gift—that is unmerited favor. That is undeserved kindness. That is **GRACE**.

OUR CHURCH IS TO BE SOLD

Our church is to be sold! Yes, our church is to be sold! No, we are **NOT** about to lose our building through foreclosure or repudiated debt. However, our church must be sold to the city and county. It has been planted to wield an influence beyond its membership and walls. Thus, we are presented with an enormous challenge.

Our church must be sold to the unchurched! There are scores of people in our community who would attend our church and join us in the Lord's service if we would bother to sell our church to them.

How much is our church worth to you? How much do you value its ministry? How much do you value the Christ it proclaims? As a member of this church, you are selling your church to others every day. Are you selling it short? Has it helped you to the extent that you're willing to sell it to others? Will you be enthusiastic in talking about your church? Will you share your church with others who have no idea what they're missing?

Take our church seriously and talk to people about what our church has to offer them.