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Thanks Be To God

16 Rejoice always, 17 pray without ceasing, 18 give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

This is wonderful advice for living a full and rich life. Rejoice – have a joyful, hopeful outlook on all of life. Pray without ceasing – stay healthy and constant dialogue with God giving Him all of your anxieties and cares. Give Thanks – A thankful heart keeps your focus on all the good God has brought into your life. Not that you have all you want or even all you need, but you find things every day to be thankful for, blessing and gifts great and small that come into your life because of the goodness and generosity of God.

- Rejoice
- Pray
- Give Thanks

These are all commands to order our lives according to the hope we have in an able and powerful God. As we enter a season of thanksgiving, here are

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Special Points of Interest

- December Birthdays and Anniversaries, Included with Calendar
- Thanks for Caring, Page 9
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Happy December 10th!

***Willie Mahler* is going to have her **99th** birthday. A card shower would be appreciated. Her address is: 7200 York Ave. S, #112, Edina, MN 55435.**

Faith Crafters and Stitchers

Faith Crafters and Stitchers will **not meet** in December. We will begin again on Friday, January 10 from 9:30-11:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. See you then!

A Note from the Accompanist:

To you all:

I very much enjoy providing music for the Sunday morning worship service. The music provides a satisfying worship for me each Sunday. However, I am there to help you worship too. So, if you have a song you would like to hear played for the offertory, let me know. I have lots of music and could probably find it. Also let me know if you want to hear it on the piano or the organ. I would do both, but I don't have long enough arms! HA!

Also, if I am playing the organ for the prelude, I have looked at the first hymn number. If it is in the red hymnal, I am playing songs from that section of the hymnal. If you would like to follow along with the hymns and have a 'private before the service worship', follow along. If you would like to break out in song - that is OK too. I usually play each hymn twice.

Remember, let me know how I can personalize my music for you. My phone number is 835 - 1735 or my email address is marlysgarness@yahoo.com. I look forward to hearing from you.

Marlys

CHRISTMAS TREASURES



Coming soon..."Christmas Treasures"...presented on **Sunday, December 15 at 9:30 a.m.** at Faith United Methodist Church. This intergenerational play is filled with music and memories. There will be youngsters and those who are young at heart sharing some very special symbols along with the Christmas Story. This touching and interactive production will add a unique experience to your holiday season. Fellowship time will feature good hot coffee along with surprise treats AND something just for the kiddos.

Come share in the carol singing and celebration of the timeless story of our Savior's birthday! Don't miss it!

* * * * *

Important information for those who will be participating in the program:

- A one-hour practice will be held on **Saturday, Dec. 7th at 1:00 p.m.**
- If necessary, we will have a second practice on **Saturday, Dec. 14, also at 1:00 p.m.**

Thanks to all for helping to make this a wonderful experience. If you have any questions, please call Linda Lohse at 835-1917.

The Mitten Tree

It's that time again...you can warm your heart while you warm their hands and heads! Watch for the 'Mitten Tree' which will be appearing soon in the entry area – just waiting for donations of hats, scarves and mittens, especially in children's sizes.

The garments will be taken to the Neighborhood Service Center before Christmas, so let's fill the tree to overflowing! Thank you for your gifts!

POINSETTIAS – Order forms are available in the Church Office and were sent in the December newsletter. **Please pay when you order; the deadline is Monday, Dec. 09, 2013.**

- We are looking for a volunteer(s) to help water, set up the display in the Sanctuary and deliver plants to shut-ins after Christmas Eve. We are also looking for someone to help with Easter Lilies & Tulips. If we don't have volunteers, we may discontinue offering these plants.
- This is NOT a tax-deductible donation because there is an exchange of goods.

REMEMBER OUR CHURCH & MILITARY FAMILIES IN YOUR PRAYERS...

Remember our Church Members & Friends who are less mobile and are unable to join us as often as they would like, including:

Koda Living Community, Owatonna: Elaine Flathers

Colony Court Memory & Care Suites: Ann Swenson, Rosalind Peterson, Gerri Peterson

Colony Court: Millie Groh, Ardella Draheim

Lakeshore Inn: Florence Gutknecht, Hazel Henkensiefken, Don Lohse

Latham Place: Liz Corchran

Morrow Home, Sparta, WI: Marlene Rietfort

Oaklawn Health Care Center: Jim Keller

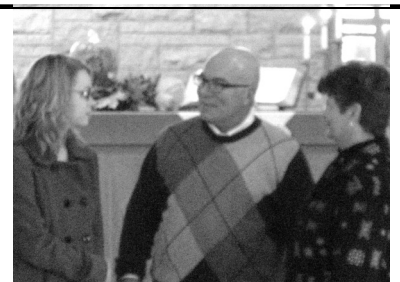
Tower Light, St. Louis Park: Darlene Lynch

Those who also need our prayers: Willie Mahler, Jerry Krause, Linda Wilson, Robert and Janette Larson, Dick Bartz



Commissioning for Haiti:

Katelyn Madigan, Pastor Victor Waters, and Sherry Scholljegerdes



Men of Faith Meeting

Submitted by Roger Walker

The Men of Faith met at 6:30pm on Thursday, November 14, 2013 in the Fellowship Hall at Faith United Methodist Church. Those present were George Hagge, Peter Fog, Bruce Stauffer, Mark Norby, Keith Smith, Jim Barber, Claire Voshell, Neil Fruechte, Ronald Terrell, Paul Lohse, Rodger Dahnert, Dick Westrum, and Roger Walker. Keith Smith was the host and served a dessert. (Thanks, Wilda!)

The minutes from the October meeting were distributed. It was suggested that the name of our men's group be changed from Men's Club to Men of Faith. After a brief discussion, a vote was held and approved to make that name change.

Claire Voshell reported on the clean-up day that occurred on Saturday, November 9. He stated all that was needed was some trimming and trash removal. The group was done in two hours, including coffee and treats.

Pete Fog updated the group on the Valet Service. He distributed a revised procedure sheet to the group. This incorporated the suggestions made at our last meeting. There will be an orientation for the valets at fellowship on Sunday, November 17.

The dates for serving Fellowship by the Men of Faith were discussed and changes were noted. We will be serving next on December 1 instead of November 24, as indicated on the schedule, because a potluck is being held on that date.

The use of Men of Faith funds was discussed. Roger Walker suggested looking at a project at the church where our funds could be used for seed money. Perhaps we form a team to look at the design of an outdoor sanctuary, beginning with a cross by the lake. This would be a multi-year project, progressing as funds allow. The outdoor sanctuary would be used for some summer services, small weddings, and a quiet time for being with God. An outdoor sanctuary team was formed with these members: Jim Barber, Paul Lohse, Mark Norby, Bruce Stauffer, and Roger Walker.

The next Men at Faith meeting will be at 6:30pm, Thursday, December 12, 2013 in the Fellowship Hall of Faith United Methodist Church. Mark Norby and Roger Walker will host. All men at Faith United Methodist Church are welcome to attend.

The meeting concluded at 7:30 with the Lord's Prayer.

After the meeting, for those who could stay, Mark Norby showed a video on the Hebrew alphabet and language.

UMW Update– Bert's Notes

United Methodist Women (UMW) unit meeting was held Monday, November 18th. Mary Jane Stuffer presented the World Thank offering program. She shared stories of UMW missions in the United States and around the world.

Reports were given on the UMW activities during this past quarter

We planned our 2014 program schedule and elected officers for 2014.

The United Methodist Women officers for 2014 are as follows:

President: Barb Friedl

Vice President: Sherry Scholljegerdes

Secretary: Shirley Hansen

Treasurer: Sandy Voshell

Nomination: Edy Barber, Karen Ferch, Char Frankenberry, Linda Lohse

Fall Bazaar was held Saturday, November 2nd.

As usual, the vegetable beef soup was delicious and we received lots of comments on how great it was. That, along with the smell of fresh baked bread and pies, made it hard to wait for lunchtime. We had a great attendance at the luncheon.

The bazaar was also a great success. Each year we try to make this event the biggest and best. Can't wait until next year! We had such a great variety of items of baked items, silent auction items, slightly used and craft items. With the number of items we sold, it looks like people will be set for the holidays whether it is something to eat or a gift for someone.

The reason we thought it was the biggest and best is due to everyone helping out. Like I've said before a 'thank you' doesn't even come close to saying how much we appreciate each and every one of you for all that you do. Thanks again!

In Memoriam

submitted by: Dolores Dahnert and Mary Jane Stauffer



A new cabinet in the narthex was given in Memory of Ray Dahnert by his wife, Dolores, his son, Jeff, and his wife Laura, and daughter Jill and husband John Ledbetter. Ray was a skilled carpenter who often donated his skills building items for the church. The interior shelf of this cabinet is made from wood that was part of the original lectern when the church was built in 1962.

Thanks Be To God

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some reasons we can be thankful and celebrate the work of God among us.

We have grown numerically this year:

2012 Average Attendance 86 for the year Jan -December

Sept.- October 87

2013 Average /Attendance 91 + 5 Jan-October

Sept.-October 97 +10

Sept.		2012	2013	Differ- ence
Week 1		89	97	8
Week 2		94	120	26
Week 3		82	91	9
Week 4		90	69	-21
Week 5		79	80	1
		Average 86	Average 91	+ 5

In September, we celebrated the completion of three HCI projects:

The opening of a new nursery that was staffed and kid ready.

The introduction of our new vision statement.

We are committed to Engaging our community with the gospel of Jesus Christ, through our words and actions. We will Equip all who respond to become disciples of Jesus Christ and we will Empower leaders who will partner with God for the healing of the world.

The launching of our small group ministry and sermon series "If You Want to Walk on Water You Have To Get Out Of The Boat."

Oct.		2012	2013	Differ- ence
Week 1		95	95	0
Week 2		82	90	8
Week 3		76	127	51
Week 4		93	96	3
		Average 87	Average 102	+ 15

In October we completed our fourth HCI project.

The posting of new and clearer signage that will help newcomers find their way around our church better.

We launched our Confirmation Class.

We hosted Trunk or Treat for 600 kids and families. Eighty seven of those families wanted their

Thanks Be To God

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pictures taken and mailed to them. Twenty more wanted more information about the church. *“Congratulations!... your congregation is among the top twenty five on the Southern Prairie District with regard to Average Worship Attendance.”*

We have

3 churches that average over 200 per Sunday

5 that average between 150 -199

10 that average 149-100

7 others that average over 75

This was part of an e-mail I received from our District Superintendent Rev. Phil Strom.

We celebrate what God has done in our congregation this year. As we enter the Advent season, here are some events we look forward to and can invites our friends to attend:

Advent Sermon Series:

Sermon	Date
Jesus in the Old Testament Psalm 22; Isaiah 11: 1-9; Isaiah 53	December 1 st
Jesus the Coming King Matthew 24:1-31; Mark 13:1-27: Revelation Ch 1	December 8 th
Christmas Treasures	December 15 th
Cantata	December 22 nd
Christmas Eve Service 4pm	December 25 th
Jesus Fully God-Fully Man John 1:1-14	December 29 th

ADVENT ADJUSTMENTS

We desire that our worship service is as seamless as possible and that we transition from one part of the service to another as smoothly as we can. A newly formed Worship Design Team met for the first time last week and ways to improve the flow of our Sunday worship service were discussed.

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Thanks Be To God

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We are an extremely active church and there are many events going on each week, but when we take the time to highlight events on Sunday morning with a live announcement, we often use up to 10 minutes of our worship time. In order to give more time in the Sunday worship service beginning the first Sunday in Advent, we will **ELIMINATE "LIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS"** all announcements will be due in the office by **NOON WEDNESDAY**. If an announcement must be made on Sunday morning that didn't make the Wednesday deadline, please give a written note to the pastor prior to the worship service.

Another change we will implement is **REPLACING OUR LIVE PRAYER REQUEST WITH PRAYER CARDS THAT WILL BE IN THE PEW RACKS**. We will pray for the request we receive on the following Sunday morning. If there is a time sensitive request, it can be handed to the pastor and it will be lifted up for prayer during the prayer time. We hope this will encourage those who are more private people or simply don't like the microphone to share what is on their hearts.

Beginning in Advent, we will have a **CANTOR** to lead us in the singing of our Hymns **and we** will also offer a **gift** to all newcomers who attend our worship service.

Bishop Sally Dyke said, "Change is strange" and it is. We are in a process that will change things large and small in the life of our church. Some changes are easier than others and some we will bump up against our personal preferences and we won't like them. One of the recent changes that has not been easy for some has been the choir no longer sitting in the choir loft or wearing choir robes. The reasons for the decision to move the choir from the choir loft is threefold.

1. In response to the feedback from our mystery guest who visited us last year and said that our singing was not very engaging, we thought that by the choir sitting in the congregation it would strengthen the singing of the congregation.
2. Some who are willing to sing in the choir also want to sit with their families during the service. By have the choir sit in the congregation, it would allow those individuals to participate in the choir and sit with their families.
3. Choir robes set the choir apart from the rest of the congregation by having the choir not wear robes, it would be more inviting for others to join the choir.

All of these changes signal something new is happening at our church. We hope this will provide a more open and welcoming atmosphere for those who come to worship with us for the first time. Be patient, Be joyful and wait and see what God will do!

Pastor Victor

Thanks for Caring

Information and fun for Working Caregivers

Information on:

Day Respite Care

Taking Care of Yourself program

Transportation

Support group of your peers

Brief presentations and time for conversation

Christmas treats and great door prizes

Bring a friend, everyone welcome

December 12, 2013

6:30 pm—7:30 pm

Location: Court House East Annex, 307 N. State Street, Waseca

Across from the court house

Nurse's Notes: Hints for Improved Communication

Do you ever feel like you're not being heard? Are you a good listener? During the holidays, with all the hustle and bustle, are we taking time for the important things? Are you improving your relationships here and with our Heavenly Father?

Make a written plan. Decide which day and time you will visit with an elderly relative or neighbor. Set time aside for family. Be a better communicator. Actually listen!

Below are a list of 10 ways to improve communication.

Hints for Improved Communication

1. Make sure you have the person's attention before talking. Simply saying the person's name directs his or her attention to you.
2. Face the person to whom you are speaking.
3. Speak at normal levels or a little louder if listening conditions are difficult. Politely ask if you are being heard and understood.
4. Talk naturally, but a little more slowly and with a few more pauses when listening conditions are difficult.
5. Stay within a few feet of the person(s) with whom you are speaking.
6. Reduce the background noise if possible; for example, turn off the radio or television.
7. Talk with an individual on a one-to-one basis if possible or, in a small group, rather than in a large group.
8. Alert your listener to changes in topics of conversation.
9. Include your listeners in the conversation by asking them for information, comments and opinions.
10. Rephrase your questions or statement if the listening is unsure about what has been said.

Jesus was the great communicator. Often he called people to listen not just hear.

Mark 4:3 "Listen! A farmer went out to sow his seed."

Mark 4:24 "Consider carefully what you hear," he continued, "With the measure you use, it will be measured to you." –And even more.

Merry Christmas to all of you. May the spirit of joy and wonderment fill your hearts.

Peace and Grace,

Sherry Scholljegerdes, RN

Source: The Mayo Clinic

Christmas Word Search

www.funenglishgames.com

E R S S P X E D G L S S K Z R Q
 X Z L F L H T T E N O X Y E X B
 D N L D M V A E V C D R E O A U
 A M E R A H L S E B E D A A T H
 N N B Z R M O G C R N M D C P M
 G A M B M R C D N I T V B L J S
 E M W Z A H O C E I T Q O E L F
 L W E T X W H R S N K D S E R D
 V O S Z B T C Q E T U C I U R Z
 Y N H O L L Y S F R C G O A N Y
 Y S X F V T E I I K H C C T V W
 Y D N A C R G Y S A N T A D S S
 D E L F P H W R E R L Y U Z L O
 I K E L Q V F Q F Z I T S G L V

ANGEL
 CARD
 DECEMBER
 HOLLY
 RUDOLPH
 SNOWMAN
 TOYS

BELLS
 CAROL
 ELF
 PRESENT
 SANTA
 STAR
 TREE

CANDY
 CHOCOLATE
 GIFT
 REINDEER
 SLEIGH
 STOCKING

MONTHLY MEET-UPS

Elizabeth Circle

UMW Elizabeth Circle will meet **Wednesday, December 18, at 3:00 p.m.** in the **Lakeview Room**. All circle members will provide part of the snacks. Each member will also contribute what she would like to share during devotion time. Visitors and guests are welcome to join us!

Ruth Circle

UMW Ruth Circle will meet on **Wednesday, December 18, at 9:30 a.m.** The location is yet to be determined.

Mary Circle

UMW Mary Circle will meet on the **Tuesday, December 17, at 1:00 p.m.** at Char **Frankenberry's home**. Ardella Draheim will furnish a light desert. Members are asked to bring an article to share with the group (short story, poem, Bible reading.) if the weather is bad, the meeting is cancelled.

Men's Club

Men's club will meet on **Thursday, December 12, at 6:30 p.m.** in the **Fellowship Hall**. Mark Norby and Roger Walker will host.



Faith United Methodist Church

"Faith by the lake ~ and beyond!"

**801 Fourth Ave. NE
Waseca, MN 56093**

Phone: 507-835-3167

Fax: 507-835-5400

E-mail: faithwaseca@gmail.com

www.faithwasecaumc.com

Non-profit Org
Postage Paid
Permit 30
Waseca, MN
56093

Change Service Requested

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP AT FAITH

9:30 a.m., December 15

Children's Program

9:30 a.m., December 22

Christmas Choir Cantata

4:30 p.m., December 24

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

