

OCTOBER 2011 INDEX

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Section One: PASTOR

Pastoral Epistle

Worship, Nature, God and Liturgy



“Yes, but . . .” is the response. The statement is, “I feel so close to God when I am out in nature.”

First the “yes” part. So do I! Let me tell you a really good one, when my friend Steve and his

son Ryan and I were on our four-day hike through the Grand Tetons. By the third day we had seen so much majesty: the alpine meadows were *crammed* with flowers of dozens of kinds; the waterfalls and babbling brooks and rushing rivers and quiet pools; and of course the mountains were staggering. I simply started to *laugh*. The Lord’s handiwork was so great, so perfect, I just laughed with joy and used one of Julie’s favorite phrases for grace: “this God is just out of control.”

In fact, Julie thinks that Psalm 23 means it literally as well as metaphorically: we should *actually* let the Shepherd lead us “beside still waters” and “lie down in green pastures.” In a boat or deer-stand, on trail or dock, it *is* peaceful. Partly this is because we

have, for awhile, taken a break from our duties. Partly it is because no one is talking to us! But partly, we know, the loveliness of the natural world somehow speaks peace to us; “one deep calls to another in the noise of your waterfalls” as Ps. 42 says.

Now the “BUT” part. The lovely experiences of nature, even rightly thanking the good Lord for what he has made, is no *substitute* for the liturgy of our public worship. Not at all. For there are many, many events in the liturgy that even beautiful wilderness just doesn’t have:

- ◆ the companionship of God’s assembled people
- ◆ the forgiveness of sins
- ◆ the Word: telling us of the Cross and directing our lives
- ◆ the joint praising of God in worship
- ◆ the body and blood of Christ
- ◆ sharing our concerns with our brothers and sisters and letting them raise them to the Almighty in prayer
- ◆ standing shoulder to shoulder with all the saints confessing our faith
- ◆ the offering! our costly thanks to God in praise of his great goodness to us (including for creation)

The first article of the Creed, creation, is wonderful. But it is the second article, Redemption, that makes us Christians--and indeed that saves our lives! Nature tells us of God’s power (Romans 1) but we need the Church to tell us we are forgiven because of the Cross.

“Yes, but . . .” AND . . . we, who faithful take our part in the liturgy, know strongly the grace of Jesus Christ *are able to enjoy the wilderness and praise God all the more*. For we know that through the grace of Christ the Creator has also become our heavenly Father—so that the wilderness is not only wonderful and pleasing in itself, but it is a gift of love to us from our dearest lover, the Father.



Section Two: COUNCIL NOTES

West Holden Lutheran Church Council

July 2011 Council Meeting Minutes – Preliminary

Call to Order: President Dennis Thompson called the meeting to order at 6:45 p.m.

Present: Dennis Thompson, Terry Johannes, Cal Wilson, Pastor, and Laura Araiza.

Pastor opened with a passage from the bible. Also talked about how was Christ active in your life today, this week, this month?

Reports Read: Pastor’s report, Secretary’s report, Treasurer’s report: Beginning Balance as of June \$3,945.62, ending balance as of June \$3,160.65. Mid year we are only at 38% of what was projected for the year. Council is concerned and is taking steps to work on this shortfall.

Motion made and seconded to approve the reports as presented. Motion carried. Motion made and carried to accept the agenda. No additions to the agenda.

Old Business: None

New Business:

A. Steve Chapple unable to make today’s meeting. He plans to attend the August meeting.

B. Memorial Fund: Will look into the possibility of using these funds to paint the upstairs.

C. Steward and Education: The Book of Revelations performance will be held at the Wild Rose Elementary School on October 13th with a free meal starting at 5:30 p.m. and the performance at 6:30 p.m. Council has also decided to have a Stewardship Committee, Pastor Dennis and Cal will ask other members to help with this committee.

D. August 28 – Change of Service. West Holden will start with the early service one week ahead of schedule to accommodate Mt. Morris due to a special service they will be having.

E. Microsoft Office Publisher: This would cost \$80.00 per copy and two are needed. It was decided at this time that one copy would be purchased for Myrna Schultz.

G. Cemetery Fund: Discussed the possibility of using these funds for new banners/paraments for the church.

Other Business:

Worship Services: Pastor will be gone on July 31st and August 14th and it was discussed who we would like to give the sermon. Would we like someone’s testimony or a pastor to give the sermon?

Next Council Meeting: August 2, 2011 6:30 p.m.

Adjournment: Motion made and seconded to adjourn meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m. Ended the meeting with the Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted:

Laura Araiza, West Holden Council Secretary



West Holden Lutheran Church Council

September 2011 Council Meeting Minutes – Preliminary

Call to Order: President Dennis Thompson called the meeting to order at 6:50 p.m.

Present: Dennis Thompson, Terry Johannes, Pastor, and Laura Araiza.

Pastor opened with a passage from the bible and prayer. Also talked about how Christ has been active in our life today.

Julie Johannes

Reports Read: Pastor's report, Secretary's report, Treasurer's report: Beginning balance as of August \$2,308.62, ending balance as of August \$1,432.06.

Motion made and seconded to approve the reports as presented. Motion carried. Motion made and carried to accept the agenda with additions made.

Old Business:

Book of Revelations: Pastor spoke about areas needing help with getting this put together. Pastor will speak to parishioners at Mt. Morris also about helping out.

New Business:

A. Church Service: Dennis had some concerns from parishioners. Some older songs would be preferred at our services. Also are concerns about ushers, they would like to see the list made out further ahead.

B. Ordination: Pastor will be ordained for 25 years this October 12th. There is talk about a worship service on Wednesday evening with a celebration and treats to follow.

Next Council Meeting: October 18, 2011. Joint council meeting at Mt. Morris, with our council meeting to follow.

Adjournment: Motion made and seconded to adjourn meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m. Ended the meeting with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted:

Laura Araiza, West Holden Council Secretary



Mt. Morris Holden Lutheran Church Council

August, 2011 Council Meeting Minutes (Preliminary)

Date: August 16, 2011

Call to Order: President Laurie Jarvis called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

Present: Pastor, Laurie Jarvis, Judy Foster, Dede Bastar, Garlon Peterson, Craig Starkweather, Pat Hassmann and Val Jarvis

Absent: Curtis Nelson

Pastor led the opening prayer

Reports:

Building & Grounds: Garlon Peterson reported that Adam Jones, Craig Starkweather, a new insurance adjuster and he checked the church and parsonage regarding the hail damage. Garlon also gave an update on the Odds and Ends Committee: The driveway between the parsonage and church property has been patched; Roland Ode finished the ten windows in Pastor's office, the church office and the Sunday School rooms; Dale Simonson patched the crack in the steps and painted the railing in the Sunday School area; Roger Wilke put a new sweep on the back door; Oscar Miller fixed the church pew; Greg Foster installed hardware cloth around the condenser to protect it from weed whacking damage and he spread dirt around the low spots at the parsonage, seeded it and watered it to help stop water leakage into the basement. Many, many thanks to everyone for their projects..

WELCA: There will not be quilting Tuesday. Coins for Camp will continue until September 11th. The deadline for items for the kits for Lutheran World Relief is October 10th.

Secretary's: As presented

Pastor's: As presented

Treasurer's: Beginning balance as of 6/1/11 was \$8,640.12; income-\$8,496.06; disbursements-\$5,775.79; leaving an ending balance as of 6/30/11 of \$11,360.39. The beginning balance as of 7/1/11 was \$11,360.39; income-\$8,889.01; disbursements-\$7,978.01; leaving an ending balance as of 7/31/11 of \$12,271.39.

Motion made and seconded to accept reports as presented. Motion carried.

Old Business:

Constitution Review: After some discussion, decision postponed until September's meeting.

Sarah Pietkauskis was nominated to be a Holt Scholarship Committee member. Her nomination was unanimously accepted.

Pastor presented devotions.

New Business:

Window Celebration August 28, 2011: After some discussion, a motion was made and seconded to give \$205.00 from the Stained Glass Window fund to the Window Celebration Committee toward the celebration. Motion carried.

There was discussion with regards to hiring a youth worker from our congregation.

NEXT MEETING: SEPTEMBER 6, 2011 AT 6:00PM

Lord's Prayer

Adjournment:

Motion made and seconded to adjourn August, 2011 council meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith A. Foster, Secretary
Mt. Morris Holden Church Council



Mt. Morris Holden Lutheran Church Council

September, 2011 Council Meeting Minutes (Preliminary)

Date: September 6, 2011

Call to Order: President Laurie Jarvis called the meeting to order at 6:05pm.

Present: Pastor, Laurie Jarvis, Curtis Nelson, Judy Foster, Dede Bastar, Garlon Peterson, Craig Starkweather

Absent: Pat Hassmann and Val Jarvis

Pastor led the opening prayer and devotion

Reports:

Building & Grounds: The insurance update for the hail damage is to come very soon. A new inspection has been done with a new adjustor. Garlon Peterson is going to set up another meeting with the Odds and Ends committee to “inventory” what has been completed thus far and work that still needs to be done.

WELCA: Coins for Camp Collection ends 9/11/11. Lutheran World Relief Kits items donation deadline is 10/2/11. Quilters met today from 12pm until 3pm and will continue to meet on Tuesdays each week at noon. Craft night will be Thursday, September 15 at 7pm.

Secretary's: As presented with minor correction

Pastor's: As presented with the addition that we have 5-6 Small Group Leaders ready to begin. Thank you.

Treasurer's: Beginning balance as of 8/1/11 was \$12,271.39; income was \$8,446.65; disbursements were \$7,724.11 leaving an ending balance as of 8/31/11 of \$12,993.93.

Motion made and seconded to accept reports as presented. Motion carried.

Old Business:

Constitution Review: The council has reviewed half of the changes and will complete the review in October.

The Capital Improvement Plan was discussed at length and will be presented to the congregation at a **special information meeting on October 2nd** following worship. On **October 9th** following worship, there will be a **special congregational meeting to vote** on the necessary projects.

New Business:

Church use policies tabled until October.

NEXT MM COUNCIL MEETING: OCTOBER 4, 2011 AT 6:00PM.

****JOINT COUNCIL MEETING OCTOBER 18, 2011 AT 6:30pm AT MT. MORRIS****

Lord's Prayer

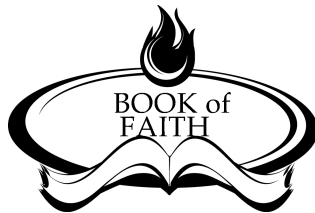
Adjournment: Motion made and seconded to adjourn September, 2011 council meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith A. Foster, Secretary
Mt. Morris Holden Church Council



Section Three: EDUCATION



**Book of Faith for October:
Amos 5-9, Hosea and 1 Corinthians 1-4**

We have interrupted our reading of 2 Kings at the long-reigning king of Israel at Samaria, Jeroboam II. For during his prosperous and successful reign that the first two great writing prophets (remember that Elijah and Elisha did not write down their words) were active: Amos of Tekoa and Hosea.

Then it will be good to take a break from the dreary faithlessness of Israel, and the Lord's efforts through his prophets to rescue them. So we will begin the largest NT book that we have not yet read in this series, 1 Corinthians.

*1 Corinthians is marvelous. It goes from the ridiculous to the sublime. For sublime we have Paul's astonishing meditation in chapter one about the foolishness of God that is wiser than human wisdom, and his weakness more powerful than human strength. We have Paul's instruction for the Lord's Supper in chapter 11, the Love Chapter (13) and the Resurrection chapter (15). For ridiculous, we have the congregation squabbling about who is the best preacher, who has the best spiritual gifts, who gets to eat the best food at pot lucks, and their questions about whether marriage is OK for Christians and whether they can eat meat that was sacrificed to an idol. Even in these almost laughable controversies, though, it is wonderful to see how St. Paul carries through from the first chapter (which is first for a good reason!) that the **wisdom of the cross** is the way to sort out all these questions!*

October 2 assignment. Read by (10/9): Amos 5-7

October 9 assignment. Read by (10/16): Amos 8-9, Hosea 1-3

October 16 assignment. Read by (10/23): Hosea 4-11

October 23 assignment. Read by (10/30): Hosea 12-14

October 30 assignment. Read by (11/6): 1 Corinthians 1-4





Our MM Sunday School schedule with important dates in bold.
For the fall, MM Sunday School will meet from 9:00 to 10:15.
Church is at 10:30.

September **11**—Rally day with cross focus and balloon launch
 September 18, 25

October 2, 9, 16, **23** (children sing in church at 10:30)
 October 30

November 6, 13, 20, 27

December 4
 December **11** will be the Christmas program. The kids will practice during Sunday school, then will take part in the 10:30 church service).

No class December 18, 25 or January 1st.

****Remember that times switch in January. We will have 8:30 church and Sunday School will be from 10:00 to 11:15.**

Re-rally Sunday January **8** during Sunday School and special church service will focus on the three wise men visit from Matthew 2.

January 15, 22, 29

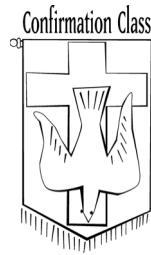
February 5,12, **19** (children will sing during 8:30 church)
 February 26

March 4,11,18, 25

April 1, **8** (children will sing during 8:30 church)
 April 15, 22, 29

Last day of Sunday School will most likely be May 6th (depending on choir schedule).

Kristen Jones



DO NOT SAY

to children, “You have to be confirmed and then you make up your own mind.” I’m serious. Don’t. Here’s why.

First, that is silly any way. The children will make their own decisions whether they have our permission or not! *Our* privilege and duty is to do anything, spill our blood if we have to, to help them *know what is good and true* so that their life decisions are healthy ones.

Second, do we really not care if our children go to heaven or hell? Do we really not care if they live even their earthly life in the fellowship of Jesus Christ or not? Do we not care whether or not they continue to learn the most important truths about human life? And who is going to tell them except the Church (Music? MTV? School?)

It is like saying, “You have to take the D.A.R.E. program at school then you can decide whether you want to be alcoholic or not.” *What kind of a parent would say that?*

Rather, this is what you want to say, from the time children are five.

Your mother and father know that the best thing in all of life is Jesus Christ. Better to have Christ and lose everything else, including life, than to have everything the world offers and not have Christ.*

Because we love you, we are doing all we can to teach you this: who Christ is, what he has done and will do, and that he just IS life. We are teaching you how to trust him, how to obey him, to listen to his Word at church and in your own Bible reading, how to pray. Eventually you will live as an adult. It will be the biggest disappointment of our lives if you do not continue to love your Lord and Savior Jesus with all your heart, and it will be our greatest joy if you are an even better Christian that we are.”

* - Parents, if *you* don't believe this yet then make sure 1) you are in worship *all the time*, 2) that you pray like crazy, 3) learn the Bible and 4) talk to me so I can help you. Because if you don't know this, you are not yet alive.



Section Four: ORGANIZATIONS

Holden Lutheran Parish Council Members

West Holden

Dennis Thompson	Pres.		787-3941
Laura Araiza	Sec.		787-2435
Terry Johannes			787-0013
Bonnie Patti	Fin. Sec.	2010-12	622-4009

Deacons

Gary Thompson			622-5646
Terry Johannes			787-0013

WELCA Rep.

Open

Pastor Parish

Committee

Brenda Arellano			920-290-3012
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Julie	Johannes		622-3313
Allen Stea			787-4869

Mt. Morris

Laurie Jarvis	Pres.	2008-10	920-291-5737
Judy Foster	Sec.	2010-12	787-4601
Curtis Nelson		2009-11	787-7642
Pat Hassmann	Fin. Sec.		787-5484

Deacons

Garlon Peterson			787-2486
Diedrich Bastar		2009-11	715-258-5297
Craig Starkweather		2010-12	787-3803

WELCA Rep.

Val Jarvis			787-1399
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Pastor Parish

Committee

John Jarvis			787-4208
Sally Lungwitz			566-4901
Tara Gibbs			920-622-3551

Contacting Pastor Todd

Cell: 920-268-3097 Home: 920-830-0264

tmurken@new.rr.com

Holden Parish

Website: www.holdenlutheranparish.org

E-mail: holdenparish@centurytel.net

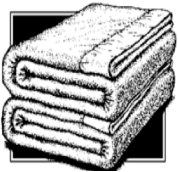




Just a reminder the deadline for the **LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF KITS** is October 2. You have two more weeks to donate items that go into making any of these kits: Health Kits, Layette Kits, and School Kits. Please put all items in the container in the Narthex. Thank you for helping others. Thank you for caring!



Blanket Sunday



Blanket Sunday is October 2nd. Donate blankets or money to be put toward shipping of the blankets. Quilts and kits will be displayed in the Narthex on October 2nd. Any donations will be appreciated.

If you have any questions, contact Evie Vatland at 787-4196.



CROP WALK is a national effort of many years' tradition to feed the starving humans of the world, one of Jesus' commands. The Waushara County CROP Walk will be Sunday, October 9, (don't worry, it is between morning worship and the evening Packer game.) Please watch for more details to follow.



West Holden's 2011 Evangelism Work ***The Book of Revelation Experience***

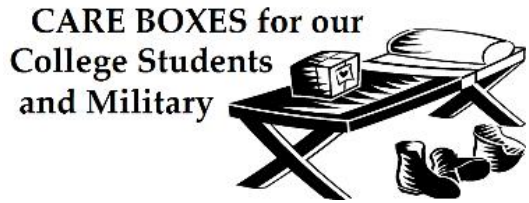
Come and experience the Book of Revelation. A dramatic reading with candles, music responsive reading and costume.

The following for Sundays' readings, sermons and hymns (at both churches) will be from Revelation.

Free meal begins at 6 PM, Thursday, October 13 (reservations required at the Parish Office.)

To be held at **Wild Rose Elementary** with the presentation beginning at 6:30 PM.





CARE BOX TIME at MM

Monday, October 17th, 2011 is the date for filling and mailing care boxes to our college students and military from our church. Lots of snacks and homemade cookies are really appreciated. This year, we have a total of 9 boxes to fill. Your items can be left in the church kitchen on Sunday, October 16th or before 9:00 AM on Monday, October 17th. Thank you very much for caring for those who are away from home.



Dear Members and Friends,

My sincere gratitude is extended to all of you for your cooperation in the completion of our stained glass window restoration project. My job as chairwoman was much easier with your support. With the guidance of God, we worked together to insure a beautiful asset of our church was restored and strengthened for many years to come.

Your kind words and deeds make me very proud to be a member of Mt. Morris Holden Lutheran Church!

May God bless you!

Kindly,

Cheryll Weekly

Whose birthday is it anyway?



Section Five: UPCOMING CALENDAR EVENTS

Whose Birthday Is It Anyway?

Now, early October, is not a minute too soon to decide that this year it will be different! It will be *holy*. It will wholesome, healthy, human. It will ALL be about honoring Christ.

... whose birthday it is anyway.

Christ is *not* honored by spending hundreds of dollars on manufactured items as gifts.

Christ is honored by giving to those organizations that really help the poorest of the poor to a better life. ELCA World Hunger Appeal, Heifer Project, etc. And when we give to these life-giving organizations we can give *in honor of our loved ones*.

Christ is not honored by frantic, crazy, workaholic behavior to “make everyone happy.” Actually, people either bring their own happiness or they don’t; we can’t make our family happy no matter how many cookies and decorations and gifts.

Christ is honored by peace.

Christ is *not* honored by family gatherings where His holy name is never mentioned.

Christ is honored by worship—YES BOTH on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day (Sunday the 25th). And as a matter of fact, no, we *don't* have anything better to do!

Christ is not honored by “Happy Holidays” which is a deliberate shunning of his blessed name!

“Merry Christmas” names His name.

Christ is honored by simple gifts given in sheer love without expectation of return. Especially when the recipient says, “This is a good gift” and the gathering chimes in with “But the best gift is Jesus!”

Christ is honored by a home made lovely in sight and sound and smell to celebrate *His* coming to save us.

Let us make our observations holy, wholesome, and actually happy this time!



Camperships as Gifts

A wonderful gift to children, from age four through high school, would be to pay for their trip to a church camp! It would be giving them a wonderful experience *that they cannot get anywhere else*. There are even times at camp for grandparent and grandchild together. www.crosswayscamps.org.



Choir will begin practice in October, and to watch the October Sunday bulletins for the start-up Tuesday. The choir meets every Tuesday for a one hour practice beginning at 6:00. We hope to welcome back seasoned choir veterans and extend an invitation to any newcomers who might like to give our choir a try.

Susan Jansen



Section Six: CONGREGATIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS



Remember to pray
daily for these
requests

Dan	Kirschke	(Gary's brother) Detached retina
Betty	Johannes	Wrist surgery
Prayers for Healing		
John	Anderson	Stroke
Hannelore	Bauer	Chemo-therapy
Jim	Bauer	(Eugene and Hannelore's son)
Neil	Baxter	
Jim	Clark	(Jean Clark's father) Herniated disc
George	Edgren	Preparing for surgery
Irene	Edgren	Recovering from skin surgery
Rose	Fink	Carpal tunnel surgery
Griselda	Gonzales	
Bobbie Jean	Hadel	(Rose Fink niece)
Tom		(Laurie Jarvis' nephew) Neck injury
Betty	Johannes	Wrist surgery
Gail	Johnson	(Mary Stepanek's mother) Pace maker
June	Lapp	Total knee replacement
Dick	Newhouse	(Pat Wiechmann's friend) Cancer diagnosis
Dick	Martin	
Ellen	Olson	(Bernadyne West's sister-in-law) Recover from brain surgery
Joey	Patterson	
Myrna	Schultz	Successful transplant
Judy	Slovinski	Broken ankle
Vickie	Smith	(Arnie Bliesner's daughter) Relief from Crohn's disease and pain
Eleanor		(Dennis Testin's mother)

Barb Verburgt (Judy Slovinski's friend) Cancer
 Gary (Cal Wilson's cousin) Heart
 Nancy Aggressive chemo-therapy

**Prayers for Patience & Strength
 With Chronic Health Problems**

Arlene & Ray Jarvis
 Dick Martin
 Rachel Zindars Crohn's disease

Prayers for Our Missionaries

Brian & Kristen Konkol – South Africa
 Kelly Jarvis

Prayers for Our Members and Friends in the Military

Devin	Barkalow	USA
Shane	Bastar	Iraq
Josh	Benbo	USA
David	Bredesen	USA
Chase	Edgren	USA
Brian	Elsch	USA
Tony	Kosco	USA
Britny	Stott	USA
Mario	Tomlin	USA
Michael	Walker	Netherlands
David	Wilson	USA
Kelly Jo	Wilson	USA



October 2011 – BIRTHDAYS

Mt. Morris

West Holden

- | | | |
|----|----------------------|-------------------|
| 1 | Donald Ducher | |
| 2 | Barbara Steinbrecher | Shirley Brownlow |
| 3 | | Patricia Krueger |
| 10 | | Samantha Leppin |
| 11 | | Steven Johannes |
| 12 | | Steve Ustarbowski |
| 14 | Aaron Simonson | |
| | Benjamin Stepanek | |
| | Abigail Zindars | |
| 15 | | Angela Tkachuk |
| 16 | Bernice Anderson | |
| | Cindy Pagel | |
| | Beatrice Simenson | |
| 17 | | Hunter Schmidt |
| 20 | Phyllis Olson | |
| 21 | Herb Rosby | |
| 22 | Denise Bauer | Travis Lewallen |
| 23 | Melissa Anderson | |
| 24 | Heather Anderson | |
| | Jeremy Colvin | |
| | Peter Jarvis | |
| 25 | Elmer Mathison | |
| | Roger Wilke | |
| 26 | Jennifer Clark | |
| 27 | | Gary Johannes |
| | | Larry Johannes |
| 28 | | Austin Mand |
| 30 | Roberta Clark | Jerod Hoffman |
| 31 | Carol Auck | |

October 2011 - ANNIVERSARIES

Eugene and Rose Fink *October 5*
Jeremiah and Aimee Simenson *October 11*
Gary and Carol Clair *October 11*
Richard and Myrna Martin *October 15*



Preventable Horror

October is "Domestic Violence (DV) Awareness Month." DV is not what most of us think. If we understand better, we can do better as we try to prevent it, to stop it and to heal those hurt by it. So I asked Jennifer Smith to explain to us some basics.

Pastor

The two questions most often asked about Domestic Violence:

#1 Why does he do that?

#2 Why does she stay?

Oh I wish there was the perfect straight forward answer to those questions! It is true that the cycle of violence is likely to be passed on to children if that is how they grew up, boys becoming abusers and girls becoming victims. But sometimes abusers come from non abusive households and their childhood was relatively "normal".

Abuse is about power and control. Strangely enough, some hide behind religion and argue that the Bible tells them the man is the head of the household and the wife should be in subjection to the man. Their interpretation of this is that they can use whatever means necessary to control their family, and they feel justified because they are "following god's word". (If only they would read a little further about caring for your partner as you care for yourself!)

Sometimes the women may have had a bad childhood, been a previous victim of violence, or have low self esteem. They meet a man that is the strong, protective type and that appeals to them and gives them a sense of security. What may start as protective can turn abusive. These abusers use their power and control but justify it as protecting her from herself, and others. They tend to isolate their partners, and control who and when they talk to people, their partners become more of a possession than a person.

Abusers will often get referred to anger management classes and those statistically are not effective. They don't have a problem with their anger they have a problem with their partners anger. "If she would just keep her mouth shut..." "If she would have just done what she was told..." Somewhere along the line they have picked up the thought that they are more important than their partner. Often times before the violence they will start to objectify their partner, calling them names, degrading and humiliating them until they are merely an object and there is no more thought in hitting them than there would be in hitting a pillow, or pushing aside a chair that was in their way.

They aren't in a blind rage as one might think, they usually are in full control and remember all of it. If the police are called many are able to switch gears and appear to be the calm rational one, while the victim is the one screaming, crying and acting out of control. Many times the victim is arrested because he might have a visible scratch or red mark, and she's acting crazy. The cops don't see marks on her because he strangled her (which leaves little to no marks for days) or because he knows where to land his punches so they won't be easily visible and she may be embarrassed to show them.

Once she gets arrested, that sends her the message that she did something wrong that caused all this. He feels justified and even more powerful, and she is less likely to ever call the police again.

As for why she stays, the list of possible reasons are endless. Abusers are master manipulators. They can actually convince their partners that the abuse didn't happen. "I barely touched you, your

such a klutz you tripped over that chair and now you're blaming me!"

This problem is not just in big cities, or just in certain social levels. It is everywhere including our communities, our family, friends and coworkers. 1 in 4 women will be a victim of Domestic Violence in their lifetime. In our rural area it is easier to isolate someone, pull the phone line and dismantle the car and you have succeeded. Neighbors may be many miles away and don't want to get involved. The victim may have little to no job skills. Family and friends may have seen him as a wonderful man and look badly on her for being 'breaking his heart' and leaving him.

The reasons are endless but safety concerns are #1. It's a proven fact that the level of violence is most likely to raise when she tries to end the relationship. They are well aware of his because most likely they have heard "If you ever think about leaving me I'll kill you" complete with details of exactly how this would be done.

The best analogy I ever heard was: Why didn't the slaves leave? It wasn't because it was impossible for them physically to get away. It was because they would be hunted down, beaten and possibly killed. These women are living the same thing.

As a community we need to strengthen our "underground railroad" for these women and be willing to help if someone shows up on our doorstep, or if we hear their screams for help.

If you or someone you know is a victim of Domestic Violence please call the Waushara Domestic Violence Outreach Office at 920-787-3889 or toll free, 24/7, 1-800-472-3377.



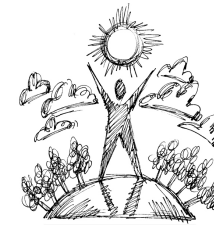
What if your marriage is struggling?

Act. NOW. Talk to me, I can help.

Pastor



Beginning September 11th, SNACKS will be served following service at MM. There is a list in the basement to sign up to bring a snack. If you have any questions, contact Sharopn Hadel at 566-2207.



GROUNDS for CREATION

There are extensive storm changes on the property left from September 2nd. Observations haven't been completed, but there remain ongoing projects in addition to these changes. This month I am looking for people with tools and a need for physical activity. The prescribed fire team is still planning on doing some fall burns on Mount Morris Lutheran property. However, the planned burned areas are a bit wilder than previous burns. There is a need for fire breaks to be created around these parcels involving removal of vegetation higher than a couple inches; pruning, cutting, mowing and pulling much of that cut debris onto the prescribed burn site creating a low surrounding border 5-10' wide.

An additional project might be burning branch/slash left on the property from September storm activity and logging this past month and even including the contract work from a couple years ago and current invasive woody plant removal that has created piles.. This would involve starting "small" piles and adding more branches as the pile burned down to keep it under control.

If you are interested in such activities, contact me, Martin Schultz,
most Sundays in church



From: Brian Konkol

Sent: Wednesday, August 24, 2011

Subject: Prayers for our son, Khaya

Friends:

I wish to thank everyone for the awesome outpouring of love and support over the recent weeks, as Khaya has recovered quite well since his recent cleft palate repair surgery, and with each passing day he continues to grow stronger and more vibrant.

As one might imagine, the initial days following Khaya's surgery on August 13th were some of the most challenging moments that Kristen and I have endured as parents, for Khaya was in a significant amount of physical pain (...which of course, led to a massive amount of emotional and spiritual pain for his parents!). As a significant amount of his inner-mouth anatomy had been dramatically transformed, it was difficult for Khaya to breathe, and I figure that his post-operation attempts at eating probably felt like a razor-blade salad followed by a fire burger with some sandpaper cake for desert (...the feeding process is quite tricky, as one has to "shovel" food into his mouth without touching his palate). In addition, we had to brace his elbows so that he cannot bend his arms and touch his mouth (...and such supports must remain for three weeks), and with the tubes and chords attached for hydration, at the hospital it was initially a bit difficult to hold him and allow for proper sleep. In an amazing display of unconditional love, while at the hospital and also at our house, Kristen has spent the past weeks holding Khaya in her arms through the night, and with each passing day she is teaching him to sleep once again on his own. It is a process that requires massive patience and

persistence, and I thank God that Kristen has a multitude of both. In terms of the time ahead, because Khaya was born with such a significant gap in his palate (...and as a result, there was a limited amount of skin to utilize in order to correct the space), there was a strong possibility that he would develop a fistula, which is basically when the palate gap does not close entirely, and thus requires additional surgery at some point in the next six to twelve months. Unfortunately, we have already noticed a small hole in his palate wound, which could close on its own in the coming months (...and it does happen in various cases), but we are already coming to grips with the tough reality that an additional surgery may be required in the coming year. Whatever the case may be, we are thankful in knowing that we have an amazingly skilled surgeon in Dr. Anil Madaree, who continues to display wonderful care and incredible expertise, and we trust that the coming weeks will eventually lead to some sense of normalcy when Khaya is allowed to move around more fully and allow us both to sleep through the night.

With the above in mind, Kristen and I have been reminded (...once again!) that we often cannot choose what happens in life, but we can determine our frame-of-mind and how to react to the various situations that life presents. Kristen and I refuse to allow challenges such as these - which are outside of our control - to govern our ability to think positively, enjoy life to the fullest, and move forward with faithfulness and love for God and one another. Yes, the past months have not been easy, and there are more challenges ahead as we consider how to best care for Khaya, pay for medical bills, and of course, work together as a team while balancing work responsibilities and being fully present for each other. However, through it all, we remain confident, for each day we are reminded that Khaya is healthy, beautiful, and surrounded with love and excellent "guardian angels" both near and far who will ensure he is set for a long and fruitful life. Through it all, we are reminded that God is love, God provides, and God is with us, and for these reasons we have nothing to fear.

All in all, I thank you for all that you have done for us, and most of all, I praise God for who you have been created to be. We are blessed to have you walking alongside us in solidarity and mutuality during this time, and we look forward to being in touch throughout this amazing journey of life.

With peace and love,

Brian Konkol

Sent: Friday, September 16, 2011 1:15 PM

Subject: Brian & Kristen Konkol: Resignation from ELCA Global Mission in South Africa

Family & Friends:

Grace to you and peace from God our Creator, Savior, and Advocate.

In September of 2001, exactly ten years ago, I was a recent college graduate and first year student at Luther Seminary, and Kristen just completed her Master of Science degree at the University of Minnesota. At that point in time we never could have imagined how our lives would alter in the following weeks, months, and years. While there is much to articulate in regards to “where we are” physically, emotionally, mentally, and spiritually as a result of the past ten years, my overwhelming affirmation is that I thank God for the direction our lives have taken, and I praise God for the awesome opportunities provided alongside amazing people in various locations around the world.

With all the above in mind, **it is with deep appreciation that I wish make known our resignation as Young Adults in Global Mission Country Coordinators in South Africa with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America – Global Mission.** Due to a variety of personal and professional factors that Kristen and I have discerned over the past months, we believe the time has come for us to pursue new opportunities and transition into a new stage in our lives. I communicated our decision with a formal Letter of Resignation to Rev. Stephen Nelson, who serves as the Director for Global Service within Global Mission, in addition to Rev. Bheki Mathe, the current General Secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Southern Africa.

With the exception of any unexpected circumstances, **we plan to remain in South Africa until July of 2012 in order to fulfill our commitment of accompanying the current group of Young Adults in Global Mission participant learners and hosts within the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Southern Africa, after which we plan to return to North America and serve God through new ventures.** At this point in time there are a variety of excellent ministry possibilities worthy of consideration for our future, but we also recognize that many additional roles may become known in the months ahead. As a result, while we feel heartache when faced with the upcoming prospects of departing South Africa, we recognize that God is walking alongside us, and the Holy Spirit will show a path forward that includes fulfillment and exciting

ministry environments. In the midst of it all, we recognize that a significant amount of time in South Africa remains, thus we seek to be faithfully present, serve to the best of our collective abilities, and when the time to depart is finally upon us, we plan to offer God our thanks and leave with no regrets.

In reflection upon the various events of the past years, I wish to express my deepest appreciation for the outpouring of love and solidarity received, especially since Khaya’s birth in October of 2010, for it is another profound reminder of how fortunate we are to be called, equipped, and sent-out into God’s global mission through the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. The support displayed by family and friends from around the world has been remarkable. In addition, I am proud to share that we have received an outstanding level of personal and professional support from Global Mission staff on various levels, and local hosts within South Africa have been tremendous, which has made this process of discernment less painful, but of course, it also makes the decision to resign far more difficult. While we trust that God will lead us to fresh and fulfilling opportunities in the period ahead, we recognize that the Global Mission community has been a joy to serve with, we feel deeply connected to the amazing people of South Africa, and we will dearly miss our current roles within the Churchwide expression.

As we consider more specific plans surrounding methods of departure, leadership transition, and potential future opportunities for our family within North America, I humbly ask for your continued prayers of compassion and togetherness during this important time in our lives. In addition, I pray that whatever it is that God brings next will provide Kristen and I with various means to continue honoring the confidence and trust that ELCA Global Mission has bestowed upon us throughout the years, and I strongly believe that we will continue to accompany one another within God’s mission of reconciliation, transformation, and empowerment around the world.

I thank God for all that you do, and I praise God for all that you are.

With peace and love,

Brian E. Konkol

The Church Office is open Mon-Thurs from 9 AM- 2 PM.

Articles to be included in the weekly Sunday bulletin should be submitted to the office by Wednesday noon. This will provide adequate time to clarify/confirm the information and properly format and include them in the bulletin. Thank you.

The Holden Highlights Newsletter

This is the monthly publication for members and friends of Holden Lutheran Parish.

Questions, change of address, or articles may be submitted until the 15th of each month.

Everyone is encouraged to turn in any articles prior to the deadline date.

Articles not in by the 15th will not be included until the following month.

**Articles may be mailed to: Holden Lutheran Parish
 N3388 State Road 152
 Wautoma WI 54982**

-OR- e-mail to: holdenparish@centurytel.net