

---

---

# COUNTRYSIDE NEWS

---

---

Volume 3 Issue 9

A Publication of Countryside Ministry

June 2005

Calvary, Barnum; Faith, Harcourt; Fulton, Roelyn; Trinity, Boxholm; UCC/Congregational, Moorland; Zion, Gowrie

---

---

## COUNCIL MINUTES

The Countryside Ministry council met on May 9, 2005 at 7:00 p.m. at Zion.

The meeting was called to order by President Ron Walrod. Present were Richard and Joyce Silvey, Pastor Rod Meyer, Roberta Clausen, Marie Bengston, Loretta Daisy, Pastor Jim Davis, and Greg Carlson. Pastor Jim led us in devotions using a DVD program called "Tower of Babel". Minutes of the December 13 meeting were read and approved. The financial report was given by Pastor Jim.

Marie made a motion to approve the financial report, Richard seconded it and the motion passed.

**Old Business:** While incorporating we were informed that we could not use the word "cooperative" in our name. Greg Carlson made a motion that we drop the word cooperative and become the "Countryside Ministry", Roberta seconded it and after some discussion the motion passed unanimously.

*(Continued on page 5a)*

### Countryside Ministry Council

Marie Bengston----- Trinity  
Greg Carlson -----Zion  
Roberta Claussen ----- Trinity  
Loretta Daisy----- Fulton  
Marc Greenfield ----- Faith  
Steve Julius-----Calvary  
Steve Lane-----Zion  
Dorothy Nahnsen----- Faith  
Ned Palmer-----Zion  
Joyce Silvey----- UCC/Cong.  
Richard Silvey ----- UCC/Cong.  
Everett Underwood ----- Fulton  
Ron Walrod -----Calvary

### Countryside Ministry Executive Committee

Ron Walrod ----- President  
----- Vice-president  
Loretta Daisy----- Secretary  
Steve Lane----- Treasurer  
Rev. Jim Davis  
----- Administrative Pastor

## Well Drilling Project

The women of Fulton recently gave a gift of \$1,000 to support the well drilling project in the Southern Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania. The women's groups from Faith and Trinity also provided funds that were matched by Fulton's women.

The Western Iowa Synod has partnered with the Southern Diocese, Lifewater International, the Tanzanian government and the village water committees for the

purpose of providing local villages with a safe, clean and adequate water supply within a reasonable walking distance. The plan is to drill simple medium depth wells, repair existing wells where needed and teach hygiene and sanitation. This will result in healthier, happier and more economically productive communities free from water-borne diseases.

In Tanzania 44% of the

*(Continued on page 6a)*

### NEED A VISIT?

If you or anyone you know could use a pastoral visit, please contact the Countryside office at 352-3645 so a visit can be scheduled.



June 7th will mark the first anniversary of my husband's death. He was young (50) and his death was quite unexpected to everyone, including myself. Although I have spent many nights and days questioning why he had to go at that time, I knew from the moment of his death that Christ has been walking with me on this journey. There is a quiet presence that somehow lifts me up and it helps me take that next step along this path.

Don't misunderstand—I still suffer, I still cry desperately and I will always miss my husband. He was a wonderful man, whom I loved with all my heart. But there is a grace given in the pain of loss that touches your soul deeply. You will never be quite as aware of your soul as when you are in deep pain. The pain makes you stop and sit up and take notice. And in that one small moment, Christ repeats over and over, *I am with you always*.

In the early morning hours of the day my husband died, we continually sat in his room at the Care Center and watched him struggle to take each breath. I knew he could go any moment, but after long hours of sitting a voice inside me said, "Stand up....say your back hurts".

I did just that, I told my family sitting with me ..."my back hurts." I wasn't gone long—only a few moments, but it was like one of our Stephen Ministers told me: Jerry sensed when I got up to leave and decided, "I'm going with her." Maybe it was because wherever Cindy went Jerry went also.

As I reached the far end of the long hallway, my nephew came outside to find me, saying that I was needed in the room. When I reached the room Jerry was gone. He had such a peaceful look on his face. There was a quietness in the room as if we were in the presence of majesty. I believe Christ

came to me in that moment and has never left. In moments of pain the scripture messages that you have heard all of your life suddenly take on new meaning, as if they were written especially for you, and I believe they were.

At this point in my journey I pray for my husband's soul, although I know he is in Heaven, I pray for peace for myself, and I pray to be able to continue to do God's will.

My message to you as well as to myself is not to give up. The hand that will reach down to help you will be a hand that is pierced, the hand of a simple carpenter who came to give us a message of hope and peace.

**Reach out and up, He is there.**

Feel free to call the church office if you are hurting or just need to talk. The Stephen Ministers we have commissioned are eager to sit and listen, pray, and hold your hand. They want to be with you so you are not alone.

In closing, most of you know my niece Katie Albright. As the 1 year anniversary of Jerry's death approached she asked me what we were going to do. I said, "We are going to go to Des Moines and stay in a motel and maybe go to a movie and then we will shop at the malls and just have fun." She looked at me kind of puzzled and said, "That sounds like a party instead of thinking about Jerry." I told Katie that we were both pretty special to Uncle Jerry and he would want us to have fun and make it a "special girl day" in his memory. Christ still repeats to me over and over, *I am with you always*.

—Cindy Youngquist, Countryside Ministry's Stephen Ministry Leader

~ "Bear one another's burdens...and so fulfill the law of Christ."



## “Leading Beyond the Walls”

### “Leading Beyond the Walls – The Union of the Evangelical and the Social Gospels”

“There are currently at least seventy-five thousand congregations that make up what have been traditionally called mainline churches. Many of them will close in the coming decade. Many others will continue their slow descent toward oblivion.” Adam Hamilton paints a grim picture of the reality facing mainline denominations. . . However, in spite of the struggles we are currently experiencing, Hamilton is also hopeful that it is possible for mainline churches to not only survive, but even thrive. He offers the following reasons for being hopeful about the future of mainline congregations:

1. The union of the evangelical and social gospels
2. The union of the heart and the intellect

3. The union of tradition with an emphasis on cultural relevance
4. A compassionate and grace-filled gospel
5. An elevation of the role of women in the church

The first reason for hope that Hamilton offers for mainline congregations is the union of the evangelical and social gospels.

From a historical perspective, mainline denominations have generally done an exemplary job of maintaining the balance between a faith that is focused on personal salvation and a faith that is focused on transforming society. We have always insisted that faith results in changed lives and changed social structures. This has resulted in individuals experiencing the grace of God to change their lives and the birth of institutions committed to addressing social issues.

Consider, for a moment, the impact of the Lutheran, Presbyterian and United Church of Christ/Congregational churches in America. Public institutions such as schools, hospitals and social service agencies are firmly rooted

in institutions that grew out of mainline denominations that were concerned with these social issues. Parochial schools and the colleges and seminaries of our churches existed long before public education was part of the fabric of our nation. The first hospitals in our country grew out of the concern of mainline churches for the health and welfare of God’s people. Social service agencies were born out of churches that cared about orphans, unwed mothers and the aged. The very foundations of many of our most important public institutions were born out of institutions built by congregations like ours.

Our denominations continue to remain committed to addressing issues that keep people from experiencing the abundance of life God desires for us. While publicly funded institutions have replaced many of the institutions created by mainline congregations, mainline congregations continue to support institutions that range from day-care centers to colleges and from orphanages to nursing homes. These are institutions committed to caring not just for Christians, but for all of God’s people.

Mainline denominations are also the leaders in ecumenical efforts that challenge individuals, congregations and denominations to cross denominational and religious boundaries to be involved in actions that create a more just and caring society. These efforts can provide a powerful witness of our unity as Christians and our commitment to issues that affect all of God’s people.

As we encounter the issues facing us as mainline denominations, it is important that we continue to

*(Continued on page 6)*

## LMIM Support AA

The Lutheran Men in Mission from Zion recently provided leadership to support the spread of Alcoholics Anonymous in Tanzania. Four hundred dollars from the LMIM and individual donors was recently used to purchase AA literature, printed in Swahili, and to underwrite a portion of the salaries for two Tanzanians who are involved in the spread of AA in Tanzania.

The idea for this project grew out of a visit that missionaries Jean Wahlstrom and Marvin Kananen made to Zion last summer. Jean and Marvin are ELCA missionaries who are currently serving in Tanzania.

Lutheran Men in Mission would like to thank everyone who donated to this important ministry.

# 30 Hour Famine

Eleven of our youth stopped eating at noon on April 29<sup>th</sup> and did not eat again until 6:30 p.m. on April 30<sup>th</sup>. They went 30 hours without eating in order to learn about world hunger and the struggles many children face every day. A series of simula-

tions helped them become more aware of the issues that are faced by the some of the poorest people in our world: adequate food, clean water, land, disease, education and poverty.

They also joined with other youth throughout the United States to raise money to help alleviate world hunger. So far, youth from across the country have raised over \$8,500,000 to alleviate hunger. Our youth raised almost \$1,100.

Thank you to everyone who supported our youth in this event. We look forward to another successful 30 Hour Famine in 2006.



## Faith Lutheran Church 4th Annual Pork Loin Dinner

Sunday, June 12, 2005  
11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.  
Tickets \$7, Children under 5 free  
Pork loin, potato salad, beans,  
bars & beverage  
Tickets available from Pastor  
Rod, any member, Engquist  
Lumber or at the door.  
Matching funds by Thrivent  
Everyone Welcome!



## Fulton Lutheran Church Coffee & Rolls

Sunday, June 19, 2005  
Following worship  
Freewill offering  
For the Benefit of *FUSION*  
Matching funds will be  
Provided by Thrivent  
Everyone Welcome!!

## Calvary Presbyterian Hosts MAD

Sunday, June 12, 2005  
9:30 a.m.  
At Zion Lutheran Church  
MAD is music, arts, and drama  
put on by high school youth.  
There will not be services at  
Calvary, UCC, or Fulton  
on the 12th so you can join us  
at Zion for MAD

# Prison Ministry

The Countryside Ministry performs a joint outreach ministry in conjunction with the Fort Dodge Correctional Facility.

Pastor Don Wahlgren is coordinating this ministry. Our next visit will be June 22. Anyone wishing to be included in this outreach ministry please call the Countryside Ministry office to reserve a spot. We only have eight spaces available for this visit, so if you would like to be included, please call early.

If this is your first visit to the correctional facility, the Countryside



office will need your full name, birth date, phone number, and social security number. The correctional facility is required to do a background check on any new visitors as a precautionary measure. There is a dress code for visitors; call the Countryside office for more details. We will meet in the correctional facility parking lot at 6:15 p.m. The service starts at 7:00 p.m.

If you have any questions regarding this ministry, please call the Countryside Ministry office (352-3645) or Pastor Wahlgren (352-5245).

**We all make mistakes. How we handle our mistakes tells people more about us than the mistake does. An old-timer once told me that we all have to eat crow once in a while and it tastes better warm than cold.**

—James Link

# JOINT WORSHIP SERVICE

You are invited to join the congregations of the Countryside Ministry for a joint worship experience on Sunday, July 24. Two services will be provided for your convenience.

There will be a service outside the South Lodge at Dolliver Park beginning at 11:00 a.m. (in case of rain we will move inside). A potluck dinner will follow worship. Calvary Presbyterian Church is in charge of the potluck. The park is a beautiful setting in which to offer God our thanks and praise.



Please bring lawn chairs and quilts or blankets for seating. Also, please bring a dish to pass and your own table service.

There will also be a service at Zion for those who cannot join us at the park. Worship will be at 9:00 a.m. The sanctuary is air-conditioned. This will be a casual service. There will be a fellowship coffee following the service.

If you have questions about either service, contact the Countryside Ministry Office.

## Calvary Sponsors MAD Scholarships

Calvary Presbyterian Church has provided scholarships for two of our youth to attend MAD, the Music, Art and Drama camp hosted by the Presbyterian Camp at Okoboji. MAD provides high school campers with the opportunity to audition for parts, solos and to be involved in all the technical aspects of putting together a Christian musical. The group takes the musical on tour to three sites in north-central Iowa. In addition to the musical, campers will participate in many other camp activities.

Calvary was chosen as one of the host congregations. The musical will be presented at Zion on Sunday, June 12 at 9:30 a.m. Join us for a great time!

Thank you Calvary!

*(Continued from page 1)*

### Council Minutes

Countryside Council members have been visiting the member churches. The July date to visit was changed from July 24 to July 17.

**New Business:** Bruce Walrod will be completing the Presbyterian Lay Academy this fall. To be commissioned as a Lay Minister, Bruce needs to have a call from a church. After discussion it was decided that The Countryside Ministry would extend this call. We have been asked to share our Stephen Ministry coordinator with some of the other churches involved in this program. Pastor Jim listed some options for us to follow. After some discussion it was decided that Pastor Jim would correspond with these churches and make an offer for them to purchase

some of our director's time.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Jim reported on the ChristCare training that he had attended. Part of the cost was covered by a grant from St. James Lutheran Church. ChristCare is a Stephen Ministry system for Christian care through small groups. Pastor will offer a class based on this system this fall and it will be open to all interested. On June 12 a music, arts, and drama team of about 40 youth will be visiting in our area and will perform at Zion at 9:30 a.m. Calvary, Fulton, and UCC/Congregational will not have local services and will be invited to worship at Zion. The Cooperative Ministry Summer Worship service will be held July 24 at 9:00 a.m. at Zion and at 11:00 a.m. at Dolliver Park. A potluck dinner will follow the service at Dolliver and a coffee

fellowship will follow the service at Zion. Pastor Jim has been invited to the conference on Celebrating Rural Life in July to share what we are doing here in the Countryside Ministry.

Greg Carlson led us in prayer and President Walrod adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by  
Loretta Daisy, Secretary



# EXTRAORDINARYfaith

CONFERENCE 2005

ALL NEW!

## COMING TO DES MOINES, IA IN 2005!

OCTOBER 14-15, 2005 — WELLS FARGO ARENA  
FRIDAY 7:00 P.M. - 9:30 P.M. SATURDAY 9:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.

### special guests\*:



**SANDI PATTY**

The most awarded female vocalist in contemporary Christian music history



**CHONDA PIERCE**

A Gold selling comedienne known as the 'queen of clean' with comedy that serves a larger purpose



**JENNIFER ROTHSCHILD**

Captivating speaker and author with an inspiring message of faith in the midst of darkness

\*Special guests subject to change.

### featured speakers & dramatist:



(l-r) Thelma Wells, Marilyn Meberg, Sheila Walsh, Patsy Clairmont, Luci Swindoll, Nicole Johnson

Join us for two extraordinary days of laughter, music, special guests, and all-new messages from the Women of Faith speaker team. Real stories from real women who have learned what it is to have faith. The kind of faith you need to handle the challenges life throws at all of us.

*Faith means being sure of the things we hope for. And faith means knowing something is real even if we do not see it.*

HEBREWS 11:1

Cheryl has 10 tickets available in the Countryside Office on a first come, first served basis. The tickets are for the Friday evening session and all day Saturday. Ticket cost is \$53.00 per person and includes a box lunch on Saturday. Colleen Palmer has rooms reserved at the Quality Inn and Suites next to the convention center. Room prices are \$124.95 + tax with 4 people per room. Please contact Colleen for a room.



888-49-FAITH [womenoffaith.com](http://womenoffaith.com)

(Continued from page 1)

### Well Drilling

population get their water from unprotected sources; 68% of the people are affected by water-borne diseases due to lack of safe clean water. Access to clean water is a global health priority.

The Western Iowa Synod of the ELCA has already raised almost \$50,000 to drill wells in Tanzania. There are already several wells providing

clean water to villages that previously had none.

Lawrence and Marilyn Zeck of Spirit Lake are Western Iowa Synod's project managers. They have traveled to Tanzania to oversee the project and provide technical expertise.

Thank you to the women from Fulton for their leadership in this project!

(Continued from page 3)

### Pastor's message

maintain the balance between a faith that is intensely personal and deeply social. God's concern is for us as individuals and as a society. Our ability to maintain the balance between those has been one of our traditional strengths and provides a solid foundation for our future.

—Pastor Jim

# 2006 NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING



For well over a century, Lutheran youth have gathered in the name of the Triune God for Bible

study, theological conversation, worship, service and holy play. They come together as strangers and leave as friends, tethered forever by their shared experience of a God who is alive and active in their world. Numerous Lutherans have identified the Gathering as a life-changing encounter with Jesus.

The ELCA National Youth Gathering will be held in San Antonio, Texas in July 2006. The theme

will be Cruzando: Journey with Jesus. This is a tremendous opportunity for high school youth to gather with approximately 25,000 youth from across the United States and around the globe. Youth Gatherings offer youth a different perspective on what it means to be the church. There are exciting opportunities for worship, prayer, learning, serving and meeting new people. This is one of the premier events in the life of the church.

Youth who are currently in 8<sup>th</sup> through 11<sup>th</sup> grades are welcome to attend. For more information call the Countryside Ministry office or talk to Pastor Jim. Don't miss this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity!

## CHURCH BLOOPERS

Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7 PM. Please use the back door.

The eighth-graders will be presenting Shakespeare's *Hamlet* in the Church basement Friday at 7 PM. The congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.

Weight Watchers will meet at 7 PM at the First Presbyterian Church. Please use the large double doors at the side entrance.

The Associate Minister unveiled the church's new tithing campaign slogan last Sunday: "I Upped My Pledge — Up Yours."

—submitted via the internet

## Talent Night

The sharing of our gifts in music, art, drama, sewing, baking are important as followers of Christ in a world where money and possessions rule. God has gifted you to share your talents, so that when you leave this earth the light of Christ will shine more brightly, and the gracious love of Almighty God will be known in many more human hearts.

We invite you to take a look around and see if God is calling you to share the gifts He has given you. We invite you to contact the Countryside Ministry office and tell us your talent. We will reserve a table for you the evening of June 5<sup>th</sup> at Zion as other members of our Countryside Ministry gather together for a

fun evening of Share your Talents. There will be an ice-cream social with cookies and bars and lots of good entertainment.

A free-will offering will be taken for the ice-cream (and if you make home-made let us know as that is what we want) with matching funds applied for through Thrivent. Money will be divided between **FUSION** and the youth attending the 2006 Youth gathering.

Please call either Cheryl (352-3645) or Cindy (352-3612) at the Countryside Office and enlist to share your talent.

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

A list of locations, dates and times for Vacation Bible School are listed below. Children of the Countryside Ministry are invited to attend any of the Bible Schools. If you would like more information, contact the Countryside Office.

Fulton—June 6-10 @ 8:30 a.m.  
Trinity—June 13-17 @ 8:30 a.m.  
Zion—July 25-28 @ 9:00 a.m.



Box 63  
Gowrie, IA 50543

# Countryside Ministry

## Countryside Phone Numbers:

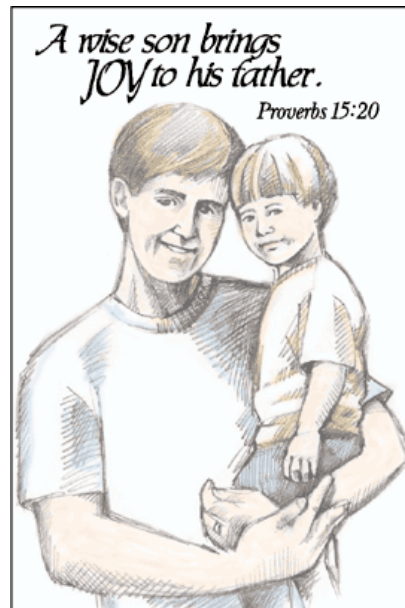
Countryside Office.....	352-3645
Rev. Jim Davis    Office .....	352-3932
Home.....	352-5261
Rod Meyer        Office .....	846-6277
Home.....	354-5224
Rev. Wahlgren   Office .....	352-3645
Home.....	352-5245
Stephen Ministry Office .....	352-3612
Home.....	352-3798

## Countryside E-mail Addresses:

Countryside Office:.....ziongowr@wccta.net  
Rev. Jim Davis:.....elca506@wccta.net  
Rod Meyer: .....rodmeyer@lvcta.com  
Stephen Ministry:.....stephencoop@hotmail.com

## Countryside Summer Worship Times

Calvary, Barnum..... 10:30 a.m.  
Faith, Harcourt..... 10:30 a.m.  
Fulton, Roelyn..... 9:15 a.m.  
Trinity, Boxholm..... 9:00 a.m.  
UCC/Cong., Moorland..... 8:00 a.m.  
Zion, Gowrie..... 9:30 a.m.  
1st and 3rd Saturdays @ Zion..... 5:00 p.m.  
**FUSION** Wednesday Evenings..... 7:30 p.m.  
(at 1107 Market Street)  
*Connections*..... 7:00 p.m.  
(2nd Sunday of each month at **FUSION** bldg.)



Remember  
your father  
on  
Father's Day  
June 19,  
2005

**Cooperative Website Address:**  
[www.countrysidecoop.org](http://www.countrysidecoop.org)

If you have an article or picture that you would like to submit for the Cooperative newsletter, please send them to the Cooperative office and we will **try** to put them in as time and space permit.