

COUNTRYSIDE NEWS

Volume 3 Issue 12

A Publication of Countryside Ministry

September 2005

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

CROP WALK 2005

Join us for an opportunity to meet people who are committed to touching the lives of others in the name of Jesus, enjoy a pleasant stroll and make a difference in feeding hungry people.

The Annual Webster County



CROP WALK will be held on Sunday, October 9. Registration will be from 12:30 – 1:30 p.m. at Reynolds Park. The walk will start at 1:30 p.m.

Last year approximately 125 people gathered at Reynolds Park in Fort Dodge to walk and raise money for Church World Service. The group from Countryside Ministry was the largest group to participate in the CROP WALK. We donated almost \$500 and the event raised

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“Got Rock”

The fourth annual Junior High Youth Gathering for the Western Iowa Synod is just around the corner.

The theme of this year’s gathering is “Got Rock” (showing us how we can turn to Jesus who is our Rock and our Salvation in the midst of all the “boulders” that fall into our lives).

This theme will be addressed by our keynote speaker Tiger McLuen, of Youth



Leadership in Minneapolis, Dakota Road, a musical group, and the many workshops available to our youth.

This gathering is open to all Countryside Ministry students in 7th & 8th grades. It will be held on November 11 & 12 at the Airport Holiday Inn in Des Moines. Early bird registration cost is \$65.00, which includes the gathering and lodging, due by October 17.

If you are interested in attending please call the Countryside Ministry office today!

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

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.





I have always told myself that our church newsletter is faithfully read each month, I know not by everyone but many of our church family. In last months letter I included a “thank you” where we could thank our Stephen Ministers, our Pastors, the many volunteers and even the children of the congregations for all they do. To my surprise I have not seen one come back into the Countryside office.

A thank you isn’t really that important so hopefully those who read my article last month and saw the little “thanks”- decided instead to say a prayer for all of these people in our congregations.

Stephen Ministry is a program designed to assist the clergy by ministering to hurting members of our congregations. We do not try to take the place of the clergy. The program, named after Stephen, the first Christian martyr, is modeled after Stephen's ministry. The Stephen Minister is not a problem solver, but rather a facilitator who helps one in need work through the problem on their own. The Stephen Minister is a sounding board, a comforter, and encourager. They help people who are working through a variety of problems from death of a loved one, new job, new baby, pregnancy, depression, confusion about their faith - almost anything! If a person can be troubled by it, a Stephen Minister can be there - to listen, encourage, comfort.

Stephen Ministers at Countryside Ministries pledge themselves to people who are broken in life. These trained lay people are actively involved in ministering to people within the congregation and beyond. Stephen Ministry helps meet the need of individuals who are:

- hospitalized
- terminally ill
- bereaved
- in a job crisis
- new members of a church
- disabled
- homebound
- lonely

- in a spiritual crisis
- looking for a caring, Christian friend

How does the referral process work? A person, maybe you, or a friend, is hurting and in need of Christian care. I am the referral coordinator, when I am aware of the person in need or a friend (always with the person's permission) has told me then I contact the hurting person and explain how the ministry works. If they agree I then assign a Stephen Minister who meets with them on a weekly - confidential - basis.

The Stephen Ministry program wants to help members of our congregations, but we need you to call and let us know of any needs. WE need your prayers and encouragement and we need to know that you are well.

If you are interested in speaking with, or investigating the possibility of becoming a Stephen Minister someday, please contact me, Cindy Youngquist in my office at 352-3612.

Whether you feel you or someone you know may be in need of a Stephen Minister, or if you are feeling the call to serve as a Stephen Minister, or perhaps you are just curious about this ministry, the following prayer and scripture may help you discern the appropriate path.

Lord give me the courage

To ask for help when I am in need.

And assist me in helping

Others when I am able.

Let no one fall alone;

For if their need is too great

For me to provide for,

Then have me guide them

To someone who can. AMEN

Cindy Youngquist,
Countryside Stephen Ministry Leader

~ “Bear one another’s burdens...
and so fulfill the law of Christ.”
GALATIANS 6:2

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Crop Walk

over \$5,000 to help alleviate hunger.

CROP WALK helps support the overall ministry of Church World Service, especially the grass-roots, hunger-fighting development efforts of partner agencies in more than 80 countries. CROP WALK helps provide tools of hope that empower people to meet their own needs. From seeds and tools, to wells and water systems, to nutrition-enhancing Moringa trees, to technical training and micro-enterprise loans, the key is people working together to identify their strengths, needs and development priorities.

If you would like to join our group or receive more information, please contact the Cooperative office by October 2.

From the Mouths of Babes

Melissa was in a panic as she drove home with her six-year-old son. Her husband had just phoned to tell her that Gertie, the family's beloved dog, had slipped out of her collar during their walk to chase after a cat. He'd looked everywhere. "Well, God only knows where she is," she'd told her husband.

"How will we ever find her?" she wondered as she drove through the neighborhood searching for the dog. "She's off the only path she knows. Gertie could be anywhere by now."

"Why don't you ask God?" Max piped up from the backseat.

"What did you say, honey?"

"You said that only God knows, so why don't you ask Him?" Max replied.

Melissa chuckled and said a silent prayer. When she turned the next corner, there was Gertie barking up a tree at the neighbor's

Where Do YOU Find Inspiration?

cat.

The old man stood at the center of the bridge, staring out over the water. It was sunset, and his gaze was fixed on some distant point. As Bill passed by, the old man turned and smiled. "Look," he said.

"What is it?" Bill asked.

"A trellis!" exclaimed the old man.

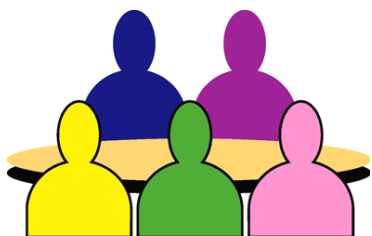
"What do you mean?"

"For my wife's roses," the old man explained as he looked toward the horizon. "I'll use those pieces of old scrap iron. It will be a work of art."

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**The Countryside
Ministry
Council
Will Meet
Wednesday,
September 28
7:30 p.m.
At Zion**

**If you cannot attend please let
The Countryside Office know.**



COUNCIL MEETING



**The Western Iowa Synod
Disability Resource Team**

Thank you Dale and Dorothy Anderson

The Disability Resource Team assists congregations in becoming more aware of attitudinal and structural barriers affecting persons with physical and mental disabilities, their families and caregivers. It also encourages congregations to see the gifts of persons with disabilities and to envision our potential partnership in ministry.

For the past 10 years I have served on this board, which Gene and Sandy Thoma also joined approximately 5 years ago. I recently resigned from this Synod Team. Special thanks to Dale and Dorothy Anderson who have taken my place. Thank you Dale and Dorothy.

- Cindy Youngquist.

The Apostle Paul wrote: "...so we, though many, are one body in Christ and individually members one of another. Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them..." Roman 12:5-6

2006 NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING

The community of Christ is coming together in San Antonio, Texas. Lutheran youth and adults are coming from all over the map to be renewed in their faith journey. They are crossing every kind of border to be with friends and neighbors who share the same name—Child of God.

In the company of the Beloved and gathered in San Antonio, youth will learn to see Jesus



more clearly, love Jesus more dearly, and follow Jesus more nearly. They will be opened to the many faces of God by listening to the stories of friends who are different from them. They will touch the places where wounds are, and learn that Jesus meets them before they're all fixed up. They will practice telling God's ancient story in new ways and, in so doing, create a future worth wanting.

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 our high schoolers to gather with approximately 25,000 other youth from across the United States and around the globe. Youth Gatherings offer young people 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 will be in grades 9—12 this fall are invited to attend. For more information call the Countryside Ministry office or talk to Pastor Jim. Don't miss this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity!

PRISON MINISTRY

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

Pastor Don Wahlgren coordinates this ministry. We visit each month on a Wednesday evening. Anyone wishing to be included in



this outreach ministry please call the Countryside Ministry office or Pastor Wahlgren to reserve a spot and we will make sure you are included in our next visit.

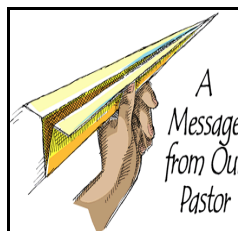
If you have not previously visited the correctional facility, the Countryside office will need your full name, birth date, phone number, and social security number. The correctional facility is required to do

a background check on any new visitor as a precautionary measure. There is a dress code for visitors; call the Countryside office for more details. We 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).

Doing what's right isn't the problem. It's knowing what's right.

—Lyndon B. Johnson



Pastor Jim and his family were on vacation this month. Look for another exciting article from him again next month.

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Inspiration

Bill was silent as he looked out at the river with his brow raised.

The old man noticed the puzzled expression on Bill's face and said, "Inspiration. It's everywhere—just look around you," he said, his arm sweeping the horizon.

Bill looked to the water again. And as he focused on its current, an idea for jump-starting a new work project began to take shape in his mind.

Bill shook his head and smiled—the old man was right.

—reprinted with permission

THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who helped with the new clubhouse/swing set at the parsonage. It was a real surprise to Pastor's family when they came home from vacation last week. Tami said Max's comment when they came around the corner was 'Is that in my backyard?'

It is a lot of fun to hear the kids outside my window and watch

the fun they are having with it. Austin is now trying to furnish the inside with things from their house.

We still have a little bit to finish up with but if you have a chance stop by and see it.

—Cheryl Rasmussen,
Secretary



Medicare Part "D" - - Medicare Prescription Plan for 2006

A lot of senior citizens are going to be getting some confusing letters in the mail soon.

The Social Security Administration is about to start informing people they could be eligible for the new Medicare part D prescription drug plan.

Many people may be eligible, but the different plans available won't be announced until October. Seniors can enroll on Nov. 15 for Medicare Part D, which starts on Jan. 1. It will be the biggest expansion of the Medicare program since it was created about 40 years ago

To help you sort it all out, our area Stephen Ministers will be hosting an open forum on September 19th at 7:00 P.M. at Zion Lutheran Church. There will be representatives from **Social Security, SHIP- Senior Information Health Provider and Medicare** to help you sort through the process and answer your questions..

Representatives of Elderbridge Agency and RSVP are saying, "We're afraid people will sit and say, 'I'm going to sit out this year and see what happens next year when this all shakes out.' And they're going to lose the opportunity to have some kind of coverage they could have had during that time."

This meeting will be an excellent opportunity to hear all the pros and cons. The representatives that evening will be the contact people for our area, so please mark your calendars with **Monday, September 19th** and plan to be here that evening at **7:00 P.M.** Refreshments will be served following in Zion's Fellowship Hall in the church basement.



Some pictures of the project!

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
Cindy Youngquist, Office	352-3612
Stephen Ministry Home.....	352-3798

Countryside E-mail Addresses:

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

Countryside Worship Times

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



Countryside Ministry Website Address:
www.countrysidecoop.org

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