

COUNTRYSIDE NEWS

Volume 4 Issue 1

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October 2005

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

CLERGY APPRECIATION MONTH

October is Clergy Appreciation Month. It is a special time that congregations set aside each year to honor their pastors and pastoral families for the hard work, sacrificial dedication and multiple blessings

provided by these special people. The nature of the service provided by pastors and their



Pastor Appreciation

families is unique. God has entrusted to them one of the most precious of assignments—the spiritual well-being of His flock. When a pastor becomes ineffective, the very souls of his or her parishioners are endangered. When eternity is in the balance, we should all be concerned.

The good news is that we can make a difference! Clergy Appreciation Month is one way we can counter the negative

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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 over \$5,000 to help alleviate hunger.

CROP WALK helps support the overall ministry of Church World Service, especially the

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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.



Hospital Visitation



Leading worship services at the Alzheimer's care center is part of Floyd Bradley's lifelong ministry. A small, frail group gathered for worship Sunday afternoon. They had no idea American bombs were blasting terrorist training camps halfway across the world. Indeed, some had no idea what day it was. But they have known the world is a dangerous place. They have known what it is to fight a war brought on our nation's soil and soul. They have known what it is to sing "God Bless America" and mean it. As they sang this patriotic petition that Sunday, I could see them as they once were. Strong men – swaggering in their uniforms, performing their duties with pride, and writing letters home. Determined women – working in the war effort, collecting sugar rations, and raising babies alone shared Floyd.

Diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease eight years ago, Mrs. Bradley has lost the ability to understand conversation in context. "But she can sing," says daughter Ellen Green. "Up until about a month ago she could sing every verse of every hymn."

Most people know my father has Alzheimer's Disease. Pastor Wahlgren occasionally visits at the Marian Home where my father lives. Sometimes Pastor will stop into Dad's room and he tells me, "I will ask your Dad if we can pray, and immediately your Dad folds his hands and begins reciting, Our Father...." My father also has lost his ability to understand and carry on a conversation but if you begin The Lord's Prayer he joins right in. It is a known fact that Alzheimer's patients have lost their short term memory, but are able to pull from the past old hymns or prayers they learned as a child.

We may all at times feel a little afraid that we are becoming memory-challenged. Someone recently told me she asked one of her kids "... get me the...the... floor thing...the clean floor thingy?" The words *vacuum cleaner* popped up only after some serious tugging. She said, lately, these memory gaps have been hitting too often.

While reading some recent Alzheimer's literature I received it said that memory enhancement is big busi-

ness for baby boomers since many of us are beginning to notice the first signs of A.A.M.I. (Age-Associated Memory Impairment). Before you totally freak, know this: Researchers report memory enemy number one is our radical lifestyle. And there's no wonder drug or brain food able to overcome a lifestyle that requires you to remember too much, too often. Simple lifestyle changes can be first steps toward repairing memory breakers that cause you to lose your own train of thought.

Alzheimer's disease (AD) is the most common cause of dementia, or loss of intellectual function, afflicting more than four million people nationwide, usually those aged 65 and older. According to the Family Caregiver Alliance Web site www.caregiver.org the progression of Alzheimer's is usually categorized into three stages each exhibiting various symptoms:

Early Stage: Difficulty remembering, Disorientation, Social withdrawal.

Middle Stage: Emotional difficulties such as anger, fear, or paranoia, uncooperative or violent behaviors, Incontinence.

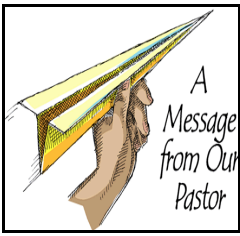
Late Stage: Inability to communicate, unable to participate in personal-care activities, majority of time spent sleeping.

Alzheimer's is often referred to as a family disease because, in addition to posing challenges for the person diagnosed with AD, it also radically alters the life and relationships of those who love and care for them. Although there are still moments of laughter and enjoyment, it is never easy to watch someone you love, once intellectual and full of vitality, diminish before your eyes.

Attending to a loved one with Alzheimer's can prove to be one of the most challenging tasks of a lifetime. Yet, as with every event in our lives, if we use this season to seek a deeper relationship with God, He is more than able to redeem this time and use it to transform us into His image.

Cindy Youngquist,
Countryside Stephen Ministry Leader

~ "Bear one another's burdens...and so fulfill the law of Christ."~ GALATIANS 6:2



Living Together Faithfully

One thousand and eighteen voting members from 65 synods and 10,657 congregations serving on behalf of the 4,984,925 baptized members of this church gathered in Orlando on August 8 for the 2005 ELCA Churchwide Assembly. Voting members dealt with a full agenda of business in addition to receiving reports from churchwide units and other organizations affiliated with the ELCA. Undoubtedly, the most controversial business items were the issues of blessing same-gender unions and the ordination of non-celibate gays and lesbians. These are issues that are also being currently addressed by the Presbyte-

rian Church, United Church of Christ, United Methodist Church and Episcopal Church.

The results of work related to these issues are as follows.

- ◆ The Assembly received the report of the Task Force for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Studies on Sexuality and expressed gratitude for their work. They also expressed their hope that we, as a church, might find ways to live together faithfully in the midst of our disagreements, recognizing the God-given mission and communion that we share as members of the body of Christ.
- ◆ Although the ELCA will not adopt a rite for the blessing of same-gender unions, it encourages con-

gregations to welcome gay and lesbian persons and trust pastors and congregations to discern ways to provide faithful pastoral care to same-sex couples.

- ◆ Finally, the Assembly affirmed and upheld the standards for rostered leaders as set forth in “Vision and Expectations” which does not allow for the ordination of non-celibate gays and lesbians.

While much ado is made about these issues, I am concerned about what seems to be our unwillingness to address a more fundamental issue that underlies these issues: the issue of how we interpret and apply scripture to our life together. The argument against the blessing of same-gender unions and the ordination of non-celibate gays and lesbians is based on an interpretation of scripture that considers all homosexual activity to be sinful. Those open to the blessing of same-gender unions and the ordination of non-celibate gays and lesbians maintain that when the authors of scripture wrote about homosexuality, the possibilities of homosexual orientation and committed, life-long relationships were not part of their worldview; therefore, the texts really do not speak to the issues before us. It is obvious that the outcomes of these approaches are quite different.

I hope that now that we have addressed these issues – at least until the next Assembly – we can focus just as much time and energy in an open, lively debate regarding how we interpret and apply scripture to our life together. It seems that we are a church deeply divided between a more literalistic

INFLUENCING FAITH

The September 2005 issue of “The Lutheran” focused on youth ministry in the ELCA. The following excerpt is from page 15 of that issue.

How has someone in your congregation influenced your faith life?

My youth director, Linda Rambow, has guided me through Bible studies, taught me great songs and has held great discussions in confirmation class when substituting. I was disappointed when she wasn't my confirmation teacher for my second year in the program. That

would've been one interesting class. Stacey Peterson, 14. Trinity Lutheran Church, Lindstrom, Minnesota.

Linda is the daughter of Shirley Engstrom who is a member of Faith Lutheran Church, Harcourt. Linda has been youth director at Trinity for a number of years.

It is exciting to hear how former members are using their gifts to touch lives in the name of Jesus.

Take a moment to offer a prayer of thanks for Linda's ministry and pray also that God may continue to richly bless her.

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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 school students 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!

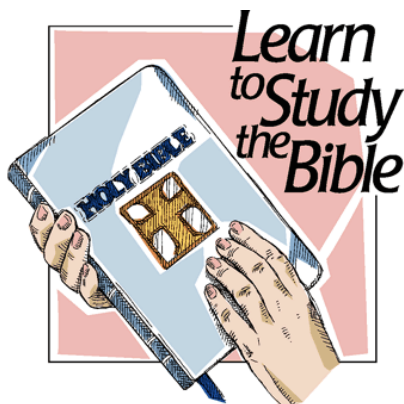
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Clergy Appreciation

erosion in the lives of our spiritual leaders with the positive affirmation they need.

Figure out what you can do personally to recognize and honor these leaders. A simple card, an invitation to lunch, a promise to pray for them or an offer to babysit, wash a car or mow a lawn make wonderful statements. Of course, it is also important to remember that appreciation and affirmation of our spiritual leaders is appropriate throughout the year.

RUN THROUGH THE BIBLE



One of the promises parents make at the baptism of their child is "to place in their hands the holy scriptures." This means more than simply purchasing a Bible for a child; it involves making certain they know what is between the covers.

In order to help you fulfill that promise, we invite students who are in 3rd and 7th grade and their parents to *Run through the Bible* on November 13 and 20 from 3:00 – 4:30 p.m. *Run through the Bible* is intended to give each of the participants a basic overview of the Bible and just a little taste of what can be found between its covers.

Please call the Countryside Ministry office (352-3645) if you plan on attending or have questions.

The art of teaching is the art of assisting discovery.

—Mark Van Doren

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Crop Walk

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.

REMEMBERING CHIEF JUSTICE WILLIAM REHNQUIST

William H. Rehnquist, Chief Justice of the United States, died Sept. 3 of thyroid cancer. Rehnquist was a member of Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, McLean, Va. "Chief Justice Rehnquist never took his faith for granted. It was strong, central and, like him, without pretense. He was a genuine Lutheran Christian," said his pastor, the Rev. George W. Evans Jr. "He managed to keep his Sundays free for activities like the church. He was a student in Redeemer's Evening Forum series on Lutheran faith and teachings, participating in this alongside his high school age granddaughter." Evans said.

"The Chief Justice had a deep and abiding sense of the importance of religion for this nation and its people, and over the past three decades he has led a change in the constitutional law of church and state that now allows that importance to be recognized," said Robert Tuttle, professor of law, George Washington University Law School. Tuttle co-authored "Church and State: Lutheran Perspectives." You can read the entire article about Chief Justice Rehnquist at www.elca.org/news/releases.asp.

"Table Affair"

The ladies of Faith Lutheran, Harcourt are hosting their 4th annual "Table Affair" on Saturday, October 29th. Everyone is invited to come and see the 14 tables, all decorated with a theme, and enjoy a delicious salad bar luncheon including 'Blue Willow Chicken Salad' and desserts. Viewing will begin at 11:15 am and seating at 11:45 am. Tickets are \$7 and can be purchased from Rod or Cheryl Meyer at 354-5224.



Matching funds are being offered by Thrivent.

JR. HIGH YOUTH EVENTS

"GOD IS HERE"

Wartburg's annual junior high event will be held Saturday, November 5. The theme will be "God is Here!"

The day will include a variety of mini-classes, faith talk with Wartburg students, lunch, and a college tour. The band, Fuller Still, will be providing music for this year's event. The band will provide music leadership at our opening and closing gatherings.

Adult sponsors will have a time to gather, discuss, and learn about the needs of Junior High youth.

This event is free of charge and is sponsored by the Church Relations office. If you would like to attend, you must contact the office by October 20.

"GOT ROCK"

The fourth annual Junior High Youth Gathering for the West-

ern Iowa Synod is just around the corner. The theme of this year's gathering is "Got Rock: King of Rock and Roll" (It will focus 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).

Tiger McLuen, of Youth Leadership in Minneapolis, will be the keynote speaker. Dakota Road will be leading worship. There will also be many workshops available for the youth.

This gathering is open to all Countryside Ministry students in 7th, 8th & 9th 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 (352-3645) today!

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Pastor's message

interpretation of scripture that sees scripture as the product of the divine guidance of the hand of the author and scripture as a product of a community's struggle to understand its relationship with God and each other. The outcomes of these approaches in terms of how we understand scripture and apply it to our lives together are quite different and will have a great impact on the future of our life together.

My hope for the ELCA, PCUSA and UCC, along with other denominations, is that we can be clear about the issues that are really important that face us as denominations and work faithfully toward either a common understanding of these issues or a way of continuing to be involved in mission and ministry in spite of our differences.

—Pastor Jim

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Gowrie, IA 50543

Countryside Ministry

Countryside Phone Numbers:

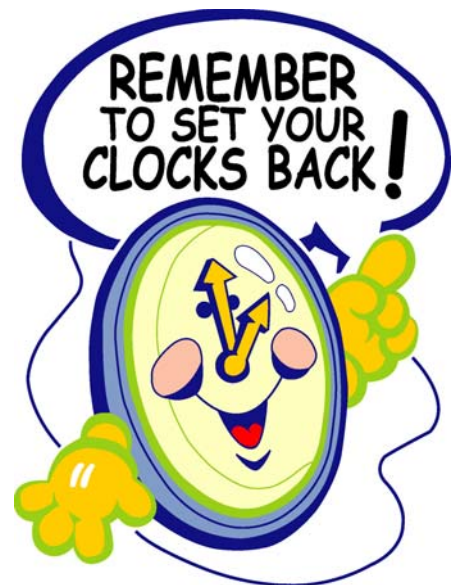
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Home..... 352-5261
Rod Meyer Office 846-6277
Home..... 354-5224
Rev. Wahlgren Office 352-3645
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Cindy Youngquist, Office 352-3612
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Rod Meyer: rodmeyer@lvcta.com
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.)



October 30, 2005

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.