
COUNTRYSIDE NEWS

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

LEARN BY DOING

Mother Teresa visited Australia. A new recruit to the monastery in Australia was assigned to be her guide and “gofer” during her stay. The young man was so thrilled and excited at the prospect of being so close to this woman. He dreamed of how much he would learn from her and what they would talk about. But during her visit, he became frustrated. Although he was constantly near her, he never had the opportunity to say one word to Mother Teresa. There were always other people for her to meet. Finally, her tour was over, and she was due to fly to

New Guinea. In desperation, the friar had his opportunity to speak to Mother Teresa. He said to her, “If I pay my own fare to New Guinea, can I sit next to you on the plane so I can talk to you and learn from you?” Mother Teresa looked at him. “You have enough money to pay airfare to New Guinea?” she asked. “Oh, yes,” he replied eagerly. “Then give that money to the poor,” she said. “You’ll learn more from that than anything I can tell you.” The problem was the young man wanted to experience a feeling when he needed to simply learn by doing.

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
Marie Bengston-- Vice-president
Loretta Daisy----- Secretary
Steve Lane----- Treasurer
Rev. Jim Davis
----- Administrative Pastor

Youth Walk to Fight Hunger

Thirteen youth and four adults from Countryside Ministry participated with a large group of Christians from Webster County in the Annual Webster County CROP WALK that was held on October 9. It was a crisp, beautiful afternoon for the four-mile walk to raise money to alleviate hunger in the world.

The event was expected to raise over \$5,000. CROP WALKS help to 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 WALKS help to 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 and their needs and their development priorities.

The commitment of the youth to this project is to be commended. Lindsey Kruse was an inspiration to many. Lindsey, who broke her ankle earlier in the week, attended the event and was pushed by friends for the entire four miles. Way to go Lindsey and friends!

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.





On August 29, 2005, Hurricane Katrina tore into the Gulf Coast, ravaging huge areas in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama and flooding 80 percent of New Orleans. More than a million people fled the affected area; many of them evacuated to Houston, Texas.

Thousands of evacuees arrived in these areas and many Stephen Ministry congregations and their Stephen Ministers helped out. I have added a few of their stories reported by Stephen Ministries of St. Louis.

Grace Presbyterian Church

When evacuees poured into Houston, Grace Presbyterian Church, a Stephen Ministry congregation of 4,000 in southwest Houston, was ready. The congregation became a disaster relief center, providing shelter and making referrals to community resources. Over Labor Day weekend and on subsequent Sundays, the church served meals and distributed necessities. "Stephen Ministers went from table to table," said Stephen Leader Sue Studley. "They put a hand on a shoulder, sat down and listened, provided a calming, caring presence."

"They need to tell their stories and express their feelings, and we give them a safe place to do that," said Michele Shultz, Stephen Leader and director of Older Adult Ministries. "Our job is to listen and to walk alongside them. We aren't enablers or fixers, and we can't take care of all their problems. Our Stephen Ministry training has taught us to recognize when they need more than we can provide. We refer them to appropriate resources and just continue to let them know we are there for them."

We found that many evacuees were trying to live there, but were running out of money. At one hotel, families were gathered in the parking lot. They had stacked their belongings around the cars so that they could sleep inside their cars at night.

"We took lunches and snacks to those standing in Red Cross, FEMA, or employment lines. We took a liver transplant recipient to a center where she could be checked. Others had spent a long time in contaminated floodwaters, and we found a clinic where they could receive vaccinations."

"People couldn't believe it," Sue said. "They were just sitting or standing where they were, not knowing where to turn, and then we came. They said that God sent us to them."

Lakewood Church

Seeing the devastation in New Orleans, leaders at Lakewood Church, a mega church in central Houston, realized that thousands of evacuees were on their way to Houston. "Our Stephen Ministers were the frontline caregivers," said Stephen Leader Carolyn Clansy, Director of Pastoral Care Ministries. "By 6:00 p. m., about 100 of our 150 Stephen Ministers had come to the church. We did some brush-up training on crisis, brokenness and

healing, and listening. At our midweek worship service that night, we announced that people would be available in a designated area of the church to help evacuees. The response was overwhelming! Without our Stephen Ministers, we wouldn't have been able to minister to those who came forward for help that night."

Stephen Ministers cared for people who had been through heart-wrenching experiences. "A mother and her daughter told about being airlifted to safety by a helicopter," Carolyn said. "While they were being rescued, they saw their husband and father have a heart attack and die. They watched his body float away in the water. Many told about bumping into dead bodies as they tried to get on the buses that would take them out of New Orleans.

"One young man was suicidal. If it hadn't been for Stephen Ministry training, that Stephen Minister wouldn't have had the confidence to ask the direct questions and get him the help he needed." Stephen Ministers have been available at the church seven days a week, in shifts, to provide evacuees with a listening ear, encouragement, and referrals to community resources.

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

On August 31, the Red Cross told Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, a 3,000-member Stephen Ministry congregation in southeast Houston, to expect 300 evacuees by that afternoon.

"Our Stephen Ministers were here immediately as volunteers," said Stephen Leader Shirley Arbet, Director of Care and Health Ministries. "They walked among the evacuees, offered to listen to them and pray with them. Evacuees needed to tell their stories, and the Stephen Ministers pulled up a chair, sat down, and really listened. They prayed with them and helped them to calm down."

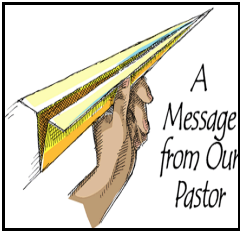
Stephen Ministers and Stephen Leaders also need care. A recent supervision meeting focused on caring for the caregivers. "There's a real tendency for them to stuff their own feelings because they are so consumed by the disaster and its effects," Shirley said. "We encouraged them to process their feelings and what they have been going through."

As Houston itself prepared to evacuate, Pastor John Kiseschnick's message on the church's Web site encouraged all to remember that "in the midst of our uncertainty stands a certain God. With this certainty we face the future, whatever it may bring. . . . And we commend ourselves to Him."

Thanksgiving Prayer of Countryside Ministry Stephen Ministers

O God, on this Thanksgiving we pray for peace in the world. We pray for our wounds to be healed, and our divisions to cease. We pray that we may more and more respect the dignity of all races, religions, nations, and cultures. We pray that we may live our lives to the honor and glory of you. Amen

Cindy Youngquist, Countryside's Stephen Ministry Leader
"Bear one another's burdens...and so fulfill the law of Christ." (Galatians 6:2).



Touching a Life

Fifteen years ago, I confirmed

Lisa. This weekend, October 31, I will participate in Lisa's ordination. It would have been enough for me to just attend her ordination, but to participate is an incredible honor. I have been looking forward to this day for the past four years that Lisa has spent studying at Pacific Lutheran Seminary in Berkeley, California and interning at Amazing Grace Lutheran Church in Anchorage, Alaska. It will be humbling and inspiring.

Lisa will be the first pastor that St. John Lutheran Church, Frederika has sent to the church. While

they have produced many gifted people who serve the church and their communities in amazing ways, this will be the first of their children to commit their life to the "Ministry of Word and Sacrament." Lisa is one of the most gifted and talented people I have ever met. The countless people whose lives Lisa will touch can be grateful for the gift St. John is giving them.

Lisa, however, is not just a product of St. John; she is a product of a church that never ceases to amaze me with its breadth and depth. Here are just a few of the people and institutions that have touched Lisa's life and made her what she is.

Without a doubt, the most important influence in Lisa's life has been her mother. Lois is a woman

for whom I have the deepest respect. She exemplifies what it means to live a life of faith. From Lisa's very conception, Lois surrounded her with love and prayer. Lois faithfully led devotions and prayed with her children. She has taught Sunday school for as long as anyone can remember. She rarely ever misses an opportunity to worship. She is a faithful servant. And, most importantly, she lives life in the awareness of God's presence and love for her. While Lisa was also surrounded by an extended family who took faith seriously and faithfully applied it to their daily lives, Lois was the anchor in the family.

I think of the many ways in

I am humbled when I realize that I am a product of an incredible host of people and institutions that have formed me into a person of faith.

which the people of St. John blessed Lisa. Lisa grew up surrounded by the loving souls at St. John who delighted in Lisa.

Numerous Sunday School teachers taught Lisa the stories in the Bible and about God's amazing love for her. They also loved and cared for her as a daughter. As Lisa matured, they provided opportunities for her to be involved in leading worship and teaching. Their prayers and support encouraged her to develop her gifts and offer them in service to the church.

Lisa was blessed with a fine education at Wartburg College. It was at Wartburg that Lisa was challenged to think critically and began to address some of the crucial issues we face as people of faith. Larry Trachte and Ramona Bouzard, Wartburg's Campus Pastors, served as pastors, mentors and models of faithfulness for Lisa.

Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary provided Lisa with the opportunity to further develop her understanding of the Bible, theology, church history and what it means to be a pastor.

Numerous congregations, in addition to Amazing Grace in Anchorage, have provided Lisa with the opportunity to worship, pray, learn and serve. Each of them has been a unique gift to her while she, also, was a blessing for them.

Many pastors have shared a rich diversity of gifts with Lisa.

Although you may not realize it, you, also, have touched Lisa's life. Your prayers and support for the institutions of the church have made it possible for Lisa to benefit from the colleges, seminaries and other institutions of the church. Many of the ways in which you have touched my life and made me the pastor I am, have been passed on to Lisa through our conversations.

These are but a few of a long list of people and institutions of the church that have produced this amazing young woman who is prepared to serve the church in the "Ministry of Word and Sacrament."

Why do I write this? I write about Lisa because I am humbled and inspired by this church to which we belong. I am humbled when I realize that I am a product of an incredible host of people and institutions that have formed me into a person of faith. I am inspired to see the ways in which my life and our lives make a difference in the lives of others. I hope that you also might be humbled and inspired as you consider all the people who have touched your life and all the lives you have and continue to touch.

—Pastor Jim

SWEDISH SUPPER

Trinity Lutheran Church is hosting their annual Swedish Supper on Wednesday, December 7th from 5:00 p.m.—8:00 p.m.

To order tickets please follow these guidelines:

(There are only a few tickets left!)

1. Orders must be by mail.
2. Tickets will be \$12.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children 6-12 years. Make checks payable to Trinity WELCA.
3. Send all orders to: Trinity Lutheran Church, PO Box 67, Boxholm, IA 50040.

Be sure to enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

4. Orders that cannot be filled will be returned.



SINGERS NEEDED

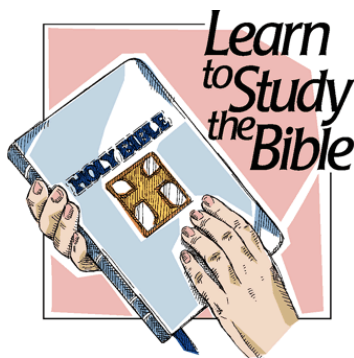
Do you like *Christmas Music* to sing? Do you like Christmas music? Would you like to share your talents with



others? Would you like to have a lot of fun with other community members? Then join us for our wonderful Community Christmas Concert scheduled for the first Sunday in December.

Practices begin on Sunday, November 6, at 2:00 p.m. at Zion Lutheran Church in Gowrie. Everyone is welcome to join us! Please help us to fill our risers with beautiful voices this season. If you have questions please call Monte Albert (352-3049) or Colleen Palmer (352-3598).

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 from 3:00 – 4:30 p.m. and 20 from 6:30—8:00 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

ANGEL TREES

The *FUSION* Team is sponsoring Angel Trees as part of their outreach ministry. At the end of November through approximately the 10th of December there will be Angel Trees located at Security Savings bank in both Gowrie and Farnhamville.



You can stop at either location and take an angel off the tree, shop for the angel, and return the gift unwrapped to the bank. The *FUSION* Team will pick up the gifts from the bank, wrap them, and see that they are delivered.

Please help make it a Very Merry Christmas for these angels.

—The *FUSION* Team

NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS

Seven combines and a fleet of wagons, semis and grain carts roared into a 110 acre field of corn ripe for harvest on Tuesday afternoon. Within minutes of their arrival, clouds of dust filled the warm, still afternoon air. An occasional dust devil flitted through the corn stubble sending dust, chaff and husks skyward where they twirled until their lazy descent to earth. Two red-tailed hawks floated above the field as keen eyes scanned for the rodents that were certain to scurry from the rows of corn. A line of seasoned farmers stood in the nearby bean stubble surveying the frenzy of activity before them. Their weathered smiles revealed their pride and satisfaction as they watched the next generation help their neighbors.

About thirty-five neighbors showed up to finish harvesting corn for Bruce and Ron Walrod. Some were family, most were members of local churches, all them just wanted to help neighbors in need. In a society in which many do not even know the people next door, it was a reminder of the deep ties that still connect us in rural America.

While hauling grain, Ron had suffered a life-threatening stroke that left

him hospitalized. Bruce, his brother, and Judith, Ron's sister, were needed at his bedside, which left the corn in the field waiting to be harvested. Steve Julius, who farms in the Barnum area, immediately knew what needed to be done. The corn needed to be harvested.

According to Steve, "Getting the farmers together was no problem. All I had to do was get the news out and farmers came from all directions. Everyone knows the Walrods. They're good people who have always been there for others. Now others wanted to be there for them."

In fact, there was so much help that Steve said, "I didn't turn anyone away, but I was kind of glad when the calls quite coming."

The day before the large field was combined, Steve was working in a smaller field farmed by the Walrods. Steve said, "A number of neighbors saw me working and drove over to help. We had three combines running that afternoon."

The corn was as bountiful as the generosity that flowed from the hearts of the men and women who showed up to help. Golden streams cascaded from the spouts of combines into grain carts,

then from the grain carts into a line of trailers and wagons. Tractors groaned as they pulled heavy loads up the drive and onto the dusty gravel road bound for the local Coop.

An hour and forty-five minutes after the frenzy began, the last machine shut down its engine, leaving the field quiet except for the easy conversation of friends and the occasional pick-up that slowed as the driver stared in wonder at the lines of machinery filling the field.

Wyman Walrod, the patriarch of the family, marveled at the number of men, the amount of machinery and the speed of the work. "When I was a young man" said Wyman "it would have taken all fall to pick that corn." His joy at the scene before him was obvious in his smile and laughter.

A group of ladies from Fulton Lutheran Church served lunch for the men. The smell of coffee filled Bruce and Amy Walrod's garage along with the laughter of men and women grateful for the opportunity to help friends and neighbors.

If ever there was a foretaste of the feast to come, we tasted it that afternoon in the coffee, bars and the love of friends.

Ron is currently recovering from the stroke, surrounded by the love and prayers of family and friends.



WHAT: Stephen Minister's
Pre-Thanksgiving Gathering
WHEN: Monday - November 21
6:00 P.M.
WHERE: Zion Lutheran Church
BRING: Food to share



FALL BAZAAR

*Fulton Lutheran Church
Roelyn, Iowa*

*November 12, 2005
9:30 a.m.—1:30 p.m.*

*Luncheon Served
Carry-out Available*

*Crafts Rugs
Baked Goods Greeting Cards
A Table of Used Treasures*

Matching Funds by Thrivent

It has been awhile since we last met and I am sure we will all agree that we have so much to be thankful for, so before the Holiday rush, let's get together. We will meet on Monday, November 21, at 6:00 p.m. for a "pre-Thanksgiving" gathering at Zion in fellowship hall— basement, for a pot-luck dinner with a meeting to follow. Table service will be provided. Bring a dish to pass, a salad, a dessert or grab some chicken. Guys you can pick up some dinner rolls or something pre-made, don't worry if you can't find anything to bring— then bring your appetite. Anytime you have a gathering at a church you have plenty for everyone. I would like to see everyone here. We have much to be thankful for, I am thankful for you.

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.)

Thanksgiving Eve Service Schedule

Faith of Harcourt will host Trinity of Boxholm
at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 23.

The United Methodist Church of Gowrie
will host Zion of Gowrie
at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 23.

UCC, Calvary, and Fulton will be celebrating
their Thanksgiving service at Fulton on
Wednesday, Nov. 23 at 7:00 p.m.

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.