
COUNTRYSIDE NEWS

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

YOUTH MINISTRY

A message from Pastor Jim—

One of the most important tasks of youth ministry is the creation of Christian community among our youth. The early church consisted of small groups of people who gathered together to worship, pray, learn and serve. The small groups networked with other small groups to support each other and to engage in mission they were not capable of doing by themselves. The network that developed provided Christians throughout the

Mediterranean with the support and encouragement they needed to remain faithful to Jesus.

While it is important for us to create communities of youth within our congregations, it is equally important to connect those communities with other communities of youth who are striving to live faithfully. The result is, hopefully, a network of youth throughout our state and nation who provide each other with the support and

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Countryside Directory

The Countryside Ministry is in the process of compiling photos and information for a directory that will include all six churches.

Members from each of the churches have been selected to head up the main directory team. Other members will be asked to help with the photo sessions at the four photo sites. Information will be given to each household and a photo session will be set up for all members. Please help to include as many members of your household as possible.

Photo dates and locations are as follows:

Zion: August 9 & 10
2:30—9:00 p.m.
August 11
9:30 a. m.—4:00 p.m.
August 21, 22, & 23
2:30—9:00 p.m.

Fulton: September 6 & 7
2:30—9:00 p.m.
September 8
9:30 a.m.—4:00 p.m.

Faith: September 12 & 13
2:30—9:00 p.m.

Trinity: September 14
2:30—9:00 p.m.
September 15
9:30 a.m.—4:00 p.m.

Please plan to attend one of these sessions.

Countryside Ministry Council

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

Countryside Ministry Executive Committee

Loretta Daisy ----- President
Steve Julius ----- Vice-president
Greg Moe ----- 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.





Alzheimer's Disease

Have you ever forgotten a name or phone number that you've known well for years? Many of us, myself included, laugh these lapses off as "senior moments," and they could well be. "Senior moments" happen to all of us and for most of us they are nothing more than a temporary forgetfulness. But sadly, for some of our loved ones these may not be temporary and we are going to have to learn more about what they really could be: *Alzheimer's Disease*.

Alzheimer's disease (AD) is a neurological condition in which the nerve cells in the brain die. The onset of AD is typically gradual, and the first signs of it may be attributed to old age or ordinary forgetfulness. As the disease advances, cognitive abilities, including the ability to make decisions and perform everyday tasks, are eroded, and personality changes and difficult behaviors may emerge. In its later stages, AD leads to dementia and eventually death.

Facts

An estimated four million people nationwide have been diagnosed with AD. Alzheimer's disease is most common in individuals who are over 65; however, it can also occur in people much younger. The incidence of dementia increases rapidly beyond age 65. In 1998, the percentage of older persons with moderate or severe memory impairment ranged from about 4 percent among people aged 65-69 to about 36 percent among people aged 85 or older. AD is the ninth leading cause of death among those aged 65 and older.

Symptoms

To help people understand the changes that occur as the disease progresses, AD is broken down into three stages: early, middle and late. It is important to remember, however, that the development of symptoms will differ from person to person and that each stage will gradually progress over a period of years. It is also not unusual for people with AD to have

"good days" and "bad days." For example, a person with early-stage AD may not show any symptoms one day; the next he or she may have trouble remembering a name or finding the milk in the refrigerator.

The following summarizes the most common symptoms at the early stage:

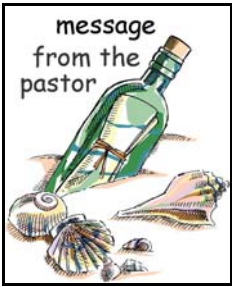
- trouble remembering recent events and conversations
- difficulty remembering the month or day of the week
- loss of ability to manage finances
- Withdrawal from social situations and general apathy
- more difficulty with familiar chores such as cooking and shopping
- poor judgment – difficulty making wise decisions
- tendency to lose things
- becoming disoriented in familiar surroundings.

Other possible causes of memory problems include: depression, medication side effects, excess use of alcohol, thyroid problems, poor nutrition, vitamin deficiencies, and certain infections. So it is best to visit with your doctor before you assume you have Alzheimer's. If it is Alzheimer's, early diagnosis and intervention methods are improving dramatically and treatment options and sources of support can improve quality of life.

Gowrie has a support group that meets the last Wednesday of every month in the beautiful Gowrie Senior Suites behind the Care Center. The group meets at 1:00 p.m., everyone visits for a few moments and then we usually watch a video or DVD on Alzheimer's or dementia. Afterwards we meet in the kitchen area for coffee and refreshments. This group understands what people are experiencing as they have a loved one with memory problems. The group shares in confidentiality. Please join us at our next meeting, **Wednesday May 30th at 1:00 p.m. in the Gowrie Senior Suites.**

Cindy Youngquist, Countryside Cooperative's Stephen Ministry Leader

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



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Youth Ministry

encouragement they need to remain faithful to Jesus.

Tyler Rasmussen, who recently graduated from Iowa State University, attended WIYLDE, a youth leadership workshop, in 2002 and 2003, where he developed friendships with youth from across the state. When Tyler moved from home to college, he already had connections with youth he had met at WIYLDE. The friendships and Christian community made the transition from home to college easier and provided him with a community of Christian friends who provided him with the support and encouragement he needed as he tried to live faithfully as a college student.

In addition to Vacation Bible School and the Bible camps of the church, which are a vitally important part of the ministry of the church, there are a number of other opportunities for youth to connect with youth throughout the state and country this summer.

Bash on the Farm is a Christian music festival that will be held in Garner on June 15 and 16. More than 60 Christian bands will be performing. In addition, there will be games, an illusionist and much more entertainment. We will be camping overnight on the 16th. This is a Woodstock type format. While there is no charge for *Bash on the Farm*, a \$20 donation is suggested. Participants are also responsible for their own food.

Sonshine Festival has been one of the favorites of our youth the past several years. *Sonshine Festival* is also a Woodstock style format. More than 20,000 will

descend on Willmar, Minnesota on July 12-14 to listen to the approximately 125 bands that will perform on 5 stages. In addition to great music, there will be Tent City X-treme games and much, much more. Approximate costs for this event are \$100. If you would like to attend *Sonshine Festival*, please register by contacting Countryside Ministry office as soon as possible.

The final event of the summer, and one of the best, is WIYLDE. WIYLDE stands for Wholly Iowa Youth Leadership Discipling Event and is designed for students in grades 9-12. It is a youth ministry leadership workshop, an opportunity for young people to grow in their own faith and take tools back to their home congregations to provide leadership in their youth ministry programs. Each participant will learn:

- how to help plan and lead worship
- how to lead a Bible study
- where to find youth ministry materials
- how to help organize youth events

We have had many students attend WIYLDE. All of them had excellent experiences. WIYLDE will be July 22-26. The cost for WIYLDE is \$99 and registration is due by July 1.

Make certain to encourage your children and the youth of our congregations to take advantage of these opportunities to connect with youth from across the state and nation in order that they might worship, pray, learn, serve and support and encourage each other in living faithfully with Jesus.

Scholarships are available for all events. For information on these events, contact the Countryside Ministry office.

JOINT WORSHIP SERVICES

You are invited to join the congregations of the Countryside Ministry for a joint worship experience on Sunday, July 22. Three 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 services at Faith at 9:00 a.m. and at Zion at 9:30 a.m. with fellowship coffees following the services. Both sanctuaries are air-conditioned. These will be the only services offered in the Countryside Ministry congregations on July 22.



WHY DOES JESUS FOCUS ON MONEY AND POSSESSIONS?



Jesus speaks a lot about money and possessions. Many Biblical scholars have observed that Jesus talks more about money and possessions than about any other topic, except the

kingdom of God itself. Jesus talks about money and possessions more than he talks about prayer, more than he talks about his death, more than he talks about forgiveness.

The letters of the New Testament also contain an amazing amount of material about money and possessions. From "God loves a cheerful giver" in II Cor. 9 to "the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil" in I Tim. 6, there are many more references to money and possessions in the letters than most would expect.

The reason for this is obvious: Jesus and his followers are acutely aware that there is an intimate connection between faith and finances, a connection that can either threaten faith or strengthen faith.

The New Testament is convinced that the more money and possessions a person has, the greater the threat. Also, having money and possessions places on a person the duty to use these to alleviate the needs of those who have little money and few possessions. So why is the New Testament so concerned about money and possessions? Because Jesus wants your heart; he wants to be in a close relationship with you and have your heart turned toward him. Jesus and others in the New Testament see money and possessions as threats because they can turn one's heart away from Jesus.

We need to dispel the false myth that we are not rich. There are many people in our society who are

rich beyond most people's ability to comprehend. It is tempting to compare yourself with one of the incredibly rich, and then conclude that you are not really wealthy. This is a mistake! You are wealthy by any standards. I am wealthy, and so are you. Scripture that speaks about the dangers of wealth is speaking to us. These are the dangers we face everyday as we strive to live as disciples of Jesus. Jesus said, "You cannot serve God and wealth." But we try to do both.

However, we need to recognize that Jesus says there is a problem here. The problem is the impossibility of serving two masters. Jesus' words are radical: "You will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other" (Matt. 6). Not much middle ground. Jesus

doesn't leave us much "wiggle room." What "just makes sense" to us, causes Jesus to say "that won't work." Try as you will, you just can't serve both.

Jesus is fearful. He doesn't want his disciples wandering away from him. Jesus doesn't want wealth to become the object of trust that causes one

of his beloved to stop trusting in him. This is the bottom line. Jesus wants your trust. He knows that if you try to trust your wealth and him, you are in an impossible situation. Your trust will go one way or the other. You can't do both, and he doesn't want to risk losing you.

So what are we going to do? How do we make this very hard decision? More importantly, even if we make the hard decision to choose to trust in Jesus over trusting in our wealth, how do we remain committed and faithful to our decision? First, we must be deadly serious about both making the decision and making the commitment. Then, a prayerful conversation with God is in order. Together, you can do it. Alone, you will perpetuate your impossible situation, trying to both please God and please wealth. Can't be done! Make a choice; make the commitment. You will be blessed.

"This is the bottom line. Jesus wants your trust."

CELEBRATE WORLD REFUGEE DAY

On June 20th, World Refugee Day will be recognized throughout the globe. This day honors refugees, many of whom have fled unspeakable persecution, oppression, war, and even genocide. It celebrates their bravery to hope for a better life and to take the often dangerous journey that leads them to a new location that holds this hope of safety and peace.

Iowa is one safe haven refugees seek to try and start a new life. Lutheran Services in Iowa's Refugee Cooperative Services supports the dreams of those who are seeking asylum from persecution because of race, religion, nationality, ethnicity, political opinion or social group. LSI's ser-

vices provide supplies, support and training for self-sufficiency in society. These services give families the support and encouragement needed to be successful in their new communities.

LSI will be celebrating World Refugee Day on Saturday, June 23rd in Des Moines at the Downtown Farmers Market. Please join us for displays and dances from countries throughout the world. For more information, contact Jill Stuecker at jill.stuecker@lsiowa.org or 515.271.7418.

WIS WOMEN'S CONVENTION



Western Iowa Synodical Women's Organization's 20th Convention is coming up on June 23, 2007, at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church in Humboldt. Our theme, "Celebrate Our Wholeness in Christ," ties together our 20th birthday celebration with our being a whole person in Christ. We will have singing, worship, Bible study, a great inspirational speaker, business and elections, and a special 20th display, birthday cake, and fellowship. Come and join us for the day! Get your registrations in now! Cost is \$35 until June 15. Registration includes your meal, two coffees, speakers and materials. If you have questions or need a registration form, contact Dixie Petersen at 712-268-2482 or crpfarm@metc.net; or Judy Lang at 515-576-6810 or Judith-Lang@aol.com.

Countryside Council Minutes

Countryside Ministry Council met May 14, 2007 at 7:30 p.m. at Zion Lutheran Church in Gowrie. Present were council members Marie Bengston, Roberta Clausen, Dorothy Nahnsen, Marc Greenfield, Amy Walrod, Judith Walrod, Richard and Joyce Silvey, Steve Lane, Pastor Jim Davis, and Loretta Daisy. Also present was Rod Meyer.

President Loretta called the meeting to order and Pastor Jim led devotions.

The secretary's report was noted and the treasurer's report given.

Pastor Jim reported on the status of the \$2000 given by the Presbyterian Church for use in developing rural programs. He

presented a grant and the paperwork for a rural church to train a Stephen Ministry leader. This would take the \$2000 plus another \$1000. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to offer this grant from our Countryside Ministry. Pastor Jim will take care of publishing this grant offer.

Loretta reported on the joint meeting with the councils of Faith and Trinity Lutheran Churches and the follow up meeting with Pastor Jim and Rod Meyer. Each church was asked to look at the *Terms of Agreement* and note changes to be made. After each church's council representative had read their find-

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**Remember:
The Alzheimer's Support
Group meets on the Last
Wednesday of each month
at 1:00 p.m. at the Gowrie
Senior Suites. June's
meeting will be on
Wednesday the 27th.**

Celebrating Fathers

Father's Day is a day of commemoration and celebration of Dad. It is a day to not only honor your father, but all men who have acted as a father figure in your life, whether as stepfathers, uncles, grandfathers, or "Big Brothers."

It is a time of burnt toast and breakfast in bed, family gatherings, crayon scribbled "I Love You's" and, of course, that lovely new tie!

Mrs. John B. Dodd, of Washington, first proposed the idea of a "father's day" in 1909. Mrs. Dodd wanted a special day to honor her father, William Smart. William Smart, a Civil War veteran, was widowed when his wife (Mrs. Dodd's mother) died in childbirth with their sixth

child. Mr. Smart was left to raise the newborn and his other five children by himself on a rural farm in eastern Washington state. It was after Mrs. Dodd became an adult that she realized the strength and selflessness her father had shown in raising his children as a single parent.

The first Father's Day was observed on June 19, 1910 in Spokane Washington. At about the same time in various towns and cities across American other people were beginning to celebrate a "father's day." In 1924 President Calvin Coolidge supported the idea of a national Father's Day. Finally in 1966 President Lyndon Johnson signed a presidential proclamation declaring the 3rd Sunday of June as Father's Day.

PRISON MINISTRY



Wanted: people who are willing to take one Wednesday each month or just a

Wednesday now and then to bring a little hope to our brothers at the Fort Dodge Correctional Facility.

Once a month a group of people from our Countryside Ministry churches goes to a worship service at the Fort Dodge Correctional Facility. Jesus tells us to go and visit those in prison as well as the sick (Matthew 25:39). Please join us!

Our regularly scheduled visit is

the second Wednesday of the month (June 13). We leave from Zion at 5:45 p.m. but will make arrangements to pick people up in Moorland or meet in the prison parking lot.

Anyone wishing to be included in this outreach ministry please call the Countryside Ministry office by the first Thursday of the month (June 7) to reserve a spot.

If you have not previously visited the correctional facility, the Countryside office will need some information. The correctional facility is required to do a background check on each new visitor as a precautionary measure.

What Makes A Dad

God took the strength of a mountain,

The majesty of a tree,
The warmth of a summer sun,
The calm of a quiet sea,

The generous soul of nature,
The comforting arm of night,
The wisdom of the ages,
The power of the eagle's flight,

The joy of a morning in spring,
The faith of a mustard seed,
The patience of eternity,
The depth of a family need,

Then God combined these qualities,
When there was nothing more to add,
He knew His masterpiece was complete,
And so, He called it ... Dad

Author unknown



Western Iowa Synod Assembly

“Behind the scene”

Under the theme “Living in God’s Amazing Grace,” over 500 voting members, advisors and visitors gathered in Sioux City at the Convention Center for the 2007 Western Iowa Synod Assembly.

In last month’s newsletter Pastor Davis and Bud and Donita Johanson shared some of their experiences of Assembly with you, but I hadn’t had the time to prepare my report so thought I would include a little here this month.

I am on the WIS Church Council and the Executive Committee so we were put to work helping with registration and other various tasks. This year I was asked to serve on the Bishop’s Election Task Force Committee. I had never experienced the Assembly in this way before, but it did give me a chance to see how the election process works and also how we are all just alike in our feelings and frustrations. Assembly has a tight schedule to follow and trying to get people to stick to a schedule can be difficult at times.

I had no idea what an ecclesiastical ballot was, but I soon learned it is the process by which we elect a bishop as defined by the constitution. A biblical reference to an ecclesiastical election appears in the first chapter of Acts.

After the verified voting members have cast their ballots and the ballots counted, a candidate must have three-fourths of the votes cast to be elected. If no one is elected,

the first ballot shall be considered the nominating ballot. Each one of those over 70 nominees names we received that first time had to be called and told they had been nominated and asked if they would like to leave their names on the ballot or withdraw at that time. I called many, many pastors that evening even including our own Pastor Jim Davis. (Pastor Jim asked me to withdraw his name. Whew...!)

Contacting all those pastors took us until midnight as we requested a bio from each for the voting members to be able to read the next morning. The process went on from there until we either got a winner or got down to two. Finally, as it worked out this year, after the fifth ballot (containing only two names) was cast and counted we had a Bishop elected. Bishop Last received 206 of 355 votes; the runner-up was Pastor David E. Cox, intentional interim at Our Saviour’s, Humboldt. Bishop Last will serve a 6-year term.

Our committee assigned “*prayer angels*” to be with each candidate and I was Bishop Last’s prayer angel. This was a very emotional time for Bishop Last and his family. I was humbled to spend that time with Bishop Last in prayer before he delivered his message to the assembly. My Stephen Ministry training was very helpful for being a “*prayer angel*”.

Another person I had the op-

portunity to spend quite a bit of time with was ELCA Bishop Mark Hanson and his wife Ione. I have been elected by our Synod Council to be a delegate to attend the ELCA 10th Biennial Church wide Assembly in Chicago August 6–11 and both Bishop Hanson and I laughed that he could use an extra “*prayer angel*,” as he too is up for re-election as our ELCA Bishop at the churchwide assembly this year. I had a good, spirit-filled time serving as a council member to our synod at this year’s assembly and I want to thank you for allowing me to attend. Next time I will report on Chicago’s churchwide assembly in August.

Next year’s **2008 Synod Assembly** will be held June 6-7, 2008, in the Storm Lake area.

—Cindy Youngquist

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Council Minutes

ings, Loretta asked that each church submit a name of one person to be on a committee to revise the *Terms of Agreement*.

A Countryside Ministry Directory was discussed. A motion was made, seconded, and passed that we have a directory made. Each church will have 2 committee members that will assist Cheryl Rasmussen in completing this project.

A motion was made, seconded, and passed that we have 2 church services as well as the Countryside Ministry Picnic in July. One will be at Zion and one at Faith.

The meeting was adjourned and we closed with the Lord’s Prayer.

Submitted by
Loretta Daisy, President

