



Covenant

Covenant Lutheran Church
VOLUME 20, ISSUE #7
July 2016

July has come, and July brings Vacation Bible School. I'm looking forward to the time spent learning, playing, and praying with children from all over Wheatland. But looking through the list of all the things that have to come together to have VBS, I'm reminded of just how reliant we are on volunteers in the church. Not only for VBS, but in all areas of the church, from administration to education to worship and music, volunteers make the church work.

I am very thankful for all of you who give of your time and talents for the good of the church, and I hope you know that I appreciate everything you do.

Thank you.
Pastor Joshua

A NOTE FROM THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE:

What is the first thing that comes to mind when you hear the word "stewardship"? Budgets and spreadsheets? Money? Pledge cards? A grateful response to God? What about love? For many congregations of the ELCA, stewardship means "the church asking for money" or it means nothing at all. If it draws to mind anything, it is the three-week annual financial response that happens every fall to ensure there is enough money to fund the budget for the next year. While the annual financial response may be wrapped up in religious language, at the end of the day it is about the need of the congregation to receive rather than the need of the giver to give. Stewardship encompasses so much more than money. It is a way of life. It calls for integration between our faith and the way that we live our lives — we are a church that is energized by lively engagement in our faith and life. Stewardship is a mindset, a culture and a discipline that can never be contained in an annual three-week financial response. According to Clarence Stoughton, former president of Wittenberg University, stewardship is everything we do after we say "I believe." It is the way in which we use all of the resources that God has entrusted to our care so that we can love God and our neighbor. **Stewardship is about love.**

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DOWN, IN, AND OUT: LOVING GOD AND LOVING OUR NEIGHBOR

The practice of stewardship invites us to look in three different directions: DOWN, IN and OUT. We begin by looking at how God has come down to us. We then look in to discover all that God has entrusted to our care. We end by looking out to understand the needs of our neighbors. While these three actions may not always happen in this order, the practice of stewardship always invites all three.

DOWN

Stewardship begins at creation, where God first comes down to us. In the first chapter of Genesis, God forms humankind in God's own image and commands them: "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth" (Genesis 1:28). A steward is someone who cares for someone else's property. From the beginning, humanity is not an owner, but a steward of what God has created. We are first receivers, not givers! God's love comes down to us in Jesus Christ. To quote John 3:16, "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life." God loved us so much that God sent Jesus to die for us to bring us salvation and new life. God also comes down to us in the sacrament of baptism. In baptism, we are claimed as children of God. We belong to God and all that we have belongs to God. We are bearers of God's love, grace and gospel. Stewardship begins with God coming down to us in love and sharing some of what is God's with us. We are a church that belongs to Christ, and there is a place for all here.

IN

God has skillfully created us and blessed us with more than we could ever imagine. We are fearfully and wonderfully made! God knows us deeply and has created each of us uniquely. God has entrusted us with an abundance of tangible and intangible resources — time, talents, treasure and so much more. While our gifts may seem meager, put in the hands of God, these gifts can become so much more. In Mark 6:30-44, Jesus takes a little boy's lunch and blesses it to feed thousands. Even in the midst of scarcity, God provides in abundance. God gives in abundance that we might share in abundance. The apostle Paul writes, "And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work" (2 Corinthians 9:8). When we realize that all we have belongs to God and not to us, we can't help but give it away in thanksgiving for God's generosity to us. We give joyfully, graciously and sacrificially because we know that our resources are not ours to keep but are God's to share.

OUT

We look out to see how God is calling us to love our neighbor with all that God has entrusted to our care. We are a church that believes Jesus is God's "Yes" to us. Our lives can be a "Yes" to others. Stewardship is one way that we can be that "Yes" to others. When asked: "What is the greatest commandment?" Jesus responds, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself'" (Matthew 22:37-39).

We are called to love, not just with our words but with our whole lives. Stewardship is the way that we use all of our resources — time, talents, possessions and money — to love God and our neighbor. The Parable of the Good Samaritan in Luke 10:25-37 exemplifies this type of stewardship. The Samaritan gave generously of his time, his possessions, and his money. He took a detour from his own travels just to help a hurting man, who was more of an enemy than a friend. Stewardship transforms God's commandment to "love our neighbors as ourselves" from a religious expression into a way of life.

This is the first part in a continuing series from the Stewardship Committee. Look for the next article in the August newsletter.



happy anniversary

1st Michael Wright
 6th Karen Shore
 8th Erin Morris
 9th Lee Morrison
 19th Riley Wright
 20th Chace Washington
 27th Rick Robbins
 31st Dallas Watkins

2nd Rick & Arlene Robbins
 *50 years

4th Tyler & Clare Hansen
 *8 years

5th Joel & Dawn McKee
 *13 years

23rd Ron & Hollee Bosch
 *39 years

24th Jeff & Shari Brown
 *18 years

31st Jim & Lil Prince
 *45 years

Joshua & Jennifer Bruns
 *12 years

Lloyd & Maxine Koerwitz
 *68 years

MISSION STATEMENT

We covenant ourselves to gather around Word and
 Sacrament for mutual support and strength in Christ, that
 by God's grace we:

Proclaim the gospel of the Kingdom
 Nurture the community through Christian Education
 Provide settings for Christian fellowship, and
 Equip the membership to be Christ's servant people within
 God's world.

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 Pastor: pastorjoshua@wyomingwireless.com
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Office Hours:

Pastor Bruns—Mon - Thurs.: 9 am - 12 pm
 Office: M - F: 9 am - 12: pm
 Sunday Worship: 9:00 am Sunday
 Sunday School: 10:00 am Sunday
 Adult Bible Study: 4:00 pm Thursday
 Adult Book Study: 10:30 am Sunday

**COVENANT LUTHERAN CHURCH
COUNCIL MINUTES
June 9, 2016**

Call to Order:

Meeting was called to order at 7:03 PM

Devotions:

Devotions were led by Rick Robbins

Roll Call:

Pastor Joshua, Jim Lockwood, Rick Robbins, Shelley Sterling, Lloyd Koerwitz, Reno Taylor, Sarah Jesse, Marge Scholten, Woody Shore, Joel McKee, Nadine Morris

Absent: Jennifer Bruns, CA Thomas, Nancy Lubeck, Terry Lubeck, Jamison Brown

Additions to Agenda: Under old business; insurance policy, Carey Jo Tournament, grieving class and the columbarium. Under new business; Renewal of Sundays and Seasons and education chair(s)

Thrift Store: Energy audit is done and an estimate to be done soon for the thrift store. The Pay Pal account is up and going.

	Receipts	Assistance	Ending Ck Bal	Ending Sav Bal
Thrift Store	\$8,456.63	\$766.16	\$5,671.07	\$6,630.19
Grandma's Attic	\$6,878.56	493.70	\$1,552.31	NA

Correspondence: none

Reports:

Secretary: After corrections were made, Rick made a motion to accept the minutes and Reno 2nd it. Motion carried.

Financial Secretary: Reno made a motion to accept the report, Lloyd 2nd it, motion passed.

Treasurer: Reno moved to accept the report and Joel 2nd it, motion passed.

President: No report.

Elders: All is going well.

Trustees: Sprinklers are running but coming on at weird times. The door to the room with the sound system needs to be fixed. There are two latches to keep children out and it could be a fire hazard.

Pastor: Pastor's report is posted on the bulletin board.

Committee Reports:

Education: Things are coming together for VBS. If anyone can help or volunteer please see Sarah.

Youth:

Stewardship: Rick is looking into a program that is year round.

Worship: Praise in the Park is being planned out. Bluegrass on July 31st

Women of ELCA: No report.

Hospitality: A prayer shawl was given to Kim Jeffords.

Men of Covenant: Good turn out reported for the men's breakfast.

Outreach: Red is still looking for someone to replace his duties with the sound system. Anyone able to step up and help out please do so.

Altar Guild: Going well. Rena cleaned out the closet and is organized. Looking into getting new candles.

Landscape: Jim thanked everyone who helped with the clean-up in May. The prayer garden is looking nice. Everything is looking so green.

Old Business: There was discussion about the insurance policy due in June, but haven't received any renewal information yet. Reno will keep us posted.

Pastor Joshua mentioned that the grieving class is still being planned. No one from the Synod is available, so he's looking at Peak Wellness to possibly do a couple of workshops in the evenings. He will inform us when those dates will be.

Rick made a motion to allow the Carey Jo Softball Tournament to be under the umbrella of the Covenant Lutheran Church for tax purposes. Joel 2nd the motion; motion carried.

Pastor Joshua, Jim, Don and Stu went to the budget workshop for the city. A decision had not been made. Jim did say that one of the employees in the town office had called him asking for more information about the company which could be a positive sign.

New Business: Sarah and Dawn are stepping down from being education chairs. Anyone interested in volunteering to take this position please talk to any of the council members. There are about 15 active children give or take. Would like to appoint someone next month at the next council meeting.

Reno discussed the renewal of Sundays and Seasons. It's the online materials and resources used for worship. Lloyd moved that we continue to use this and Rick 2nd. This has also already been budgeted into our finances.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer
Next Council Meeting July 14, 2016
Devotions for next Meeting: Nadine Morris

Respectfully Submitted,
Shelley Sterling

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2016

WHO: Covenant Lutheran Church, United Methodist Church, All Saints Episcopal Church, United Church of Christ, and St. Patrick's Catholic Church

WHAT: Vacation Bible School Day Camp for children who have completed Kindergarten to 5th grade or ages 6 – 12.

WHERE: Lewis Park Picnic Shelter by the playground

WHEN: July 18 – 22

Monday – Thursday 9:00 am – 3:00 pm

Friday 9:00 am – noon

Ice cream social and program for the entire congregation:

Thursday, July 21st at 3:00 pm at the picnic shelter

****The sign-up sheet and health history forms can be found by the church mailboxes. You can also sign up by calling or emailing the church office. When signing up, please include the phone number where you can be reached during the day in case of emergency (cell phone, work phone, etc). Health history forms may be returned to the office or turned into the counselors on the first day of VBS. If you have any questions, please call or email the office.**

****Each child needs to bring a sack lunch Monday – Thursday.**

****Each child will need a plain white T-shirt for a tie-dye activity.**

****One day will include water games, so the kids need to be prepared to get wet.**

	ELDER		ASSISTANT		GREETERS
7-3	Jennifer Bruns	7-3	Woody Shore	7-3	Woody & Karen Shore
7-10	Joel McKee	7-10	Jennifer Bruns	7-10	Any volunteers?
7-17	Praise in the Park	7-17	N/A	7-17	N/A
7-24	Woody Shore	7-24	Reno Taylor	7-24	Any volunteers?
7-31	Jennifer Bruns	7-31	Joel McKee	7-31	Haeffelins
	ACOLYTE		READER		USHERS
7-3	Gage Brown	7-3	Mary Seim	7-3	CA & Connie Thomas
7-10	Mekayla Garcia	7-10	Slick Seidel	7-10	Slick Seidel
7-17	N/A	7-17	N/A	7-17	N/A
7-24	Peter Jesse	7-24	Sarah Jesse	7-24	Any volunteers?
7-31	Raegan Ehde	7-31	Any volunteers?	7-31	Any volunteers?
	MUSICIAN		ALTAR CARE		VISITATION
7-3	Lisa Young	7-3	Judy Windmeier	7-3	Stu Hammersmark
7-10	Gwen Seidel	7-10	Gail Thompson	7-10	Rich Bohm
7-17	Praise in the Park	7-17	N/A	7-17	Rick Robbins
7-24	Nancy Schumann	7-24	Rena Kittelson	7-24	Nadine Morris
7-31	Praise Band	7-31	Gail Mattern	7-31	Lloyd Koerwitz
	FELLOWSHIP				
7-3	Karen Shore		If you would be willing to volunteer		
7-10	Lloyd & Maxine Koerwitz		for any of the open spots this month		
7-17	Potluck		please send an email to		
7-24	Sarah Jesse		clcwheatland@gmail.com		
7-31	Any volunteers?				

JULY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2 ROBBINS' 50 th ANNIVERSARY OPEN HOUSE 1:00 – 3:00 PM
3 TAIZE 7:00 PM	4 	5 PRAISE BAND 6:00 PM	6	7 BIBLE STUDY 4:00 PM	8	9
10 TAIZE 7:00 PM	11	12 PRAISE BAND 6:00 PM	13	14 BIBLE STUDY 4:00 PM COUNCIL MEETING 7:00 PM	15	16
17 PRAISE IN THE PARK 9:00 AM TAIZE 7:00 PM	18 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM	19 VBS WELCA BIRTHDAY LUNCH 11:30 AM PRAISE BAND 5:30 PM WORSHIP COMMITTEE 6:30 PM	20 VBS	21 VBS ICE CREAM SOCIAL 3:00 PM BIBLE STUDY 4:00 PM	22 VBS 9:00 - 12:00	23
24 NURSING HOME SERVICE 2:00 PM TAIZE 7:00 PM	25	26 PRAISE BAND 6:00 PM	27	28 BIBLE STUDY 4:00 PM	29	30
31 BLUEGRASS SERVICE TAIZE 7:00 PM						