



St. Luke's Evangelical Lutheran Church



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Evangelical Lutheran Church In America
God's work, our hands

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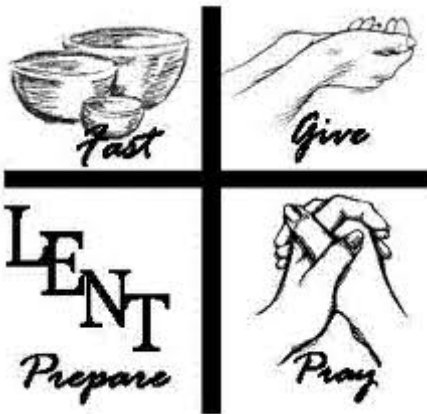
SCANDINAVIAN DINNER




WHATEVER!?!?

CALENDAR

It's All About Jesus





New Office Hours

EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY:
Pastor John will be in his office Monday—Thursday from 9:30 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. If you need to speak with him, his cell telephone number is 620-5480.
Shonna Shirey will be in the secretary's office from 9:30 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. on Thursday and Friday.

PASTOR JOHN'S PAGE!

INTERIM INSIGHTS

J was no more than a boy when the Lutheran Book of Worship was introduced. Despite the fanfare surrounding its debut, there was something strange and unsettling about the change in our worship. It seemed that if God was unchanging; our worship also ought to stay the same. Let me tell you, there was more than a little discussion about how people felt about the change in the LBW's worship language. Worship texts that previously quoted King James translations, now reflected the Revised Standard Version of the scriptures. Speaking the Lord's Prayer and the creeds with a different vocabulary seemed foreign at first, but I soon found that the new vocabulary was deepening my understanding of scripture. For instance, I was never quite sure what the Lord's Prayer meant by "trespassing" against someone until the new version used the word "sin" instead. Though we worship the same God as our ancestors, the language and culture of our generation is vastly different. Unless we faithfully strive to find new vocabulary for speaking about God, our understanding of God can suffer.



Pastor John Bell

Interim ministry gives a congregation an opportunity to explore new images and vocabulary for talking about ministry. It is a process that helps to define what is important in ministry and what is not. Hopefully it will help St. Luke's to define priorities as we journey through the call process. No doubt, Pastor John II will do some things differently than John I. These

changes are not an implication that the previous way of doing things was wrong. Neither are they an indication of how things will be in the future. They are, rather, a playful exploration of differing ministry values and styles.

My goal is not to change St. Luke's, but to invite the congregation to explore a deeper understanding of our ministry priorities. I imagine that there will be things we try that you don't particularly like. Not only is that okay, but if communicated constructively, such discussion can be helpful in defining the direction our call process should take. But I am also confident that as we explore new possibilities and practices, we will find opportunity to enrich and enliven our faith. Perhaps you, also, have new insights and ideas for ministry.

This can be a great time to explore those possibilities as well. Though change can be scary, exploring new possibilities can also be fun. I look forward to the conversation.

Beginning Sunday, February 4, I will lead an adult Sunday school series on worship. I invite you to join me between services as we explore the theology and practice of worship. Together we will form a common vocabulary for talking about how we worship and gain an appreciation for how different worship styles help to shape the congregation that gathers to worship.

Join us, and be a part of the conversation.

Blessings to you,
-Pastor John II



Prayer Line

The St. Luke's prayer line is very active.. If you would like to be on it, please call *Lois Madsen*, 684-2917.

The prayer line is also on the bulletin board in the fellowship room.

If you want to request the power of prayer for someone, please contact *Pat Loetterle*, 684-5206, *Bessie Dickerson*, 684-7581, *Mona Pickering*, 684-5892; or any person that is listed.

Your prayer request will be added to St. Luke's prayer line.

Life is beyond our control. That is precisely why we pray.

Praying should not be 'the only thing we can do.' It is the **FIRST** thing we should do.

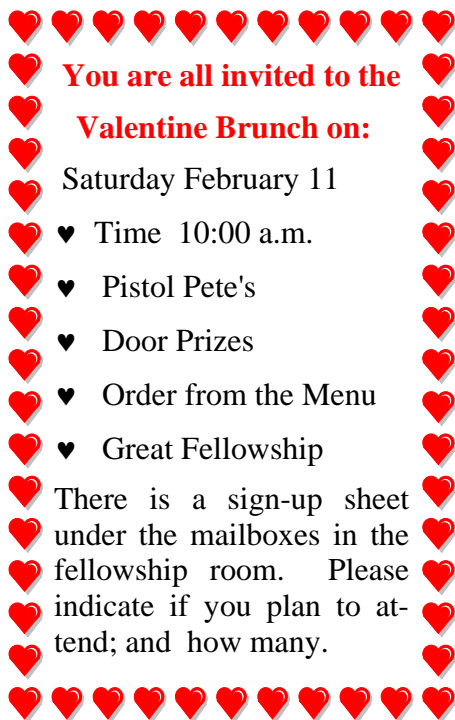
The prayer line is being updated for 2012. If you would like to be a part of this important ministry, please contact one of the following: *Lois Madsen*, 684-2917; *Pat Loetterle*, 684-5206; *Mona Pickering*, 684-5892; *Bessie Dickerson*, 684-7581 or *Pastor John* at 684-7872.

PRAYER Requests

Please keep in ongoing prayer the following people: *Loretta Culpepper*, *Jan Nelson*, *Marilyn Knauer*, *Nadine Matteson* *Tammy Kramer's father Arne Herboldt*, and *Homer Ramey*.



Remember that you are dust and into dust you shall return.



You are all invited to the Valentine Brunch on:

Saturday February 11

♥ Time 10:00 a.m.

♥ Pistol Pete's

♥ Door Prizes

♥ Order from the Menu

♥ Great Fellowship

There is a sign-up sheet under the mailboxes in the fellowship room. Please indicate if you plan to attend; and how many.



The Meals on Wheels program

for St. Luke's Lutheran is being covered by 27 people. Only one Wednesday spot is available.

Marsha Parker is coordinating a Valentine card drive at *Meadowlark School* to be delivered to some 33 clients during early February.

Thank you for your generous participation.



Between Heaven & Mirth humor is balm for the soul



Vision Statement



We at *St. Luke's Evangelical Lutheran Church* strive to make this a place where everyone can encounter God and their neighbors in an atmosphere of warmth, caring and hospitality.

Where people belong and believe and become what God wants them to be.

We believe that the gospel of Jesus Christ changes lives!

Learn ~ Share ~ Serve

Fall/Winter Worship Schedule

Worship and Holy Communion: 8:00 a.m.

Fellowship follows

Parental Nursery Provided .

Worship and Holy Communion: 10:30 a.m.

Sunday schools at 9:15 a.m.

Bread of Life Food Pantry

Please remember to give to the *Bread of Life Food Pantry*.

The newsletter and pictures are available in full color on our website: <http://www.stlukeselca.com> The sermon can now be heard by clicking on the link found there.

Council Corner!

The Congregation Council has been busy in January. We had our monthly meeting on January 9, a special meeting on Jan 19 with Interim Pastor John Bell and, of course the Annual Congregation Meeting on January 22.



Scott Madsen

During the monthly meeting, we reviewed financial reports and budget to finalize items for the annual meeting.

The Scandinavian Dinner is set for February 26, 2012. Planning for the dinner will begin soon, so watch for announcements.

Prices for this years dinner will be \$14 for adults, \$8 for children 6-12, ages five and under free, and a combined family rate for \$35.

The council also approved nominations for new Congregation Council that will be voted on at the annual meeting.

In other business, the council decided to install motion detecting lights at all entrances to the church as a possible deterrent to people breaking in to the church. This was in response to the damage at St. Luke's Episcopal Church. As an added benefit, the

lights will also make it safer and easier for people entering and leaving the church in the evening hours.

The call committee reported to the Congregation Council and the Mission Site Profile was submitted to the Synod.

As a final item of business, we started a wish list for items for the church. This is just a beginning and we will be adding to it as needs arise. Wish List Items: New video camera for the nave. receivers for hearing impaired worshipers, a new, or gently used, computer for use by the pastor, establishing a pastoral call fund to help pay for interview and moving expenses and a new copier for the church office.

At the special meeting on Jan 19, we met with Pastor John Bell to help ease the transition into his leadership of our ministry needs. He will be visiting members and helping us with communication exercises to help the congregation define what we are looking for in a permanent pastor.

We also discussed creating an official master calendar for all church events for the entire year, and we discussed sending the newsletter via email to those members who have computers instead of a printed copy. This will help reduce our printing and reproduction costs as well as the

postage, which has risen to 45¢ for first class mail. Those that cannot receive by electronic will get a hard copy.

At the annual meeting, we elected Congregation Council members and we welcome Leslie Pierson as our newest member. We would like to thank Curt Newcomb, Jim Wyssmann, and Kathy Brus, for agreeing to serve a second term.

Kevin Bettinger was also elected to serve on the St Luke's Endowment Fund Committee. A big thank you to Gary Kramer for his past service on that committee.

The congregation also approved the reports of the church, the new budget for 2012 and the revised constitution for St Luke's. If you would like a copy of the new constitution, please let either Judith or the church office know and one will be sent to you.

Thanks again for all the thousands of hours spent by members of this congregation during the past year in all aspects of service. It is only with the assistance of everyone that we can continue to make this church thrive and grow.

-Scott Madsen
Congregation Council
President

A copy of the approved minutes can be found in the church file. Just ask Shonna or Judith

Officers and team committee members will be assigned after election of officers at the February 6 Congregation Council meeting. For this newsletter and until that time, they will remain as they have been in 2011.

President	Scott Madsen	684-2686	madsen@wyoming.com
Vice President	Kathy Brus	684-1669	krbrus@vcn.com
Secretary	Mary Golden	278-0420	tquesta@yahoo.com
Treasurer	Dan Culpepper	684-7987	dan.culpepper@gmail.com
Outreach	Kathy Brus	684-1669	krbrus@vcn.com
Outreach	Shonna Shirey	684-5626	shonnashirey@gmail.com
Property	Scott Madsen	684-2686	rmadsen@wyoming.com
Property	Bonnie Scranton	684-0612	banddscaon@gmail.com
Stewardship	Jim Wyssmann	684-0112	jimwysmann@wbaccess.net
Stewardship	Curt Newcomb	217-2715	curtnewcomb@gmail.com
Education	Shonna Shirey	684-5626	shonnashirey@gmail.com
Education	Mary Golden	278-0420	tquesta@yahoo.com
Worship/Music	Kathy Brus	684-1669	krbrus@vcn.com

<p>GOD SPEAKS TO US THROUGH: Bible study Daily prayer Weekly Worship</p>	<p><u>Six Marks of a Disciple</u></p>	<p>WE RESPOND TO GOD: In Nurturing Relationship In Fellowship By Serving Through Giving of our time, talents & resources</p>
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How Do We Determine God's Will in Our Lives?
1. Will it help my neighbor? 2. Is it God-pleasing? 3. Is it loving?

Reflections!

Reflections!

Prior to the year of 1917, Mr. Hans Andersen of Brush Colorado, became interested in a project of influencing a sufficient number of Danish speaking Lutherans to band themselves together and settle in a promising locality in Wyoming to organize a Lutheran Church.

Upon arriving at Buffalo, WY, Mr. Andersen found that the Northern WY Land Company had purchased a considerable amount of land in the vicinity and they were seeking settlers. The WY Land Co agreed to parcel out their land in 40 or 50 acre plots or if desirable, even larger tracts. Some of that land was irrigated and some dry. The price would run from \$100 per to \$160 an acre for irrigated and \$20 for dry. The company made it possible for most anyone to purchase land with 10 percent down and the rest paid in ten equal payments over ten years.

As word went out a number of Danish family responded and arrived in 1918.

The new settlers immediately took steps in caring for the most important thing in life, namely their spiritual needs and extended a call to the Rev. L. H. Kjaer who accepted the call and arrived in April 1918. In order for the Northern WY Land Company to transact business and further the colonization of its land it requested that an organization be formed with its proper officers. This led to the organization known as "The Danish Mission Association."

Upon the arrival of Rev. Kjaer, services and Sunday school, were held, a Ladies Aid and a Luther League were organized. Since there was no church the meetings were held at first in private homes and later the social center building of the Methodist Church was rented.

On February 4, 1919 a congregation was organized with 52 charter members and 47 children.

It was with joy and thanks to God for his goodness and many blessings that a place of worship had been completed.

St. Luke's history reflections are provided by the St. Luke's History Committee.

Taran Pennington was recently selected for Wyoming's 2012 All-State Orchestra as a second trombone. He attended the two days of musical rehearsal under the direction of the University of Wyoming Symphony director in Evanston. It was a wonderful and fun learning experience for him!



women OF faith[®] ONE DAY

February 18, 2012
Holiday Inn Grand Montana

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Sheila Walsh



Ken Davis



Scott MacIntyre

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(888-493-2484)

*A \$2 per person service fee will be added to your order.

register for this event



Congregation



We gather together...

