



FOREST LARGER PARISH NEWSLETTER

THE ACTIVITIES OF THE
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCHES OF
LAKEWOOD, WABENO, & LAONA, WISCONSIN

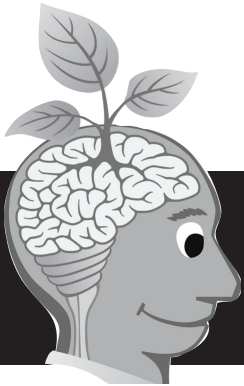
DENNIS & WENDY MANNERING, PASTORS

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MARCH / APRIL 2011



The Pastors' Note: Where Is God Leading Us?

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God. — Romans 12:2

As I begin this article, Wendy and I are spending our first three days of vacation stranded in Bloomington, Ill. Is there some irony in all this? We begin a new decade by asking “where is God leading us” and as we attempt to get to Springfield, Mo., to see my brother and sisters, we are given a challenge – storms the likes of which this area hasn’t seen for years! Sound familiar? The church of Jesus Christ is faced with changes that have not been seen for years. Of course, Paul warned us of all this.

Change is all around us. Change is inevitable – growth is optional. That statement that we coined years ago (with a little help from my friend, Ginny) is true for us individually as well as for our congregations. Ghandi said, “We must become the change we seek in the world.” We must change, but change just for the sake of change will not do – we must discern the will of God! As we strive to be faithful congregations, we must change individually, change how we do things and change the lives of others! In short, we must be fruitful congregations. Our mission is simple – “to make disciples of Jesus Christ.”

In the weeks to come, you will hear your pastors preach on the “Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations” (from Robert Schnase’s book by the same name): Radical Hospitality, Passionate Worship, Intentional Faith Development, Risk-taking Mission and Service, and Extravagant Generosity. This all means change, and change is difficult for all of us. We often fight change be-

cause we fear loss, we fear the unknown, we are comfortable with the way we are doing things now, and it means hard work.

The disciples of Jesus bore much kingdom fruit during his time on earth. They healed, taught, served, confronted evil, sought justice, and extended mercy. As disciples, we are called to do the same today. We are given the potential power – the power of the Holy Spirit.

God changes lives through empowered congregations. Faithfulness and fruitfulness go hand-in-hand. Your Parish council has pledged to listen and discern the will of God. We will be starting our “Hungry Soul Soup Kitchen” in Laona by the time you receive this newsletter. We ask you to pray that this will be a fruitful ministry to those in need. We’re also opening our minds to how we might advance the concept of our Parish so we can be even more fruitful.

So, where is God leading Forest Larger Parish? Let’s find out. Let’s be led by the Holy Spirit to go places we’ve never been, do things we’ve never done and love greater than we have ever loved before. It is the work we have been called to do. May we be transformed by the renewing of our minds and be used by God to transform our world.

May the God who called us, lead us now and evermore.

Pastors Dennis and Wendy Mannering



Prayer Requests

MEMBERS & FRIENDS - Prayers of Concern

Martin Rummel, Laurie Luedeman, Clara Koskella, Matthew Lemke, Anders Olsen, Cindy Graham, Logan Wamego, Les Martin & family, Doris Campbell, Wendall Schruers, Devon Webb Jr., the family of Donovan Shepard, George Lundeen, Juanita Ness, June Kortbein, Sylvia Markusen, Victoria Stefanski, Lacy and Lance Hollister, Pat (the Weinert's daughter), Alice Peterson, Mary Ann Genke, Judy Clark, Stephen Appel, Royce Bodoh, Roland Retzlaff

NU-ROC RESIDENTS

Cassie Mentz, Mille Stenklyft

PLEASE NOTE: Due to the Federal Privacy Regulations, we encourage you to seek an individual's permission before submitting their name to our printed prayer list.

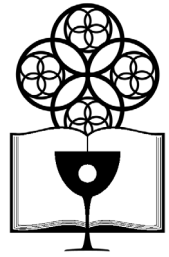
COMMUNION DATES:

March 6*
 April 3*
 April 17†: Palm Sunday
 April 21†: Maundy Thursday
 April 24†: Easter Sunday

*Served traditionally †Served by intinction

Parents of baptized children:

Baptized children who are being nurtured and instructed in the significance of the invitation to the Table and the meaning of their response are invited to receive the Lord's Supper, recognizing that their understanding of participation will vary according to their maturity.



The Hungry Soul Soup Kitchen is in need of used plastic containers, (i.e., Cool Whip or butter containers). If you have any you'd like to donate, please leave them at your church and we will collect them. Thank you!

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Listed below are the reported birthdays and anniversaries of our members and friends. If your birthday or anniversary has never been listed and you would like it to be, please write it on the Birthday Calendar posted at your church, so the list can be updated.



March

Beatrice Flegal 2
 Jack Neddo 7
 Lisa Prince 9
 Lonnie Roy 11
 Dieck Johnson, Jr. 13
 Skyler Clark 14
 John Gregg 15
 Nicholas Pichotta 16
 Pat Grady 16
 Elaine Hackbarth 19
 Mike Kresse 19
 Donald Kempf 22
 Gwen Fritsch 25
 Theresa Connors 25
 Joyce Warnacut 26
 Edith Kloet 28
 Jim & Vivian Mathe's Anniv. 29

Keith Fryar 30
 Virginia Plier 30
 Kelly Connors 31

April
 Bev Johansen 1
 Roger Bell 1
 Johnathon Calhoun 3
 Gary Mercil 4
 Susie Mercil 4
 Joe Warnacut 4
 Cindy Hart 5
 Lucille Stauber 7
 Tom Moore 7
 John Connors 8
 Harold Hendrikse 9
 Jennifer Johnson 9
 James Lentz 10

Sylvia Markusen 12
 Lonnie Bodoh 13
 Linda Lafferty 13
 Sue Market 14
 Beth Calhoun 14
 Shirley Rohe 16
 Betty Retzlaff 16
 Mannering's Anniv. 16
 Michelle Boor 21
 Joey Peterson 22
 Erica Keller 24
 Christopher Kresse 26
 Larry Market 28
 Jason Peterson 29
 John & Pam McCulloch
 Anniv. 30

LENTEN SERVICE SIGN-UP

The week your church needs volunteers are highlighted



Ash Wednesday Worship
6:30 p.m., March 9 – Wabeno

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Palm Sunday Worship
at all three churches at their regular times

Maundy Thursday Worship
7 p.m., April 21 – Lakewood

Good Friday Worship
1 p.m., April 22 – Laona

Easter Sunday Worship
at all three churches at their regular times

Date		Readers (Sign up after specific part.)
Chapter 6 <i>Mary, Martha, Lazarus</i> March 16	Worship Leaders: Laona Servers: Lakewood	Liturgist: Narrator 1: Narrator 2: Narrator 3: Narrator 4: Martha's voice from audience: Jesus: Lazarus: Judas' voice from audience:
Chapter 3 <i>Woman Who Washed Jesus' Feet</i> March 23	Worship Leaders: Lakewood Servers: APY	Liturgist: Narrator 1: Narrator 2: Jesus: Simon:
Chapter 8 <i>Paralyzed Man</i> March 30	Worship Leaders: Wabeno Servers: Laona	Liturgist: Narrator 1 & 4: Narrator 2 & 5: Narrator 3 & 6: Narrator 7: Paul: Paralyzed man (small part): Jesus (small part):
Chapter 12 <i>Moses</i> April 6	Worship Leaders: Lakewood Servers: Wabeno	Liturgist: Narrator 1: Narrator 2: Narrator 3:
Chapter 9 <i>John</i> April 13	Worship Leaders: Wabeno Servers: APY	Liturgist: Narrator 1: Scripture Reader: Narrator 2:

**Moon Beach
Scholarship Applications**

It's time to start thinking about summer camp. Moon Beach Camp catalogs are available at each of our churches. Scholarship money will be available through

both Winnebago Presbytery and Forest Larger Parish. Presbytery scholarship applications are due April 15. Contact the parish office if you need an application form.



**APY
"Fat Tuesday"
Pancake Dinner**

The Awesome Presbyterian Youth's (APY) "Fat Tuesday" pancake dinner will be held Tuesday, March 8, 4-7 p.m., at the Wabeno Church. The money will be used to help fund their mission trip to Hamburg, N.Y., in August.

This is the fifth year that the group has done this meal as a fundraiser. The APY would like to invite everyone to help their cause by enjoying delicious pancakes and sausages.

A Very Special Thanks



Thanks to everyone for your prayers for us during this difficult time. A special thank you to the Knit Wits for the prayer shawl that gives both physical and spiritual warmth and comfort. To the Mission/ Evangelism Committee, to Mark Whitefoot who made the JESUS plaque, to our special friends who provided delicious meals on the days I just wasn't able to do anything, for the encouraging cards, notes, and letters – Thank you! We covet your thoughts and prayers for complete healing during the next phases of treatment. — **Juanita & Glenn Ness**

WORLD PRAYER DAY: Friday, March 4.

Mission/Evangelism is sponsoring a sign-up sheet so that we at Forest Larger Parish will be praying continuously (around the clock) from 12:01 a.m. until 11:59 p.m. on March 4. Look for the sign-up sheet in your church with times blocked off for each congregation to choose from. Sign-up for a half-hour when you agree to pray for our world, our country, the church, or whatever else is on your heart. (At last—you will have something useful to do with those times you lay awake in bed in the middle of the night!)



NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER: Thursday, May 5.

We will be having a "Prayer Walk" in all three of our communities. We will walk for about 30 minutes, stopping to pray on major intersections in each town

and then walk to the church for a prayer service. If you aren't able to participate in the walk, please join us for the service! Times are: Lakewood 10:30 a.m. (indoor prayer service at 11 a.m.), Wabeno 3:30 p.m. (indoor prayer service at 4 p.m.), Laona 6 p.m. (indoor prayer service at 6:30 p.m.).

What We Learned on Our Vacation/Study Leave

by Pastors Mannerig

As most of you know, we were gone on a break for the first two weeks of February. Our intention was to connect with Dennis' family in Missouri and then head to North Carolina for a visit/tour of the Billy Graham Library, connect with our Knox Evangelism friend to compare notes on our ministries and perhaps make it to the Montreat Retreat Center for resource materials for our ministry (and we must admit a bit of a respite from the cold weather!). Here is what we learned:

- We can make plans, but God may have other plans. We ended up stranded in Bloomington, Ill., while a blizzard of historic proportions blew through, causing us to abort our North Carolina leg of the journey.
- You can fellowship with Christians anywhere. At our hotel, we prayed for a trucker, Don, who had to get to St. Louis, despite the storm.
- God puts interesting people in our path. We chatted with an Innuite (Eskimo) from Barrows, Alaska, which is as far north as you can go in Alaska without falling into the Arctic Sea. He took his futile two day trip to Bloomington in stride, so we decided we could adjust, too!
- After studying about and preaching a sermon on the subject, God provided us with awesome examples of "Radical Hospitality." We worshiped with two congregations who "bent over backwards" to make us feel welcomed. In Harrisonville, MO, a woman from the congregation greeted us, hung up our coats, showed us to the coffee table, found us a place to sit AND sat with us, introduced us to numerous people, got our coats for us after the service and invited us back again. WOW! In Tomahawk, Wis., we were greeted at the door, shown to the coffee bar, handed a directory of the membership, greeted by many

members (including youngsters) who noticed that we were new (it was a fairly small congregation) and, at the end of the service, made sure we knew we were invited back, again. What a blessing!

- God provides opportunities to learn what we need to learn. We learned by experiencing two contemporary worship services. Unknowingly, we arrived at Harrisonville Methodist Church (the Presbyterian service was too late in the morning) just in time for their 9:45 Contemporary worship. (The 8 a.m. service was traditional; the 11 a.m. service, blended.) Prince of Peace Christian church in Tomahawk had lay folks leading the service as their pastor was on a vacation, too! Both gave us new ideas on how to make our contemporary services more worshipful and meaningful.
- God treats us to all sorts of wonderful surprises and validations! The Methodist pastor offered an inspiring, outstanding message on using our gifts based on Matthew 5:15-16. "Let your light so shine..." Hmmm – where did we just hear about THAT?
- With plenty of time on our hands, we finished books we had been given for Christmas. Wendy finished Phil Yancy's book, "What Good is God?" and learned about many places in the world where Christians are making an impact. Dennis finished Jan Karon's book, "In the Company of Others" and an entire Leadership magazine with wonderful articles on how to be a more effective pastor.
- Though we didn't get to do what we had planned, we were able to learn and grow in the situation in which we found ourselves. That in itself is the best lesson learned!



One Great Hour of Sharing

Since 1949, Presbyterians have joined with millions of other Christians through One Great Hour of Sharing to share God's love with people experiencing need. Our gifts support ministries of disaster response, refugee assistance and resettlement, and community development that help people find safe refuge, start new lives and work together to strengthen their families and communities.

Recognizing that the hope we have in Christ is lived out in our hope for one another, we respond

with gifts that help our sisters and brothers around the world find the hope for a brighter future.

Where does the money go?

The Presbyterian Hunger Program receives 36 percent of undesignated One Great Hour of Sharing gifts, while the Self-Development of People and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance each receive 32 percent.

When is the offering received?

Our Parish will be collecting for One Great Hour of Sharing on Palm Sunday. Please make checks payable to Forest Larger Parish.

Hungry Soul Soup Kitchen Opens in Laona

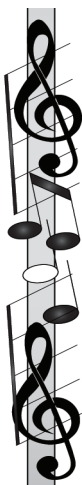


(L-R) Krystal Statezny, Linda Lafferty, Denise Smith and Pam McCulloch (plus many others) are some people from the Parish ready to help out.

The end of the month can be a difficult time for most people, especially those who are struggling financially to support themselves and/or a family. Many times food assistance programs do not start until the beginning of the month, which makes it that much harder to stretch the amount of food left.

The Laona Church would like to help by hosting the "Hungry Soul Soup Kitchen" (with a lot of help from the Lakewood and Wabeno churches). A free meal will be offered on the very last Sunday of each month, from 3-5 p.m. Although menu items could change, they will initially offer a bowl of soup, sandwich, beverage and dessert. If you or anybody you know would benefit, please stop by for good food and fellowship.

Wabeno Music Department Seeking Volunteers



Friday, March 11 marks a big day in the music schedule of Wabeno High School. On that day, our school will host the Northern Lakes Conference Solo and Ensembles Festival. In order to make this event a successful and memorable experience for our students, we will need many volunteers to act as

room chairmen and office workers. We are looking for people who can help for the day or half-day, but even those who can spare a couple of hours will be greatly appreciated. If you would like to hear some awesome musical performances from around the conference, and are willing to

help out, please contact Mrs. Mary Ellen Keller at the high school. She can be reached by phone at 715-473-5122 or by e-mail at MKeller@wabeno.k12.wi.us. Please let her know by March 4 so that she has time to set a workable schedule for the volunteers.

MISSION TEAM 2011

It's that time of year again when the youth Mission Team has been assembled and is working toward fund raising. This year's trip will take place during the first week in August, and the participants will be going to Hamburg, N.Y. It is near where Pastors Dennis and Wendy recently completed their sabbatical. Once again, we will be joining forces with members of the First United Presbyterian Church in DePere and Group Workcamps out of Loveland, Colo.

We are thrilled to have seven youth and three adults this year. Veteran work campers are Zach Ashbeck, Louis James Bath, Frankie Derfus, Zack Derfus, and Nick Pichotta. New to the team this year are Lily Bath and Britany Piontek. The youth will be accompanied by Steve Ashbeck, Louis Bath and Mary Ellen Keller.

If you'd like to help the team, be sure to attend the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper (the day before Ash Wednesday), the lenten services and consider hiring the team to do some work for you. The team will also be selling stock beginning in March, they are considering a plant sale, a coffee sale, a fudge bunny sale and will be planning ways to raise money during the summer festivals in the area.

Parish Council Notes

JANUARY 2011

Clerk's Report:

- Motion to elect Mary Scheuerman as Clerk of Session for 2011. M/S/A

Old Business:

- A joint Leader retreat with Athelstane & Wausaukee will be January 29th 2011, this retreat is for Elders, Deacons, Treasurers and Clerks. Meeting location change to Athlestone Church.

New Business:

- Statistical reports need to be in to Presbytery by February 15.
- Elders need to be elected to attend the Presbytery meeting in Schofield in February.
- Parish by-laws will need to be reviewed/updated will look at this in June.
- Motion to cancel the meeting in February, M/S/A. The next council meeting being March 7 at Lakewood.

Flea-Zaar Committee Meeting

The Flea-Zaar committee will be meeting on Sunday, April 10, at the Wabeno Church at 11:15 a.m. (after the Wabeno service). This is our ONLY meeting of the year, and we will discuss and decide policies for how the event will run in 2011. This is your chance to have input on how we do things. EVERYONE who is a member, a regular visitor, or who just loves Forest Larger Parish is automatically a member of this committee, so we hope for a large turnout. Please contact Suzanne Bell (715-850-2488) if you have questions.

FOREST LARGER PARISH ELDERS AND DEACONS

Lakewood Elders:

Don Kempf (2011); Suzanne Bell (2011);
Jim Mathe (2012); Jim Lentz (2012);
Linda Stearns (2013); Nancy Rehbein (2013)

Wabeno Elders:

Pamela Schroeder (2011); Joe Peterson (2011);
Louie Spaude (2012); Diane Spaude (2012);
Linda Kortbein (2013); John McCulloch (2013)

Laona Elders:

Linda Mentz (2011); Mike Mentz (2011);
Evan Hart (2011)

Lakewood Deacons:

Marilyn Elbe (2011); Don Prueter (2011); JoAnne Gipp (2012); Sharlene Kresse (2012); Patty Earnest (2012);
Joyce Lentz (2012)

Wabeno Deacons: Zetta Bangert (2011); Pamela McCulloch (2011); Jonelle Gregg (2012); Lee & K.C. Scheuerman (2012); Andy Brooks (2013);
Lori Brooks (2013)

Laona Deacons: Linda Lafferty (2012); Cindy Hart (2012)

Parish Council:

Parish Treasurer: Jim Mathe
Parish Clerk of Session: Mary Scheuerman
Administrative Assistant: Lori Brooks
Forest Larger Parish Office: 715-473-3603
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