

Interim Ministry Resources

Chapter 9 Publications

Introduction (1)

Introduction

Church Administration: Programs, Process, Purpose [Robert Bacher, Michael Cooper-White]

Chapter 8 **Communication:** Ministry Means Messaging

<http://store.fortresspress.com/store/product/2687/Church-Administration>

For discussion questions on this book go to www.augsburgfortress.org/education/academic/churchadministration/

<http://www.lifeandleadership.com/book-summaries/bacher-and-cooper-white-church-administration.html>

<https://www.amazon.com/Robert-Bacher/e/B001JSACYG>

http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/115303.Robert_Bacher

<http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/20809035-church-administration>

<http://www.ltsq.edu/about-us/faculty-staff-directory/michael-cooper-white>

<http://www.huffingtonpost.com/author/rev-michael-l-cooperwhite-dd>

<http://fortresspress.com/author/michael-cooper-white>

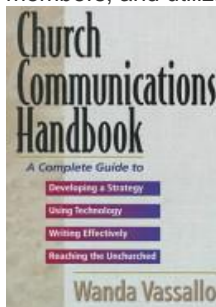
<https://www.amazon.com/Michael-Cooper-White/e/B001KHNEOG>

http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/2936620.Michael_Cooper_White

[Images for Church Administration: Programs, Process, Purpose \[Robert Bacher, Michael Cooper-White\]](#)

Church Communications Handbook: A Complete Guide to Developing a Strategy, Using Technology, Writing Effectively, and Reaching the Unchurched by Wanda Vassallo (Author)

A communications specialist discusses communication in the local church—advertising, talking with the media, communicating with members, and utilizing technology. Includes helpful forms, checklists, and examples from cutting-edge churches.



<http://www.amazon.com/Church-Communications-Handbook-Developing-Effectively/dp/0825439256>

<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/church-communications-handbook-wanda-vassallo/1112652771>

<https://www.betterworldbooks.com/product/detail/church-communications-handbook-0825439256>

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=0825494230>

https://books.google.com/books/about/Church_Communications_Handbook.html?id=D1gveiBTkQ4C

http://www.presbyteryoftampabay.com/pdf/PresbyteryOfTampaBayResource_1405624175.pdf

Page 8

https://www.nobts.edu/_resources/pdf/Academics/Syllabi/F2015/EVAN5373DayF2015Inet.pdf

Page 20

<http://www.lifeandleadership.com/book-summaries/vassallo-church-communications-handbook.html>

<https://www.amazon.com/Wanda-Vassallo/e/B001K8Q7C6>

http://www.goodreads.com/author/list/1282534.Wanda_Vassallo

[Images for Wanda Vassallo \(Author\)](#)

[Images for Church Communications Handbook: A Complete Guide to Developing a Strategy, Using Technology, Writing Effectively, and Reaching the Unchurched by Wanda Vassallo \(Author\)](#)

[PDF] 50 Ways to Communicate Effectively - Lewis Center for Church Leadership

View communications as a ministry

1. Understand that church communications is about “formation,” not just “information.” The ministry of communication is about stewardship, evangelism, discipleship, and education.
2. Know that effective communication is required of every church leader.

http://www.churchleadership.com/pdfs/50ways/50_ways_communications.pdf

[Images for Ways to Communicate Effectively – Lewis Center for Church Leadership](#)

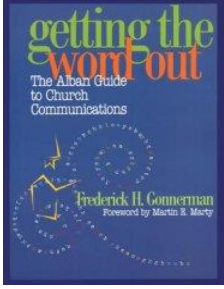
<https://www.churchleadership.com/category/50-ways/>

<https://www.churchleadership.com/category/leading-ideas/>

<https://www.churchleadership.com/resources/>

Getting the Word Out: The Alban Guide to Church Communications by Frederick H. Gonnerman (Author)

High quality publications and public relations will enhance a congregation's overall ministry by promoting strong stewardship, effective evangelism, and exciting parish education. Getting the Word Out provides all the tools congregations need to create attention-grabbing, informative, and inspiring communications. Frederick H. Gonnerman shows readers how to assess their audience and the competition for the audience's attention; identify a publication's purpose; and create useful, readable, and attractive publications-whether print or online, for the congregation or a broader community.



<http://www.amazon.com/Getting-Word-Out-Church-Communications/dp/1566992834>

https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/1613122.Getting_the_Word_Out

<https://rowman.com/ISBN/9781566992831/Getting-the-Word-Out-The-Alban-Guide-to-Church-Communications>

<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/getting-the-word-out-frederick-h-gonnerman/1123958340>

<https://books.google.com/books?isbn=1566995337>

http://books.google.com/books/about/Getting_the_Word_Out.html?id=7yf1AQACAAJ

<http://www.lifeandleadership.com/book-summaries/gonnerman-getting-the-word-out.html>

[Images for Frederick H. Gonnerman \(Author\) getting the word out](#)

[Images for Getting the Word Out: The Alban Guide to Church Communications by Frederick H. Gonnerman \(Author\)](#)

I Love to Tell the Story

I love to tell the story of unseen things above,
Of Jesus and His glory, of Jesus and His love.
I love to tell the story, because I know 'tis true;
It satisfies my longings as nothing else can do.

Text: Katherine Hankey, 1834-1911

<http://www.cyberhymnal.org/hym/i/ilttts.htm>

[Images for I Love to Tell the Story](#)

http://biblestudycharts.com/HH_I_Love_To_Tell_The_Story.html

It's time to tell the story!

by Merry Soyck-Doring, Synod Communicator

I get to read a lot of newsletters-a task I like because it's always interesting to see what's going on around the synod. The other day while scanning a publication, I noticed this quote from Corrie Ten Boom, "Security is having the Word of God in your own language. Peace is having the Word of God in your heart." My immediate reaction was to add these words: "Mission is sharing the Word of God with others." A little further down the page in the newsletter the following plea appeared, "Lord, walk beside me with your arm over my shoulder and your hand over my mouth." I murmured to myself, "how very Lutheran (or Midwestern or whatever it is that makes us reluctant to speak out-even to share the Good News of Jesus Christ)!"

It's time to tell the story-and that's precisely what this new publication *God's Work. Our Hands* is intended to do! Many people throughout our synod are busy doing God's work with their hands. Let's share those stories! Let's tell everyone how God's ever-present love is manifested through our efforts, large and small. When you bake cookies and ship them off to a college student who is away from home for the first time; when you take time to visit the elderly neighbor who recently lost a spouse; when you rake a lawn with your youth group; or read a Bible story to your grandchild, you are doing God's work and I want to share your story. Years ago, a friend of mine commented, "There are two kinds of people-those who do the work and those who talk about it." I'm not sure I agree. I'd like to think that those who do the work can also be those who talk about it. Let's set aside our Lutheran/Midwestern modesty and talk about it. Why? Not because it lifts us up, but because it lifts others to hear the stories, to realize that God is indeed among us, working through us, because there are no hands but ours. Part of the "work" involves sharing the story so others may know that God's love surrounds us on a daily basis, even in the mundane chores. What about the quotes from that newsletter? Maybe we should change the message to "Lord, walk beside me with your arm over my shoulder and give me the words to say so others will know you, too!"

If you have a mission story to tell, please contact Merry Soyck-Doring at msoyck-doring@nswi.org. If you would like help writing the story, assistance is available. Photos are a great addition to the message, but not required. To get started, download "Telling the Story."

http://www.nswi.org/webfiles/fnitools/documents/godswork_its_time_to_tell_a_story.pdf

[Images for Merry Soyck-Doring, Synod Communicator](#)

Marketing and Public Relations | UMCom.org

The Online Marketing Team develops marketing communications resources to promote the services and products provided by United Methodist Communications.

Through best practices, the team uses marketing research:

as a basis for creating marketing plans and new product development,
to promote products utilizing the most appropriate media form(s) for the audience (electronic, direct mail, Internet),
to develop better market segmentation and more deliberate message targeting, and
to deepen the agency's relationship with clients and customers through its database marketing initiative.

The Public Relations Team works to increase awareness and understanding of the mission and ministries of The United Methodist Church through the dissemination and placement of news and information through the secular and religious media, including newspapers, radio, television and magazines. The team accomplishes this by:

linking journalists seeking a United Methodist perspective with experts on church issues in the U.S. and around the globe,
maintaining the United Methodist Press Center, an online resource for news media located at www.umcprescenter.org,
providing consultative services such as media strategy planning, public relations and crisis communications assistance to church agencies and annual conferences,

training church leaders and communicators on how to become skilled, articulate spokespersons, as well as how to handle crisis prevention, response and communication.

http://www.umcom.org/site/c.mrLZJ9PFKMG/b.3764941/k.1D31/Marketing_and_Public_Relations.htm

[Images for Marketing and Public Relations | UMC.org](#)

Mission Advancement - Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

We are the church that shares a living, daring confidence in God's grace, and we are bold in sharing the many stories of how God's grace and work in the world are changing lives and communities. We are equally bold in seeking the support and participation of people - young and old alike - in drawing together our resources to enable ministries and efforts that serve and love our neighbor in Jesus Christ's name throughout the world.

Mission Advancement shares the ELCA's message of God's love with a broad and diverse audience across all media, and directs efforts for support of the ELCA's work through major gifts, appeals and planned giving. Its work communicates consistently the distinctive identity and mission of the ELCA, empowers people to share the story of God's redeeming love in the world, and encourages members to engage in and financially support the work of this church both in and beyond their congregations.

The five teams and functions of Mission Advancement are:

Constituent Support

Responds to inquiries for information, resources and assistance.

ELCA Foundation

Sustains, grows and strengthens ministries of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, congregations, agencies and institutions through personal gift planning, financial education and investment management services.

The Lutheran magazine

Nurtures awareness of Christ's presence in our lives and the world, shares stories of God's people living their faith, connects us with the global Christian community, provides an open forum for discussion and challenges us to bring God's grace and care to all.

The Little Christian

The Little Lutheran

The Lutheran magazine

TheLutheran.org

Marketing Communications

Provides marketing, public relations and digital media in order to communicate stories of faith in action, ELCA news, open forums, and opportunities for participating in the mission of the ELCA.

Direct mail appeals, newsletters and mailings

Web

Video

Social Media

Publications

Mission Funding

Encourages and develops support for God's mission and ministry through congregations, synods and churchwide ministries.

ELCA Fund for Leaders

ELCA Global Church

ELCA Malaria Campaign

ELCA New Congregations

ELCA Vision for Mission

ELCA World Hunger

Lutheran Disaster Response

Mission Support

The diverse work of Mission Advancement reflects the sentiment of Martin Luther when he said, "Our faith is a living, busy, active, mighty thing."

<http://www.elca.org/About/Churchwide/Mission-Advancement.aspx>

[Images for Mission Advancement – Evangelical Lutheran Church in America](#)

Mission Interpretation - Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

We are a church that believes God is calling us into the world — together. As members of the ELCA, we use our time, talents and resources to do God's work in the world. How do we share the stories of our gifts at work? We share these stories through the ministry of mission interpretation. A variety of communication tools and a network of trained leaders make this possible.

Mission interpretation helps congregations understand God's work performed together in our congregations, the community and

beyond. When people understand their identity as partners in a larger church, they become stronger advocates in supporting mission and ministry, growing as stewards.

Mission-minded congregations are growing in participation and spirit. The following communication tools can aid mission interpretation in your congregation: *Stories of Faith in Action*, *Where Your Offering Goes*, *Stewardship: The Way of Love*, *Stewardship 110: A Story to Tell*, *Year-round Planning Calendar for Mission Interpretation*.

<http://www.elca.org/en/Our-Work/Congregations-and-Synods/Stewardship/Mission-Interpretation>
[Images for Mission Interpretation – Evangelical Lutheran Church in America](#)

[DOC]Model Constitution for Congregations 2019 - ELCA Resource Repository

Chapter 9.

ROSTERED MINISTER

*C9.03. Consistent with the faith and practice of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America,

a. Every minister of Word and Sacrament shall:

6) impart knowledge of this church and its wider ministry through distribution of its communications and publications;

<https://www.elca.org/constitution> [2019 Model Constitution for Congregations](#)

<https://download.elca.org> > [ELCA Resource Repository](#) > [Model Constitution](#)

<http://www.elca.org/Resources/Office-of-the-Secretary>

[Images for Model Constitution for Congregations 2019 - ELCA Chapter 9. ROSTERED MINISTER impart knowledge of this church](#)

O Zion, Haste

Publish glad tidings, tidings of peace,
tidings of Jesus, redemption, and release.

Text: Mary A. Thompson, 1834-1923

<http://www.hymnsite.com/lyrics/umh573.sht>

<http://www.cyberhymnal.org/htm/o/z/ozionhas.htm>

[Images for Publish glad tidings, tidings of peace](#)

Stories of Faith in Action - Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

This year the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) celebrates its 25th anniversary as a church that is deeply rooted – and always being made new. In this special anniversary issue of *Stories of Faith in Action*, you'll discover 21 stories of the people whose lives have been touched by ELCA ministries in the past year, as well as our 25th anniversary timeline celebrating where we've come and where we're going as a church freed in Christ to serve. You'll also find resources on Mission Support (the portion of your weekly offering that is shared with ELCA synods and churchwide ministries) and how the important contributions members make to this church are put to use in life-changing ministries across the country and around the world.



<http://www.elca.org/Our-Faith-In-Action/Stories-of-Faith-in-Action.aspx>

[Images for Stories of Faith in Action - ELCA](#)

The Purpose of This Book

³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not **written in this book**. ³¹But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

oremus Bible Browser: [John 20:30-31](#)

<http://bible.oremus.org/?passage=John%20:30-31&version=nrsv>

[Images for Purpose of This Book - Gospel of John](#)

We don't have to do it alone - really?

The ELCA has some great resources that are literally at our fingertips. This week, we highlight **Living Lutheran**, a fresh online publication that invites us to engage in conversation about our faith. Have a question? The feature, *Ask a Pastor*, has responses to your questions about faith, theology and the church. Wondering what others think? Check *Blogs* for posts by ELCA members offering a variety of viewpoints and opinions. *Seeds* includes resources and ideas to enhance your ministry. Need a little inspiration? *Stories* includes examples of faith and life from across this country and around the world. Maybe you're more of a visual person? Check out the *Videos* section. [View Living Lutheran](#).

<http://archive.constantcontact.com/fs191/1101126434512/archive/1115931473905.html>

[Images for Living Lutheran](#)

Newsletters

Front Page of Newsletters for a Year

As stated in the Chapter 3. Worship., my purpose is “invite and involve.” Following are examples from newsletters of articles that seek to carry out that purpose. These activities did not happen all in one calendar year but are placed chronologically for illustrative purposes. These articles are also used in bulletin announcements and on electronic media. A few are adapted for press releases to invite the public. By putting articles of service of worship events on the front page of the newsletter, it gives the message that services of worship are central to the life and mission of this congregation. All too often, a letter from the pastor is placed on the front page. This gives the message, even if unintentional, that the congregation is centered around the pastor.

CHURCH NEWSLETTER

January

Beginning a New Year to be Focus on January 4

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. John 1:1
This verse from the Gospel for the Second Sunday of Christmas speaks of the beginning of time. The verse gives a perspective as a new year comes once again. A special litany will be used entitled “Beginning a New Year.” You are invited to get the year off to a good start by worshipping regularly. May you be present with the gathered worship assembly on this day and throughout the year!

Baptism of Our Lord on January 11 to remember our baptism

Jesus is revealed as the Son of God in the waters of the River Jordan. In the Sacrament of Holy Baptism those washed by the water are called “fellow members of the body of Christ, children of the same heavenly father, and workers with us in the kingdom of God.” A special invitation is extended to the families with a baptism this past year. Come to this service of worship to commemorate the Baptism of Our Lord and your baptism!

Service of Prayer for Christian Unity on January 18

This congregation will be joining Christians throughout the world in a Service of Prayer for Christian Unity as a part of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity January 18-25. Pray for the unity of the church!

Annual meeting on January 25

Come to the service of worship and stay for the annual meeting. The annual meeting provides an opportunity to look back at the year past and to look ahead to the year to come. Pray to God for wisdom and direction!

Looking Ahead to February

- 1 Recognition of Ministries in the Congregation
- 8 Commemoration of St. Valentine: Celebrating Love and Marriage
- 15 Transfiguration Day Jazz Service
- 22 First Sunday in Lent
Bold Women’s Day

From the Pastor

Happy New Year in the Lord’s Service

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people that you may declare the wonderful deeds of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. (1 Peter 2:9)

The beginning of a new year provides the opportunity to look at life in a new and fresh way. With the start of a new year, this congregation looks to the future. Important to this looking ahead at how God’s work can best be carried out is to capture the biblical sense of ministry for all the baptized. The writer of 1 Peter speaks of you as “a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people.” With this exalted language, the biblical writer lifts up the ministry of all the baptized.

It has been my privilege and opportunity to serve among you in the role of interim pastoral leadership during the past year for the purpose of building up the body of Christ. Pastor and people carry out the work of the church when both enter into a partnership so that as a congregation, we can “declare the wonderful deeds of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.”

Our mission is: “This Lutheran congregation is a *vibrant faith* church in that we seek to grow in our faith and to share that faith with others.”

I invite you to ask God how this congregation might do that even more effectively in the upcoming year.

You are invited to begin the year out by gathering with the assembly for worship.

- Beginning a New Year Service on January 4
- Baptism of Our Lord on January 11 to remember our baptism
- Service of Prayer for Christian Unity on January 18
- Annual Meeting on January 25

Happy new year in the Lord’s service!

Pastor Lowell Bolstad

CHURCH NEWSLETTER

February

Installation of Leaders in the Congregation on February 1

Show your support for our leadership as our worship will include an Installation of Leaders in the Congregation

Commemoration of Saint Valentine

Celebration of Love and Marriage on February 8

One of God's gifts is that of love and marriage. You are invited to give thanks for the gift of companionship in general and of love and marriage in particular at worship the weekend before Valentine's Day. A special invitation is extended to those married at the church this past year as well as those planning to be married this coming year. Pray that God will strengthen the gifts of companionship, love, and marriage in our faith community!

Transfiguration Day Jazz Service on February 15

"Who says Lutherans can't have fun?" An attempt will be made on the last Sunday of Epiphany right before Lent to prove that perception wrong with a jazz service. We will be singing songs such as *Shine, Jesus, Shine; This Little Light of Mine*; and others. Children are invited to march in to the gathering song and march out to the sending song with rhythm instruments. Invite your friends!

The Parables of Lent series begins Ash Wednesday, February 18

Join us for The Parables of Lent, a special series of services for the season of Lent. Each service in this series focuses on a biblical parable that connects to Lenten themes. The Ash Wednesday service in the series is based on the parable of the Pharisee and the tax collector. In this parable, the tax collector who repents goes home justified, while the proud Pharisee does not. The parable reminds us that we, too, who repent are justified through Christ. The service includes an Imposition of Ashes, readings from Scripture, a sermon and thematic hymns, as well as Holy Communion that help us to remember that we receive justification only in Christ. Supper is served at 6pm, and the service is at 7pm.

First Sunday in Lent on February 22 to focus on temptation of Jesus

On Ash Wednesday, the church began its journey toward baptismal immersion in the death and resurrection of Christ. The First Sunday in Lent tells how the Spirit that comes upon Jesus at his baptism sustains him when he is tested by Satan so that he might proclaim the good news of God's reign.

Women of the ELCA Bold Women's Day on February 22

Bold Women's Day – observed annually on the fourth Sunday of February – celebrates all Lutheran women who have acted or are acting boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ. Whether you live out your bold story of faith in the workplace, family or community, your faith compels you to make a difference in the lives of others. It's all about living out your baptismal call, being a disciple of Christ.

Looking Ahead to March

- 1 Holy Humor
- 8 Luther Park Bible Camp
- 15 Commemoration of St. Patrick, Missionary to Ireland
- 22 Lutheran Social Services
- 29 Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday

From the Pastor

With Awe and Love: A Midweek Lenten Series Based on Luther's Small Catechism

The year 2017 marks the observance of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. In honor of that anniversary, our midweek Lenten series is built around Luther's Small Catechism. The Small Catechism was designed as a teaching tool of the faith, not just within the church but in the home. Luther intended for the home to be the place where faith was first shared and taught. To that end, he created the Small Catechism: a simple explanation of the Ten Commandments, the Creed, the Lord's Prayer, and the Sacraments.

Sincerely in Christ,

Pastor Lowell Bolstad

CHURCH NEWSLETTER

March

Holy Humor to be Theme of Worship on March 1

Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed, and said to himself, 'Can a child be born to a man who is a hundred years old? Can Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child?' God said, 'No, but your wife Sarah shall bear you a son, and you shall name him Isaac. I will establish my covenant with him as an everlasting covenant for his offspring after him.
Genesis 17:17

Come to worship for "Holy Humor" as we hear how Abraham and Sarah laughed at the news Sarah would bear a son in her old age. It helps to have a sense of humor!

Luther Park Bible Camp Special Emphasis on March 8

Come to this service of worship for a taste of Bible Camp when Barb Solsaa from Luther Park will give the message during worship and speak at an adult forum during the coffee fellowship and with the Sunday School children following. The children will sing camp songs for special music. She speaks passionately of this important camping ministry to people of all ages the year around.

Commemoration of Patrick, Missionary to Ireland, on March 15

St. Patrick's Day is known for secular celebrations. Come to this service of worship and hear about his lesser known work as missionary to Ireland. Some of his writings will be included in the service, and songs will be sung to Irish tunes. No matter your ethnic background, you can commemorate this missionary to Ireland!

Lutheran Social Services Shared Ministry Sunday on March 22

Lutheran Social Services (LSS) is one of the most highly regarded social service agencies of any denomination. Come and hear about the shared ministry with LSS of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan as Rev. James Holmberg from LSS Church and Community Relations will give the message and speak at an adult forum during the coffee fellowship.

Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday on March 29

Relive the palm processional commemorating Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem and then meditate upon Jesus' passion and death on Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday. Though Jesus is obedient unto death on the cross, he is exalted by God. We gather to remember his offering for the life of the world and to be fed by his life-giving mercy.

Looking Ahead to April

- 2 Maundy Thursday
- 3 Ecumenical Good Friday
- 5 Festival of the Resurrection
 - Easter Sunrise Service at 6:30am
 - Easter Breakfast
 - Easter Festival Worship at 9am
- 12 Hands of Risen Christ Sunday
- 19 Thanksgiving for Workers in the Church
- 26 Stewardship of Creation

From the Bishop

Easter Message

I walked slowly down the hall to Vera's room. It was the day before Easter and I had spent much of Holy Week bringing Communion to my church's shut-ins. But I had not yet crossed Vera off of my list. Vera was in our local hospital, and Vera was dying. Perhaps this is why I waited to see her last. Pastors aren't supposed to have favorites, but I always have, and Vera was one of my favorites. I didn't want her to die.

As I sat by Vera's hospital bed, I confessed that I didn't have my Easter sermon done yet, and even worse I told her, I really didn't like writing Easter sermons. "Everybody knows the story," I told her as I held onto her withered fingers, "and I never know what else to say."

It was time for Vera to become her pastor's pastor. "You have to tell them the story, because some of them have never heard it." Her tired eyes shone, and her face began to smile. "Pastor, so many people need to hear that story. Just tell them what happened on Easter."

And then she closed those shining eyes. She was tired, and I was just sad. I watched and listened as her breathing grew deeper. How long will she sleep I wondered, and should I stay until she wakes? I continued to hold on to those worn hands. And then her eyes opened.

"Pastor, promise me you'll tell them the story." I wanted to say yes, but I could only nod, because the words caught in my throat as tears ran from my eyes. "You'll do fine," she said. "You always do."

Vera died a few days later, and as I sat with her family I remember asking if we could sing a song at her funeral that I thought they knew. They thought it would be nice. "Mom liked that song."

And, so, we sang,

*I love to tell the story; 'tis pleasant to repeat
What seems, each time I tell it, more wonderfully sweet.
I love to tell the story, for some have never heard
The message of salvation from God's own holy Word.
I love to tell the story, 'twill be my theme in glory,
To tell the old, old story of Jesus and His love.
I love to tell the story, for those who know it best
Seem hungering and thirsting to hear it like the rest.
And when, in scenes of glory, I sing the new, new song,
'Twill be the old, old story that I have loved so long.*

It's a good story. Have a blessed Easter.

Bishop Rick Hoyme,
Northwest Synod of Wisconsin-ELCA

CHURCH NEWSLETTER

April

Maundy Thursday Service of Holy Communion on April 2

Come to this service of worship as we remember how our Lord broke bread with his disciples and gave the commandment to love one another as we take part in the Maundy Thursday Service of Holy Communion. At the Lord's table, we remember Jesus' sacrifice of his life, even as we are called to offer ourselves in love for the life of the world.

Eight children to receive their first communion on Maundy Thursday

First Communion is another of the milestones of the faith journey that begins in baptism. Eight third graders and their parents have been studying Come to God's Table: Preparing for First Communion with Pastor Bolstad in preparation to receive first communion. Keep these children and their parents in your prayers as they make yet another milestone in their faith journey!

Good Friday Ecumenical Service on April 3 at 7pm

Good Friday reminds the faithful of our Lord's life-giving passion and to find strength and hope in the tree of life. Gather for this ecumenical service as this congregation hosts!

Celebrate the Resurrection of Our Lord on April 5

Easter Sunrise at 6:30am. Festival Worship at 9am, 10:45am

Easter Brunch between Services

On this day, the Lord has acted! Jesus Christ is raised from the dead. Be sure to bring family and relatives at 6:30am for the sunrise service or at 9am, 10:45am for the festival service of worship. Plan to partake in the Easter Brunch between the 6:30am and 9am services of worship. Filled with hope we go forth to share the good news Christ is risen!

Hands of Risen Christ Sunday on April 12

19 When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his **hands** and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. (John 20:19-20)

The service of worship on the Second Sunday of Easter will focus on the hands of the risen Christ. Put your hands in the hands of the one who died and was raised for you!

Thanksgiving for Workers in the Church on April 19

A *Litany of Thanksgiving for Workers in the Church* will be included in the service of worship. By the will of God our workers are committed to the Lord and to us. God has worked mightily through them to bless us. We thank God for them!

Stewardship of Creation to be focus on April 26

The stewardship of creation will be the special emphasis on this Sunday, which is the Sunday after Earth Day, April 22. People of faith join with people of good will to seek the stewardship of creation.

Looking Ahead to May

- 3 Companion Synod Sunday
- 10 Blessing of Mothers
- 17 Norwegian Rite of 1889
- 24 Day of Pentecost
Memorial Day Weekend
- 31 Holy Trinity
Blessing of Graduates

From the Pastor

New Life in Christ

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation; the old has passed away, behold the new has come.

2 Corinthians 5:17

The Easter season speaks of the new life in Christ. Christ is proclaimed to be risen from the dead and at work through the Holy Spirit to make all things new. Death, the last enemy, has been conquered. Those living in faith can live without fear. The old is passing away. The new has come. All of creation is being made new.

In what ways is the Spirit of the Risen Christ at work in your life to make all things new? What is being changed to bring about more faith, hope, and love? How are you living more fully in the covenant God has established with you in Holy Baptism? In what ways will you be living more effectively as a fellow worker in God's good and gracious rule?

As we continue during this interim period, we ask God to make present the power of the risen Christ to guide and lead us. In the meantime, you are invited to be faithful in the gathering of the assembly for worship.

- Maundy Thursday Service of Holy Communion on April 2
- Good Friday Worship on April 3
- Festival of the Resurrection of our Lord on April 5
- Hands of Risen Christ Sunday on April 12
- Thanksgiving for Workers in the Church on Sunday, April 19
- Stewardship of Creation on Sunday, April 26

Sincerely in Christ,
Pastor Lowell Bolstad

Youth in Christ from Prairie Farm to present youth service on May 3

For twenty-six consecutive years, the Youth in Christ team from United Lutheran Church in Prairie Farm has created an original service of worship to share their faith. The theme for 2016 is BY OUR LOVE. The service consists of music, scripture readings, and skits. The group will be on the road during February, March and early April sharing their worship service with area congregations. Youth in Christ at United Lutheran Church is a group of dedicated young people who gather regularly and participate in service work in their local community. Every few years they arrange a servant trip outside of Wisconsin. In 2014 the team traveled to Myrtle Beach, South

Carolina and transformed a garage into a living space. They are currently looking for the next project where they can give of themselves for the good of others.

Honor your mothers on Mother's Day, May 10

God preserves and sustains the gift of family with the fourth commandment to honor your father and mother. One specific way is the commemoration of Mother's Day. Come to the service of worship on Sunday, May 10 when a special litany on *Blessing of Mothers* will be used. The hand bells will provide special gathering music in their honor, and the Sunday school will present special music. Bring the whole family to church on Mother's Day!

Norwegian Rite of 1889 to be offered May 17 as a heritage service

The use of the Norwegian Rite of 1889 on Sunday, May 17 will offer an opportunity to appreciate our worship heritage. May 17 is Norwegian Constitution Day. The order of service will reflect the Norwegian background of this congregation and will include parts of the service in Norwegian to give a flavor of the history. In addition, the hymns and music will be of Norwegian background. The basic order of worship in Norwegian and then English was used from 1889 to the time of the Service Book and Hymnal in 1958. Spread the word. Invite others!

Day of Pentecost on May 24 to celebrate birthday of the church

Plan to celebrate the birthday of the church on Pentecost. The Day of Pentecost is the culmination of the Easter celebration. The risen Christ, having shown himself to his disciples and having ascended, sends the promised gift of the Spirit to the expectant church. The coming of the Spirit gives the church the power and the necessary gifts to carry the glad news of the resurrection from Jerusalem to the ends of the earth. The color of the Day of Pentecost is bright red, symbolizing the power of the Holy Spirit. Wear red to signify a people of God set on fire by the Spirit!

Remember Loved Ones by Coming to Worship on Sunday, May 24 of Memorial Day Weekend

Amidst the various commemorations of Memorial Day Weekend, you are invited to come to church to remember in thanksgiving to God the gift of loved ones who have passed on. There will be a *Litany of Freedom* for Memorial Day, as well as the singing of national hymns.

Holy Trinity celebrated on May 31

On this day, we celebrate the name of God: holy blessed Trinity. There is no other day quite like this in the church's year. There is no other God like ours. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Blessing of High School Graduates on May 31

Come to the service of worship to bless and recognize our high school graduates. A quilt will be presented to each of them. Each student will share about their plans. A designated student will give a message on behalf of the class. A reception between services will be given in their honor. This is another milestone in the faith journey that began in baptism. Assure them of your best wishes and continued prayers!

Looking Ahead to June

7	Litany for Towns and Neighborhoods
14	Northwest Synod of Wisconsin Emphasis
21	Blessing of Fathers
28	Gospel Music

From the Pastor

Healthy Congregations

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body – Jews or Greeks, slaves or free – and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

1Corinthians 12:12-14

Paul in his letter to the church of Corinth uses the metaphor of the body in speaking of the community of the faithful. There is the one and also the many. Christ binds us together. Baptism is the common denominator. The Spirit works to promote both unity and variety. The goal is work for the health of the body. To that end, our Congregation Council at this last meeting decided to host Healthy Congregations presentations. The workshops are designed to help congregation leaders and interested members to become more effective stewards of the congregation. The goal of the effort is to encourage and challenge key leaders and involved members to maintain and improve congregation health. The series uses vignettes, case studies, conversations and current research and experience in congregation life as a basis for learning that is interactive and thoughtful.

Anticipated benefits include:

- Gain a renewed sense of purpose and mission
- Learn how to develop healthy patterns of living together
- Boost confidence in responding to challenges and opportunities
- Learn how to lead with calm and thoughtfulness
- Reflect theologically about relationships
- Move the congregation toward healthy functioning

May God bless our efforts as we seek to increase healthy functioning for the sake of mission in our community and God's world! As we continue during this interim period, we ask God to make present the power of the risen Christ to guide and lead us. In the meantime, you are invited to be faithful in the gathering of the assembly for worship.

- Youth in Christ from Prairie Farm to present youth service on May 3
- Honor your mothers on Mother's Day, May 10
- Norwegian Rite of 1889 to be offered May 17 as a heritage service
- Day of Pentecost on May 24 to celebrate birthday of the church
- Remember Loved Ones by Coming to Worship on Sunday, May 24 of Memorial Day Weekend
- Holy Trinity celebrated on May 31
- Blessing of High School Graduates on May 31

Sincerely in Christ,
Pastor Lowell Bolstad

CHURCH NEWSLETTER

June

Start the Summer Out Right by Coming to Worship on June 7

To be sure, summer is a time of greater mobility with the warmer weather and children out of school. Come as you are able to services of worship this summer beginning the first Sunday in June! Please remember your congregation with your financial support when you are gone this summer.

Litany for Towns and Neighborhoods on June 7

A special *Litany for Towns and Neighborhoods* will be offered at worship on this Sunday. This will be a way for the assembly to lift up the well-being of towns and neighborhoods on the weekend of the community fair June 5-7.

Northwest Synod of Wisconsin Emphasis on June 14

Our partnership with the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin will be the special emphasis on this Sunday. Giving the message will be Pastor Todd Iverson, Assistant to the Bishop. The Northwest Synod of Wisconsin is one of 65 synods of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. The synod is composed of 212 congregations, over 106,300 members, and nearly 300 clergy and rostered leaders. Synod means "walking together," which describes the interdependent ministry relationships as we support mission partners, carry out synodical and churchwide initiatives, provide for education events and leadership training, respond to disaster and emergency needs, and heed the call to be a church engaged in the world.

Worship is the place to be on Father's Day, June 21

What better way to honor God, our Heavenly Father, than by worshipping in God's house on Father's Day? We will be using a litany for Blessing of Fathers and singing such familiar hymns as Children of the Heavenly Father. We hope to see all our earthly fathers and their families in church that day in order to wish them a Happy Father's Day!

"Come to meetin'" to sing gospel music on June 28

Pie and ice cream social to follow

Our church is known as a place with a love of music and eager voices. Besides, Lutherans are known as singing people. So, now that we are in the middle of the summer, we want to set us aside one Sunday for singing some of those good old gospel songs. This gospel music service will be led by our own praise team together with additional singers. If throngs of people gather down the road for country music, we can gather at church for gospel music. Plan to stay for a pie and ice cream social following the worship. Leave the church that day with a song in your heart and a smile on your face!

Looking Ahead to July

- 5 Independence Day
- 12 Companion Synod
- 19 Blessing of Youth Gathering Participants
- 26 Commemoration of J. S. Bach

From the Pastor

Press On

Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Philippians 3:12

When I was a student at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, MN, one of the New Testament teachers would read through the papers written by students, make comments along the way, and then at the end write, "Press On!" This saying was his way of encouraging those studying for the pastoral ministry to continue with perseverance. I came to understand that this saying was characteristic of him, and an entire generation of students left seminary with these words deeply impressed on their hearts and minds. I pass on these words, "Press On!"

Actually, this saying comes first from the Apostle Paul to the church at Philippi to exhort them in the faith. The reason Paul can speak this way is that "Christ Jesus has made me his own." You, who have been made to be Christ's own, now are called to make Christ known.

I want to thank you as a congregation, leadership, and staff for the partnership in the gospel. I trust that the Holy Spirit will work through you to carry out the life and mission of this congregation in the new stage of your faith journey.

I can tell that this is an exciting time in the life of the congregation as you anticipate a special congregation meeting to extend a letter of call the candidate proposed by the Call Committee. I ask that you give your new pastor the same warm welcome extended to me. Meanwhile, we continue to gather for worship in the summer.

- Litany for Towns and Neighborhoods on June 7

- Northwest Synod of Wisconsin Emphasis on June 14
- Worship is the place to be on Father's Day, June 21
- "Come to meetin'" to sing gospel music on June 28

God bless you!

Sincerely in Christ,
Pastor Lowell Bolstad

CHURCH NEWSLETTER

July

Give thanks to God for the gift of independence on Sunday, July 5

Combine your devotion to God with love of country by coming to worship on Sunday, July 5. Take part in an Independence Day litany and sing national hymns. We pray God will give grateful hearts to all who enjoy freedom and lead us to exercise our freedoms with care, and that God will assist all who still seek liberty in this world!

Companion Synod Sunday on July 12

The Companion Synod Program of the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin enables us to experience the gifts and witness of a church in Africa. The companion synod relationship exists for the purpose of strengthening one another for life and mission within the body of Christ. It offers us the privilege of mutually participating in the life of another church through prayer, study, communication, and exchange of pastors, leaders, visitors, and resources. It opens our eyes to the global challenge that Christ offers us today.

Blessing of Youth Gathering Participants on July 19

Come to a Blessing of the Youth Gathering Participants for those youth and adults who are going to the upcoming ELCA Youth Gathering. We are glad for all those going to the gathering and pray God's blessing on them and safe travels to and from the event. Pray for these participants and for the gathering.

Commemoration of Lutheran Composer, J. S. Bach, on July 26

Johann Sebastian Bach is recognized as one of the great Lutheran composers of all time. He died July 28, 1750, and so on the Sunday closest to the anniversary of his death, a Commemoration of J. S. Bach is offered at worship. Come to sing some of his hymns and to listen to the organ and piano ring with the playing of his compositions.

Looking Ahead to August

- 2 Presentation by Youth Gathering Participants
- 9 Commemoration of Mary, Mother of Our Lord
- 16 County Fair Service
- 23 Bluegrass Music Service
- 30 Bless the Years: Honoring Older Adults

From the Pastor

Interim Ministry

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people that you may declare the wonderful deeds of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. 1Peter 2:9

I thank you for the invitation to serve in the partnership of Gospel as your new interim pastor. I am serving under the appointment of the Bishop with the concurrence of the Congregation Council.

The writer of 1Peter speaks of you as a "chosen race, a royal priesthood, God's own people." With this exalted language, the biblical writer lifts up the ministry of all the baptized. I look forward to walking together in carrying out God's mission in this congregation.

My work as an interim pastor will be in three areas: regular pastoral ministry, transition dynamics, call process.

Pastoral Ministry

- Preaching and worship
- Education
- Children and youth
- Pastoral visitation
- Administration
- Community involvement
- Connections with the larger church
- Other responsibilities

Transition Dynamics

Reflection

Heritage	Past	Where have we been?
Identity	Present	Where are we at?
Vision	Future	Where is God leading?

Action

Mission	Definition	What is God's purpose for this congregation?
Leadership	Operation	How is God's purpose to be carried out?

- | | |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heritage • Identity • Vision • Mission • Leadership • Connections | <p>Connections</p> <p>Cooperation</p> <p>Who are the partners in mission God provides?</p> <p>appreciate how the past of the congregation informs the present</p> <p>discover who the congregation is in the current context</p> <p>discern what it is this congregation understands God is calling this congregation to be</p> <p>define purpose and direction for the congregation in God's mission</p> <p>engage people of the congregation in God's mission</p> <p>explore all the relationships a congregation shares beyond itself</p> |
|--|--|

Call Process

Working with the Call Committee and the Congregation Council in preparing the Ministry Site Profile.

Pastor and people can best carry out the work of the congregation when both enter into a partnership so that, as a people of God, we can "declare the wonderful deeds of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light."

Come for worship with the gathered assembly.

- Give thanks to God for the gift of independence on Sunday, July 5
- Companion Synod Sunday on July 12
- Blessing of Youth Gathering Participants on July 19
- Commemoration of Lutheran Composer, J. S. Bach, on July 26

Sincerely in Christ,
Pastor Lowell Bolstad

CHURCH NEWSLETTER

August

Presentation by Youth Gathering Participants on August 2

The ELCA Youth Gathering participants have prepared a presentation on their recent adventure and will show that presentation. Show them your support by your presence!

Commemoration of Mary, Mother of Our Lord on August 9

The church honors Mary with the Greek title *theotokos*, meaning God-bearer, and we commemorate her. The honor paid to Mary as *theotokos* and Mother of our Lord goes back to biblical times, when Mary herself sang, "from now on all generations will call me blessed." (Luke 1:48) In addition there will be special music in the form of a rendition of *Ava Maria*.

County Fair Service on August 16

This congregation and our neighboring congregation will join together with people from the country for a county fair service on the fairgrounds on that Sunday at 9am. It's a time to get together for worship at the summer county get together. Spread the word. Invite the neighbors.

Christian bluegrass music service on August 23

Come to worship for a Christian bluegrass music service led by an area musical family. They enjoy making toe-tapping, bluegrass music. The family consists of dad on guitar and banjo, mom on harmonica, and four children: one son on upright bass fiddle; another son on whiz-bang (washboard with horns and whistles); a daughter on mandolin, fiddle, and guitar; and another daughter on fiddle, banjo, and mandolin. Each family member sings, and the variation of a deep bass voice to a sweet alto to a powerful soprano provides a great variety and interest in their music. A free-will offering will be taken to be used for the adoption of two young boys from overseas. All are cordially invited to attend as this area family glorifies God with their high energy music! Combine fast pickin', tight-knit harmonies, and over-flowing joy, and the result is the talented Alzen Family. Hailing from Roberts, Wisconsin, this family of eight loves to merge their musical abilities with their strong faith to gladden people's hearts with music and the love of Jesus Christ.

Bless the Years: Honoring Older Adults on August 30

Bless the Years: Honoring Older Adults will be observed in the endeavor to help all worshipers to recognize each day as a day of grace and each year as a gift from God. Using the resources of The Association of Lutheran Older Adults, the worship will affirm the worth of older adults and seek to challenge our seasoned folk for service to God, neighbors, and the community.

Looking Ahead to September

- 7 Faith in Daily Life
- 14 Holy Cross
 - Welcome to Sunday School and to Confirmation
 - Blessing of the Backpacks
- 21 Blessing of Teachers and Students
- 28 Affirmation of Baptism – Confirmation

From the Pastor

Lifting Up Gifts

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of working, but it is the same God who inspires them all in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.
1 Corinthians 12:4-7

During my brief time here at this congregation, I have come to thank God for the wide variety of gifts with which God has blessed this faith community. The more people I get to know, the more I witness how the Spirit has given all the varieties of services to follow the same Lord. All of these varieties of working are intended for the common good.

The Apostle Paul in writing to the church in Corinth speaks concerning spiritual gifts. He emphasizes both the unity and the variety: The one body, the one Lord as well as the many members of the body of Christ. He urges the full use of all gifts and warns against those who look down on other members.

During a transition period between installed pastors, there is often a shifting of involvement and activity, power and influence. I would particularly like to invite those who have been less involved in the past to become more involved now. God has given you gifts for the common good. I would also like to thank those who have been highly involved in the past and invite your continued participation. For some who have been holding positions of leadership and roles of influence for some time, God may be saying to you that your services continue to be needed, while to others God may be saying that this is an opportune time to graciously hand off the baton to a new generation.

In all of this, I would like to hold before you the vision to use your gifts and make disciples. The fields are white unto harvest. God has given all the gifts needed to live out the mission in this time and place! Go in peace. Share the good news. Serve the Lord.

Remember the Sabbath for rest and worship.

- Presentation by Youth Gathering Participants on August 2
- Commemoration of Mary, Mother of Our Lord on August 9
- County Fair Service on August 16
- Christian bluegrass music service on August 23
- Bless the Years: Honoring Older Adults on August 30

Sincerely in Christ,

Pastor Lowell Bolstad

CHURCH NEWSLETTER

September

Faith in Daily Life on September 7 of Labor Day Weekend

Labor Day weekend provides an opportunity to reflect on faith in daily life. In Baptism, God calls us as “fellow workers in the kingdom of God.” Worship will be a time to explore the ways in which we employ our faith in daily life.

Holy Cross Sunday on September 14

Holy Cross Sunday reminds us that Christ crucified is the power and wisdom of God. As Moses put a serpent on a pole to be a source of healing for the Israelites, we lift high the cross as the sign of our health and salvation.

Sundays and Seasons. Year A. 2014. Page 285.

Welcome to Sunday School and to Confirmation on September 14

All students starting Sunday School and Confirmation, together with their parents and sponsors, are asked to come to worship for a special Welcome to Sunday School and Confirmation. These are milestone events in the faith journey that begins in Baptism. One of the promises parents make in Baptism is “to bring them to the word of God and the holy supper.” In the spirit of Baptism, we invite our children and parents as often as possible. Pray for our families!

Rally Day with games and treats to kick off new year of Sunday School following worship. Classes start September 21.

Blessing of the Backpacks on September 14

As our students start another year in school, we ask a blessing on their backpacks and especially on the children who will carry them. A special invitation is extended to our students and their families for this Blessing of the Backpacks.

Blessing of Teachers and Students on Sunday, September 21, as we thank God for those who have offered to assist parents to live out the promise made in baptism to *teach them the Lord’s Prayer, the Creed and the Ten Commandments, place in their hands the holy scriptures*. Pray for the teachers and students in the educational ministry of this congregation!

Young People to Affirm their Baptism in Rite of Confirmation on September 28

The Rite of Confirmation as a part of the Service of Affirmation of Baptism is one of the important milestones in the faith journey. Be sure to come to witness our young people affirm their baptism. Show them your prayerful support as they make a public profession of their faith and state their intention to: “to live among God’s faithful people, to hear the word and share in the Lord’s Supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth.” A special invitation is extended to sponsors, relatives, and friends!

Looking Ahead to October

- 4 Commemoration of Francis of Assisi with Blessing of Animals
- 11 October Worship Fest with Polka Service
- 18 Commemoration of Luke, Evangelist with Healing Service
- 25 Reformation Day – Presentation of Bibles

From the Pastor

Remember Your Baptism

"We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world."

Evangelical Lutheran Worship Holy Baptism Page 231

God has called you in baptism to be God's very own. In baptism, you have been given a name and sealed with the sign of the cross. The gift of the Spirit is promised to you through this act of water and word. This great and wonderful gift assures you of Christ's continued presence. As you live in your baptism, you grow in faith.

At the start of Wednesdays with the Word, Confirmation, and youth activities this fall, this letter comes as a reminder to parents of the responsibilities assumed in Holy Baptism:

to live with them among God's faithful people,
bring them to the word of God and the holy supper,
teach them the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, the Ten Commandments,
place in their hands the holy scriptures,
and nurture them in faith and prayer,
so that your children may learn to trust God,
proclaim Christ through word and deed,
care for others and the world God made,
and work for justice in peace.

Evangelical Lutheran Worship Holy Baptism Page 228

We are glad for the Wednesdays with the Word teachers and staff who will be working with our children to help them grow in faith. As pastor, I will be working with the Confirmation students on the basics of the Christian faith. Please come as families to worship. As a gathered people of God, young and old alike, we remember our baptism!

In the spirit of Holy Baptism, you are invited to come to the Word of God and the holy supper.

- Faith in Daily Life on September 7 of Labor Day Weekend
- Welcome to Sunday School and to Confirmation on September 14
- Blessing of the Backpacks on September 14
- Blessing of Teachers and Students on Sunday, September 21
- Young People to Affirm their Baptism in Rite of Confirmation on September 28

Sincerely in Christ,

Pastor Lowell Bolstad

CHURCH NEWSLETTER

October

Commemoration of Francis of Assisi with a blessing of animals between services on October 4

"All creatures both large and small, God loves them all." This is the spirit in which a blessing of the animals will be offered following Sunday worship on the lawn across from the main entrance of the church. In case of inclement weather, the blessing will be under the overhang at the main entrance. The worship services that day will commemorate Francis of Assisi who is best known for his prayer Make me an instrument of your peace... and for his hymn All Creatures of Our God and King. He is also known as a lover of nature and so the practice of blessing of animals. Come to worship and bring your animals to be blessed!

October Worship Fest with polka service on October 11

A-one, a-two, a-one-two-three. Get your toes tapping in anticipation of October Worship Fest with a polka service. The youth will serve brats and root beer for refreshments. No, polka services aren't just for Roman Catholics. Lutherans can have them, too, and what better time than during the month of October? Who says Lutherans can't have fun? Invite the neighbors and friends!

Blessing of Quilts on October 11

The quilts made by the women and destined to be shipped to Lutheran World Relief on October 17 will be displayed and dedicated on this Sunday. "O Lord, our God, maker of all things, you have blessed our quilters with so many gifts – a good eye for color, the ability to make fine stitches, the skills to develop ever new and exciting patterns. Now we offer the fruits of their labors, the quilts they have made to you." Come and see the handiwork and add your blessing. In addition, The Quilt Song will be sung.

Commemoration of Luke, Evangelist on October 18

Luke, Evangelist will be commemorated with a service of healing and thanksgiving for healing. Luke is referred to in Colossians 4:14 as "the beloved physician." Perhaps, you are in a situation of desiring prayers for healing, or you have experienced recovery from illness and you desire a prayer for thanksgiving. Those desiring prayers may come to the pastor after receiving communion for prayers of healing or prayers for thanksgiving for healing.

Reformation Day to be commemorated on October 25

Martin Luther began a movement that called for continual renewal and reformation of the church. Reformation Day provides an opportunity to focus on our life of the church being continually renewed. Sing some of the great Lutheran hymns and hear the story of the reformer!

Presentation of Bibles on Reformation Sunday

Bibles will be presented to children on Reformation Sunday. This practice seeks to assist parents to carry out one of their baptismal responsibilities to “place in their hands the holy scriptures.” Pray for our children that in the words of Holy Baptism they may “join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God’s creative and redeeming word to all the world.”

Looking Ahead to November

- 1 All Saints Day Jazz Service
- 8 Women of the ELCA Thank Offering Litany
Blessing of Veterans
- 15 Service of Thanksgiving
Blessing of Hunters
- 22 Christ the King Sunday
- 29 Advent Service of Readings and Carols

From the Pastor

What’s So Lutheran about Worship?

“Praise the Lord! Sing to the Lord a new song, his praise in the assembly of the faithful! (Psalm 149:1)

During this new 21st century, as the church seeks a variety in worship formats, what insights does the Reformation give to us? Martin Luther, on the one hand, retained the order of liturgy that had served the church so well down through the centuries. On the other hand, he put the worship service into the language of the people and used popular folk tunes for his songs.

As church musician John Ylvisaker stated in a recent workshop here in this synod that Luther used a high/low approach to worship planning in that there was a high level of formality for the festival days with the classical liturgy and a low approach with a folk mass for other times. Ylvisaker commended this approach for the church today.

Luther rejected the radical approach of the Anabaptists who would strip the worship service of anything that sounded like the classical liturgy. In our day, this approach is making inroads even in Lutheran churches under the guise of “entertainment evangelism.” We are following an order of worship that has stood the test of time while, at the same time, employing a variety in worship. Luther emphasized a creative tension in being faithful to the order of worship of the historic ecumenical church and responsive to the times in which he found himself. The goal is to allow this genius of the Reformat to guide and form our worship here today.

Take part in the variety of worship of this congregation during this month.

- Commemoration of Francis of Assisi with a blessing of animals between services on October 4
- October Worship Fest with polka service on October 11
- Blessing of Quilts on October 11
- Commemoration of Luke, Evangelist on October 18
- Reformation Day to be commemorated on October 25

Sincerely in Christ,

Pastor Lowell Bolstad

CHURCH NEWSLETTER

November

All Saints Day Jazz Service on Sunday, November 1

Oh, When the Saints Go Marching In and *Soon and Very Soon* are two songs we will sing on this Sunday as a part of the All Saints Day Jazz Service with an ensemble being assembled by our music ensemble. The faithful departed will be remembered. A special invitation goes out to all those who have lost loved ones during this past year to light a candle in memory of their loved one! A volunteer coordinator for Adoray Home Health and Hospice will speak on hospice care and other end of life matters at the adult forum between services in the narthex. A special invitation is extended to the children and youth to march with musical instruments to these gathering and sending songs. On All Saints Day, we remember loved ones who have finished their course on earth and now rest from their labors. A special invitation goes out to all those who have lost loved ones this past year!

Turn your clocks back for November 1

Daylight Saving Time (United States) 2015 began at 2am on Sunday, March 8 and ends at 2am on Sunday, November 1.

Women of the ELCA Thank Offering Litany on November 8

The Women of the ELCA Thank Offering Litany continues the tradition of showing gratitude for God’s blessings. This tradition is grounded in a celebration of community, of meeting together to joyfully give thanks for what God has given us.

Remembrance of Veterans on Veterans Day, November 8

A prayer of remembrance for veterans will be offered on this Sunday closest to Veterans Day. A special invitation goes out to all veterans!

Service of Thanksgiving on Sunday, November 15

To be sure the whole year is filled with thanksgiving. But Thanksgiving is designated for a special time of praise to God for the rich blessings of the past year. Come with grateful hearts to our Thanksgiving Service on this Sunday!

Blessing for Hunters before Deer Season on November 15

A blessing of hunters before the deer season will be offered on this Sunday. A special invitation is extended to deer hunters to wear orange attire that Sunday!

Christ the King Commemorated on Sunday, November 22

"Jesus shall reign where're the sun does its successive journeys run," wrote Isaac Watts. In this spirit we gather on this last Sunday of the church year to honor Christ who is the king. This king claims the central place in our lives!

Advent Service of Lessons and Carols on Sunday, November 29

"Come, Lord Jesus," is the prayer for Advent for the coming of our Lord. We welcome in the season of Advent with a service of readings and carols on this first Sunday of Advent.

Looking Ahead to December

6	Assistant to the Bishop	Review of Ministry Site Profile at Adult Forum
13	Reception of New Members	
20	Sunday School Christmas Program	
	24	Christmas Eve
	25	Christmas Day
26	Post High- School Student Recognition	

From the Pastor

Thanksgiving

"I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, thankful for your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now." (Philippians 1:3-5)

As the season of Thanksgiving draws closer, I stop to reflect on the opportunity that is mine to serve as your interim pastor and partner in the gospel. I am thankful that the risen Lord present in the Holy Spirit is accomplishing a good work in your midst.

During the month of November, we give thanks to God as a community of faith for the following:

- The communion of saints as we commemorate All Saints Day on November 1.
- Women of the ELCA as we will use a Thank Offering Litany on November 8.
- Veterans as a blessing for our veterans will be offered on Sunday, November 8.
- The season of Thanksgiving as we gather for a Service of Thanksgiving on November 15.
- Wildlife and hunting as we bless the hunters before deer season on November 15.
- Christ the King as we commemorate the last Sunday in the church year on November 22 and proclaim him Lord of Lords and King of Kings.
- Anticipation of the coming of our Lord as we will be using a service of readings and carols on the first Sunday of Advent, November 29.

Again, I give thanks for the opportunity for serving as your interim pastor and look forward to our continued partnership in the gospel.

Sincerely in Christ,

Pastor Lowell Bolstad

CHURCH NEWSLETTER

December

Assistant to the Bishop to preach on December 6

Assistant to the Bishop Greg Kaufmann will preach and assist with communion distribution on this Sunday. Following the service of worship, he will present and converse with interested members regarding the rough draft of the Ministry Site Profile.

New Members to be Received December 13

We rejoice to receive new members as fellow workers in the kingdom of God. Be present to give them a warm welcome to this congregation!

Sunday School presents The Twelve Days of Christmas: The Meaning Behind the Song on December 20

Bring the grandpas and grandmas and the rest of the relatives and friends when our Sunday School children present "The Twelve Days of Christmas: The Meaning Behind the Song." The twelve days of Christmas are the twelve days between Christmas Day, December 25 and Epiphany, January 6, the day Christians celebrate the arrival of the Magi and the revelation of Christ as the light of the world. The song was written in England during a time of religious persecution as kind of "secret catechism" to help young Christians learn important parts of their faith. Each element is a code word for a religious truth. Our children will dramatize this song to help us learn the meaning of the faith. This is one event during the season you will not want to miss. Pass the word!

Invite others to Christmas services with you!

Are you having company for Christmas? Do you know someone who does not have a church home? Be sure to invite them to worship God come into human flesh in the person of Jesus. Even as shepherds could not contain themselves in telling others what they had heard, you are encouraged to share the Christmas spirit with those about you!

Saturday, December 24	Christmas Eve family service at 4pm
	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 9pm
Sunday, December 25	Christmas Day Festival Worship at 9am

Post High School Student Recognition on December 27

The Christmas season is a time to welcome students home from college and other institutions of higher learning. A special invitation is extended to our students and their families to come to the post high school student recognition on January 1. One of our students who

is a freshman in college will give a student recognition message. This worship service offers an opportunity for the gathered worship assembly to affirm and encourage our students in their ongoing pursuit of higher education. A reception will be hosted by the Congregational Life Committee in the fellowship hall between services.

Looking Ahead to January

3	Beginning of a New Year
10	Baptism of Our Lord
17	Prayer for Christian Unity
24	Annual Meeting
31	Youth Service

From the Pastor

In Christ's Name, Welcome

And she gave birth to her first-born son and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. (Luke 2:7)

During this upcoming season of the year, we anticipate the celebration of the birth of the Christ child. God's Son comes into the world as a small child to a young woman. Often the season is characterized by peace and goodwill. The question is: "Can the spirit of the Christmas time be with us throughout the whole year?" In the case of Jesus, his parents could not find room in the inn. Jesus was born in the manger. How is Christ received today? Is there room in our hearts and lives for him?

One of the characteristics of alive and vibrant congregations is a climate of hospitality, enthusiasm, and joy. Those who have been welcomed into God's family through Christ Jesus are called to express that same welcome to others. Such a climate attracts others into the fellowship of God's people. They can feel the warmth and want to be part of it.

In congregations living out a spirit of welcome, each person is made to feel important. Everybody is somebody where the gift of the Christ child is received with thanksgiving and joy. The time of Christmas will come and go again this year, but it is hoped that the spirit of the Christ child will remain with us!

Be sure to come to worship during this Advent and Christmas seasons.

- Assistant to the Bishop to preach on December 6
- New Members to be Received December 13
- Sunday School presents The Twelve Days of Christmas: The Meaning Behind the Song on December 20
- Invite others to Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services, December 24-25, with you
- Post High School Student Recognition on December 27

Sincerely in Christ,

Pastor Lowell Bolstad



There is a place for you here.

Northwest Synod of Wisconsin

Evangelical Lutheran Church of America

Can't come to worship?

Then do the next best thing and listen to our Sunday 8am worship service broadcast over radio station 0000 AM or call 000.000.0000 for any of the services on Saturday at 5pm or on Sunday at 8am or 10:30am, as well as weddings and funerals. Pass the word.

Gone on Sunday?

Then come on Saturday to worship at 5pm. Make your week complete by gathering together for worship!

Gone on weekends?

Then, we'll be waiting for you on Wednesdays at 6pm for a mid-week service of worship that'll get you through the week!

Come to worship!

I was glad when they said unto me, let us go up to the house of the Lord.

Psalm 122:1

Not an Early Riser?

Take your time getting up on Sunday morning and then join us for worship at 10:30am. Come as you are and go with the peace of God in your heart. You'll be refreshed for the rest of the week!

Variety is the spice of life

Come to our chapel service on Saturday evening and meet old friends and make new ones. Come to our more formal cathedral early Sunday morning service to sing and hear great music that goes over the airwaves to our radio audience. Come to our more informal camp later Sunday morning service where our worship and praise team will lead the service. In addition, various special emphasis services are offered to reflect the many aspects of Christian life.

Take time for Church

Worship and education/fellowship take just 2 hours out of 168. Yes, the gift of time is precious. Yet, out of 168 hours each week, you are warmly invited to give 2 hours on Sunday morning to worship and education/fellowship. In the end, you'll be glad you did!

Invite others to services of worship at the start of fall activities

Do you know someone in your circles of relations, friendships, neighborhood, or work settings who may be looking for a church home? Why not bring them to worship with you? Also, if you see somebody moving into the neighborhood, mention the church to them. You could be doing somebody a big favor!

Pray for God's direction during the transition

Earnest prayer is requested for this transition as we make our way between installed pastorates. Special prayer is requested for congregation leadership, pastor and staff, bishop and synod staff. Pray for healing and wholeness, ministry and mission!

Pray for the Future of the Church

As this congregation heads into a new year, you are asked to lift your prayer to God for boldness and courage to carry out our mission "to grow in our faith and to share that faith with others."

Remember your church during the summer months

It is understandable that many will be gone on weekends or vacations during the summer months. You are encouraged to remember your church during the summer months with your financial support to the life and mission of this congregation!

Bump up the average.

The average mainline Protestant spends 20-25 hours a year or less attending services of worship. There are 8,760 hours in a year.

Invite others to services of worship and pray that those who do not know Jesus may come to know him.

Thank you for your participation in and support of the life and mission of this church!



We are a church that believes Jesus is God's "Yes" to us.

Our lives can be a "Yes" to others. The "Yes" of Jesus Christ compels and empowers us to be open and accessible within any community, within any context.

This week in the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin – ELCA Week of August 18, 2013

<http://archive.constantcontact.com/fs191/1101126434512/archive/1114596947073.html>

[Images for This week in the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin](#)