



# Grapevine

## February 2011

### American Lutheran



#### *ALC Staff*

Henry Thorberg - Pastor  
 Jane Plettner-Nielson -  
 Director of Music  
 Clarice Riege Secretary

#### *ALC Council*

##### *Executive Committee*

President - Keith Spilker  
 Vice-President - Michael Welsh  
 Secretary - Joel Bacon  
 Treasurer - Char Rohl

##### *Committee Chairs*

Finance-Dustin Lottman  
 Outreach-Dave Dermann  
 Parish Education- Wendy Hirsch  
 Property-Mike Wheeler  
 Social Concerns-Liz Cooper  
 Stewardship-Trevor Hanson  
 Worship-Mavis Seelmeyer  
 Youth-

### February Worship Schedule

**February 6**



**Fifth Sunday after Epiphany**  
**Sanctuary Choir - St. Paul**  
**Baptism - Nathan Hanson**  
**Installation of Officers**

8:15 am Traditional Worship/Communion  
 9:15 am Sunday School  
 9:15 am New member orientation  
 10:30 am Praise Worship/Communion  
 11:30 am Hanson's Parish Hall

**February 13**



**Sixth Sunday after Epiphany**  
**Joyful Noise - St. Peter**

8:15 am Traditional Worship  
 9:15 am Sunday School  
 10:30 am Praise Worship

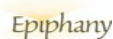
**February 20**



**Seventh Sunday after Epiphany**  
**Gospel Rings - St. Thomas**

8:15 am Traditional Worship/Communion  
 9:15 am Sunday School  
 10:30 am Praise Worship/Communion

**February 27**



**Eighth Sunday after Epiphany**  
**Sunday School - St. James**

8:15 am Traditional Worship  
 9:15 am Sunday school  
 10:30 am Praise Worship

# It Is Humbling

Life goes along smoothly and well for a while and then something changes big time. And we just might find ourselves doing some big time reassessment of things that are important and things that are not so much so.



Every year, I am amazed at the generosity of our congregation toward us, and this year has been no exception to the rule. Once again, we are faced with the challenge of putting your Christmas gifts to us to good use. The black licorice is gone. The cinnamon rolls have been devoured. The gift cards are being put to use. And we are considering what to do with the money gifts we received!

The amazement this year has been exaggerated due to extra concerns that have been brought to the fore for us. I want to start by saying it was a lot easier for me to deal with my own heart surgery than it was to deal with what Cheryl had to go through with her tumor. I was prepared to meet my maker if that needed to be when I went in to have them work on my heart! As we looked at the possibility of dealing with cancer for Cheryl, I found that I just couldn't picture going on alone in life. Realizing that both shocked and humbled me!

The shock came because I have always seen myself as quite adaptable. The humility came as I understood how much I have come to depend on her over the years. Both of those experiences are valuable for us as human beings! These are not new concepts, and they have both been held in high esteem for ages, and yet until one takes them seriously in the face of the huge changes that can come to us, they may not affect us as much as they really should.

Actually, both of these reactions have very strong roots in Lutheran expressions of Christianity; so they should just be second nature to us; but often they do not come very naturally to us. I did not want to experience them, and I certainly would not have chosen to go through the process it took to make them real! Yet, I am very glad that they were brought home forcefully enough to make me do some serious thinking about the way I have been living out my faith.

We have spent much of our lives in America listening to others seek to convince us that we need to take care of things ourselves – that we have to be ever vigilant and self-sufficient. We usually swallow that set of values hook, line, and sinker. We do this so completely that we fail to see how seriously that conflicts with what we say we believe.

We often trust ourselves, our spouses, our neighbors, our co-workers, our government, our investments. – Go ahead and plug in here whatever you trust in the most

\_\_\_\_\_. There are many good choices you could have made to put in the blank; but our faith teaches us that there is only one right choice. GOD belongs there for me and for you, too.

I am not trying to say that we should not depend on ourselves to do those things we should be doing; but I do want to say that even when we do that, we do well to recognize where those powers and abilities come from and give credit to GOD that we are capable!

Use your skills and your gifts with the constant realization of the source of those talents!

I wish to finish by saying thank you again for the wonderful things you have been enabled and willing to do for us. GOD bless you with peace and power!

*Pastor Henry*

## From the Music Director:

Thank you for all the gifts and expressions of appreciation given to my husband and me for Christmas. We enjoy being part of this congregation very much and are glad the feeling is mutual. Thank you.

Thank you, too, to the many people who helped provide music for the month of December. Christmas Eve was especially full of individuals sharing their gifts with special music. Your help in making all services extra special is very much appreciated. Thank you!!

### The rehearsal schedule for the month of February will be (every Tuesday):



Joyful Noise – 5:30 to 6:15 (grades 1-5)

Gospel Rings – 6:15 to 7:00 (grades 6 through adult)

Sanctuary Choir – 7:00 to 8:00 (grades 6 through adult)

Praise Team – 8:00- 9:00 (grades 6 through adult)

### *The schedule for sharing our musical gifts during worship is as follows:*

Feb. 6 – Sanctuary Choir and St. Paul Praise Team (singers Pastor, Mavis, Jim, Angie, Vanessa)

Feb. 13 – Joyful Noise and St. Peter Praise Team (singers Travis, Brenda, Laura, Kelli, Natalie, Sherri)

Feb. 20 – Gospel Rings and St. Thomas Praise Team (singers Keith, Jana, Michelle, Beth)

Feb. 27 – Sunday School and St. James Praise Team (singers Bruce, Kim, Morgan, Claire, Marcia)

When I started last August, I indicated what hours I would be in the office. I'm changing the Monday night hours, which were (7:30 to 8:30), to (6:00 to 7:00). The schedule for my full-time job has changed and Pastor and Clarice have graciously agreed to change our staff meeting time to Monday afternoon (about 5:20 p.m.), so I will stay here after our meeting until 7:00, should you wish to see me.

In light of the recent snowstorm, I'd like to remind everyone (and some people may not know this), that whenever Lincoln Public Schools cancels school, we cancel rehearsals if it is on the same day. Clarice was very kind in helping me get an e-mail sent to everyone that I have an e-mail address for. I made some phone calls as well. I hope we got the message out to everyone that needed it. If not, please let me know so I can make any necessary adjustments.

Thank you for your continued support of the music program.

Jane Plettner-Nielson

## Cause of the Month:

### FEBRUARY

#### ***LINCOLN LIGHTHOUSE PROGRAM FOR YOUTH.***

The Lighthouse After-School Program offers middle and high school aged-youth academic support, evening meals and enrichment/recreational activities during non-school hours, Monday-Friday, twelve months a year. The Lighthouse After School Program goal is to ***"Increase the likelihood of high school graduation of middle and high school-aged youth by providing high quality programming."***

Program eligibility requirements are: 1) Youth must be actively attending school or working on a G.E.D., 2) Youth cannot be under the influence of drugs or alcohol, and 3) Youth must demonstrate unconditional respect to the people and property of Lighthouse.

**Lighthouse has five main programs: Education Program, Enrichment Program, Healthy Bodies Program, Community Involvement Program, Special Events Program.**

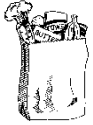
Since Lighthouse is a non-profit, community-based program, they can better provide high quality programming with the participation from community members. Do you have a skill that a teen could learn? Are you good at science, cooking, sports? All adolescents need positive adult mentors and role models in their life

There will a speaker at our church service to better enlighten us on this positive youth program.

## ALC February Statistics:

### Change of Address:

Jason & Kathryn Gustafson - to 18606 Leavenworth St. - Elkhorn, NE 68022 - 5626



## Lincoln Cluster Food Pantry

In February the pantry needs soups, canned beans (pork & beans for sure and kidney, chili, red), tomato products and Mac N Cheese. As always personal care items.

Cash donations are used for immediate needs. To donate cash, place it in the collection plate, clearly marked "Food Pantry"

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Executive Committee and Church Council will meet Thursday evening, February 10th, at 6:15 pm and 7:00 pm respectively.

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Once again, a big thank you to Don & Linda Spilker & family, who provided the beautiful Christmas trees for our Christmas Worship Season.

The trees are always so nice and were enjoyed by everyone!

Again, thank you for adding to our  
Worship Services

Mavis Seelmeyer  
Chair, Worship Committee

## CALLING ON CHRIST

In The Storm

A Spiritual Guided retreat

for  
Lay People  
and Rostered Leaders

It seems as though "storms" rage all about us. We live in a time of significant cultural upheaval, economic and job travails, shifting values, congregational conflict, and family difficulties—all of which feel like "storms" when we are in the midst of them. In this one-day retreat sponsored by Seeking the Spirit Within, we will find intentional ways to refocus our attention and call on our Beloved Christ who is with us in the midst of the storms.

Saturday, February, 26, 2011

Southwood Lutheran Church

9300 S. 40th Street

Lincoln, NE.

Registration forms and information  
available on the table in the narthex.

## Attendance and Stewardship

	Worship		General	Phase III	Other
	8:15 am	10:30 am	Offering	Offering	Offering
December 26			\$3609.93	\$270.00	\$225.00
January 2	50	55	\$6013.25	\$525.00	\$82.00
January 9	42	79	\$2356.50	\$160.00	\$40.00
January 16	62	83	\$5406.80	\$310.00	\$65.00
January 23	21	42	\$880.00	\$40.00	\$159.10

## Financial Statement

### Financial Results through 12/31/2010

	December	YTD
<b>Budget Income</b>		
Pro-rata needs	\$ 17,878.00	\$185,939.00
Offerings	\$ 18,258.00	\$180,827.00
Difference	[\$380.00]	[\$5,112.00]
Budget Expenses	\$ 14,875.00	\$174,422.00
<b>Phase III:</b>		
Debt Obligation	\$ 2,976.00	\$ 35,712.00
Budgeted (mortgage )	(\$3,930.00)	\$ 15,000.00
Phase III Offerings	\$ 5,728.00	\$ 19,534.00
From Bldg Fund	\$ 2,798.00	\$ 2,798.00
To Bldg Fund	(\$1,620.00)	(\$1,620.00)
Total Paid	\$ 2,976.00	\$ 35,712.00
Cause of the Month:	\$316.00	

*God*



**AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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Permit No. 201

Henry Thorberg, Pastor  
Sunday Worship 8:15 am  
Praise Worship 10:30 am  
Christian Education 9:15 am

Address Service Requested

*I am the vine, you are the  
branches.*

*He who abides in me, and I in  
him, bears much fruit.*

*John 15:5*



- |                          |                          |                         |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| 02/01 Randy Duryea       | 02/12 Jordan Spilker     | 02/23 Parker Aerni      |
| 02/01 Logan Duryea       | 02/12 Travis Ray         | 02/24 Kay Hansen-Bakesz |
| 02/02 Aden Hanna         | 02/13 Larry Johns        | 02/24 Isaac Graff       |
| 02/08 Lorraine McKendree | 02/14 Gary Moerer        | 02/25 Trevor Hanson     |
| 02/08 Pearl Goldenstein  | 02/14 Matthew Rotschafer | 02/25 Kevin McGill      |
| 02/08 Ruth Engstrom      | 02/15 Megan Hinrichs     | 02/25 Makayla Gustafson |
| 02/08 Michelle Wiggins   | 02/15 Aaron Evans        | 02/26 Clarice Sharpe    |
| 02/09 Jeffrey Schroeder  | 02/15 Lydia Dexter       | 02/26 Sarah Graff       |
| 02/09 Troy Bernadt       | 02/16 Dagmar Ahlquist    | 02/26 Xiao Hua          |
| 02/10 Nevaeh Worth       | 02/16 Linnea Welsh       | 02/27 Harold Bartlett   |
| 02/11 Michelle Sackett   | 02/18 Rhiannon Aden      | 02/27 Rodney Baars      |
| 02/11 Ryan Aerni         | 02/19 Kristi Evers       | 02/27 Mona Johnson      |
| 02/11 Jacob Hawkins      | 02/22 Kimberly Smith     | 02/28 Carolyn Larsen    |
| 02/12 Ernest Lundquist   | 02/23 Lisa Davis         | 02/28 Ron Sabata        |