

# COMMUNITY CALL

Ministers: The People of God

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## ASH WEDNESDAY AND MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICES

We will **NOT** be having an Ash Wednesday Service this year. We are unable to find a pastor to serve Communion, and since this is an important part of the Ash Wednesday service, the Worship Committee decided **NOT** to have a service.

There **WILL** be a meal and service on Maundy Thursday (April 17th). The meal will be at 6:00 p.m. with the service to follow. The Worship Committee has planned to hold a Live Tableau of the Last Supper during the service. If we aren't successful in getting a pastor for that event, we will still have the supper and the service without communion.

## PRESBYTERIAN MEN



It's that time again. We men of the church need to once again mobilize for the annual Community Wide Rummage Sale. We were able to raise over \$1,200 last year and should be able to do the same this year. The sale is April 5<sup>th</sup>, so put it on your calendar. We have rented the large room again which makes it real handy for loading and unloading. Please attend a short organizational meeting during coffee after church on **Sunday, March 9<sup>th</sup>**. See you there!

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**MARCH  
DATES  
TO  
REMEMBER**

**BIRTHDAYS**

- 3-3 Julia Pederson  
 3-8 Troy Montgomery  
 3-9 Amy Matzke  
 3-10 Claire DeJong  
       Phil Martens  
 3-13 Becki Hummel  
 3-13 Kristi Hummel  
 3-15 Irene Martin  
 3-16 Dustin Smith  
 3-19 Derrick LaCoe  
 3-21 Patrick Talley  
       Tyson Willis  
 3-22 Bonnie Thompson  
 3-23 Ryan Kellerman  
 3-24 Dawn Larson  
       Clifford Sheeley  
 3-25 Michelle Ohm  
 3-26 Keith Sebelius  
 3-28 Sam Barentsen  
 3-30 Jordan Birrenkott

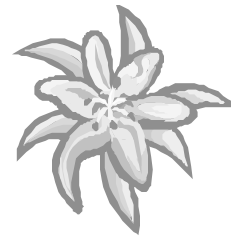
**ANNIVERSARIES**

- 3-3-79 – Cliff and Gail Sheeley  
 3-4-78 – Bruce and Vicki Reidinger  
 3-5-51 – Ted and Evelyn Martin  
 3-14-64 – Chuck and Bonnie Thompson



**2003 CHURCH  
DIRECTORY**

Revision of the Church Directory is underway and we are asking that you let us know if there are changes that should be made in your information. We plan to have some copies on the Bulletin Board for you to check and mark if you find something that needs changing. We really want to have this as correct as possible. If you have changes call the church office and leave a message or call between 6:30 and 8:30 on Wednesday & Thursday evenings.



**EASTER CANTATA**

Do you like to hum the traditional Easter hymns? Perhaps you'd also like to sing with the choir on Wednesdays at 7 p.m. as they practice the cantata, Wondrous Love. Altos, sopranos, tenors, and basses are all welcome to join the celebration prepared for Palm Sunday.

Using the well-known hymn "What Wondrous Love Is This?" as a focal point, this cantata blends Lenten and Easter hymn settings with beautiful new songs resulting in a dynamic work. The arrangements are woven together with compelling narrative to create a moving service of worship in the Easter season.

## MARCH SERVICES

The month of February's featured preachers are as follows:

March 2—Dr. Charles House  
 March 9—Blake Humphrey  
 March 16—Morris Maruska  
 March 23—Vicki Reidinger  
 March 30—Dan Tennefos



## NEW LIFE CENTER PRAYER BREAKFAST

The New Life Center is sponsoring its 26th Annual Prayer Breakfast on Thursday, April 3, 2003, at 9:30 a.m. at the West Acres Holiday Inn in Fargo, and its 4th Annual Evening Dessert on Thursday evening April 3, 2003 at 7:30 p.m. at the West Acres Holiday Inn in Fargo.

Speaker for the breakfast and dessert will be Elisabeth Elliot who has modeled courageous faith for more than forty years of public life. Her wisdom comes from her experiences as a twice-widowed wife, mother, grandmother, missionary, Bible translator, radio broadcaster, public speaker, and best-selling author. Her many books include Keep a Quiet Heart, A Path Through Suffering, The Savage My Kinsman, and her most recent book Safe in the Everlasting Arms.

Tickets for the event are \$12 for the breakfast and \$7 for the evening dessert. We must purchase our tickets as a group to assure that we will be seated together. Usually the date for purchasing the tickets is early March. The exact date will be known after February 21. You can either tell Delores Horn that you would like to go or leave a message on the answering machine at the church.

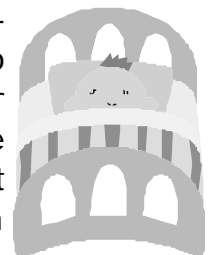
## SUNDAY SCHOOL CALENDAR

<i>Palm Sunday</i>	April 13th
NO SUNDAY SCHOOL <i>Easter Sunday</i>	April 20th
Confirmation Sunday	May 4th
Senior Recognition Potluck	May 18th
Last day of Sunday School	

## UPDATE ON CUDDLE UPS

Carol Sterup has met with Cathy Suedel of Cass County Social Services about the Cuddle Ups. Cathy told Carol that they have given 29 of the 65 blankets donated by the Church to children in their care. She stated that the children are very pleased to receive the blankets and that it seems to be giving Social Services a different image. Rather than being the bad guys who take the children from their homes, the children feel that the people at Social Services really care about them. Cathy said that they were surprised that the 8 - 12 year old age group are the children who seem to be the happiest to get the blankets.

Carol has provided Cass County Social Services with another 19 blankets and would like to be able to purchase more fabric when it is on sale. Let's all remember to contribute \$5 a month to this project or if that isn't possible contribute whatever whenever you can. Be sure to mark your contribution for the Cuddle Up Fund. We seem to have found a project that is making a difference in the lives of these children.



## ILL AND HOSPITALIZED MEMBERS

Do you want your church family to know when you are having serious health problems? Do you want spiritual support during your illness/hospitalization? If so, please tell one of the elders (or the pastor)

We want to know when you are facing health problems. That's why when you are admitted to a hospital, you are asked, "Do you want your church notified?" Very few - only 3 or 4 out of 60+ admissions per day- request notification of a church/faith community.

Why are requests so low? Here are a few reasons that are given.

**"Oh, it's a small town. They already know."** Maybe, maybe not. Clergy and elders prefer two or three calls about you rather than none. If none, they miss an opportunity to be in touch and provide spiritual support.

**"They are too busy."** Yes, church people are busy, but your situation is worthy of their time and energy. Hospitalization is significant and often, spiritual support can be helpful.

**"I don't want anyone to know."** Your privacy will be respected. An elder (or pastor) can visit and no one needs to know. He/she will keep it quiet, especially if you ask.

**"It's not serious."** Maybe, but maybe not. Often we are reluctant to admit the seriousness of a health issue. A spiritual support visit may help greatly in dealing with a heavy burden. If it is not serious, then you and one of the elders (or pastor) can rejoice and give thanks to God.

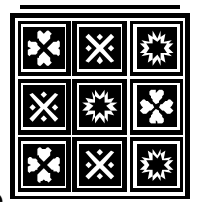
Your health and well-being is important. Your elders (or pastor) are available to help you attain this goal.

## BROWN PAPER BAGS



For the next few weeks when the grocery bagger asks "Paper or Plastic?" we would like you to answer "Paper, Please." The New Life Thrift Store needs brown paper grocery bags to use in the store. If you already have a supply of them please drop them off at the church, and we will see that they get to the New Life Center. There will be a basket or box in the Narthex to put them in.

## QUILT RAFFLE TICKETS



We have received the permit from the City of West Fargo to hold our Quilt Raffle. The Quilt is queen-sized and is in the Log Cabin pattern in shades of blue.

The tickets will be printed in the next week or so and we ask that each family take at least one book (10 tickets) to sell. The tickets will be sold for \$1.00 each. The tickets will be available in the Narthex as soon as we get them printed. We will also be selling the tickets at the Rummage Sale on April 5th at the Veterans Memorial Arena.

The drawing for the Quilt will be held on May 4 during coffee hour in the Fellowship Hall.

We are hoping that the proceeds from the Raffle can be used to start a fund for remodeling the sanctuary and getting new carpeting. Let's all work hard to make this project a success.

## PNC SORTS THROUGH CANDIDATES

We are working smoothly and methodically through candidates that have been referred to us through our denomination's leadership matching system. To date, we have sorted through about 50 names of both current pastors and soon to be ordained seminarians. Of these, we decided to contact about fourteen or fifteen people.

Our initial phone calls are mostly introductory and involve asking the candidate where they are in their search. Then, if they are still open to a call, we tell them about our church and ask to have further conversations with them after they have had a chance to read through our church information form. At the time of this writing, four or five individuals are in conversations with us. Four or five have indicated no interest, and still four or five others are just now being contacted.

Our meetings typically begin by asking for God's help in this process. Before we do any business, we hear a reading from the Bible and have a prayer for illumination. Then, we launch into reports on where we are with candidates. Next, we systematically sift through any names that we have received during the previous week from Presbytery. Finally, we decide what the marching orders will be for the week to come. At the end of our get-togethers, we have another prayer to help strengthen us for the



tasks that lie ahead. This helps to remind us that we very much need to have God be a part of this enterprise.

We are still early in the hunt, but there are solid leads out there, and we are going after them. We are enthusiastic, and it does not seem to be a chore to get together each Sunday evening.

Finally, the PNC would like to thank all of you for your kind words of encouragement. We are also especially appreciative of all the heavy lifting so many members and friends are performing to keep the church running so smoothly. It is a comfort to know that the PNC can focus on its tasks without having to worry about the spiritual health of our church. For this we say, "Praise the Lord!"



## ARE YOU MISSING SOMETHING?

Are you missing a cake pan, a casserole dish or maybe some Tupperware? Several such items have been left in the church kitchen after potlucks. If you think that one of these items might be yours, please check them out next time you are in church. We would like to get them back to their owners.