

Have you considered endowing your annual pledge to the church? You can give, or put in your will, a designated amount, for the church's Endowment Fund, with the interest being given, every year on, to the ongoing support of the church's budget.

THE PEW BAGS ARE READY! The pew bags are ready and are for sale. A display is set up downstairs by the entrance of JKH. Act quickly or you will lose out, because when they are gone, they're gone.

SAFE AVENUES WOMEN'S SHELTER: Please consider donating gently used or new toys, books, children's items, etc., or make a monetary donation to the Jr. & Sr. High youth to purchase items to wrap and deliver to the Safe Avenues Women's Shelter on Friday, December 23rd.

The Youth are invited to meet at the church at 6PM that evening to travel to Wal-Mart, purchase gifts, return to the church to wrap their items and eat pizza and later deliver the gifts to Safe Avenues.

Once the gifts are delivered, we'll return back to church for popcorn and a Christmas movie. Please bring \$2 to help with the cost of food, and you may invite one friend. Parents may pick you up at 11PM. Please sign up in the Narthex.

ACTS OF RANDOM KINDNESS: Remember to share your Acts of Random Kindness stories in the ARK located on the counter of the kitchenette in the Narthex. There are paper/pencils for you to write down an act of kindness you have done or witnessed, and place it in the slot on the top of the ARK. All of these stories will be printed in the January/February edition of the VOICE Newsletter.

ADVENT DEVOTIONS BOOKLETS are available to pick up on the table in the Narthex and on the table in the back of the sanctuary.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE BEST CHRISTMAS PAGEANT EVER: Come see the Carlson family perform at the Barn Theatre. Show dates are December 1st-4th, and 8th-11th. Sunday dates are 2:30 matinees. Call the Barn Theatre for reservations, 235-9500.

O HOLY NIGHT! First Reformed Church Christmas Cantata at First Reformed Church-1237 15th St. SW, Willmar. December 4th at 7PM. Free will offering.

LUCIA DAY FESTIVAL: 59th Annual Lucia Day Festival-Bethel Lutheran Church-*Share A Cup of Christmas*. Saturday, December 10th from 8AM-11AM. Coffee and festivities-Join Us!



THIS WEEK'S OPPORTUNITIES



Sunday, December 4	8:45 a.m.	Adult Ed
.....	9:00 a.m.	Christmas Program Practice
.....	10:00 a.m.	Worship-Congregational Meeting
.....	11:00 a.m.	Fellowship
Tuesday, December 6	6:30 a.m.	Men's Bible Study
.....	7:00 p.m.	Deacons
Wednesday, December 7	6:00 p.m.	Gospel Rock
.....	6:00 p.m.	Confirmation Class
.....	6:30 p.m.	Bells
.....	7:00 p.m.	Sr. High Youth
.....	7:45 p.m.	Choir
Thursday, December 8	10:00 a.m.	Women's Morning Fellowship
.....		Christmas Gathering at Perkins
.....	4:30 p.m.	Soul Sisters
.....	4:30 p.m.	Girl Scouts
.....	6:30 p.m.	Music Team
.....	7:00 p.m.	Building and Grounds Committee
Sunday, December 11	8:45 a.m.	Adult Ed.
.....	9:00 a.m.	Christmas Program Practice in JKH
.....	10:00 a.m.	Worship
.....	11:00 a.m.	Fellowship
.....	11:00 a.m.	Family Christmas Choir Practice
.....	11:00 a.m.	Nurture and Fellowship Committee

Ushers: Deb & Terry Holmquist **Greeters:** Bud & Harriet Altman
Projectionist: Deb Grunwald **Pulpit Assistant:** Sue Schiro
Coffee: Bev Skare & Bea Ourada **Pianist:** Jill Boeyink
Advent Candlelighters: Brent and Gretchen Schlosser and family
Communion Servers: Jerry Bulthuis, Sharon Bakker, Steve Bell, Colleen Christensen

LAST SUNDAY: 127 members and visitors gathered for worship. There was no Sunday School or Adult Ed.

PRAYER REQUEST FORMS are on the stand at the back of the sanctuary-please give to the ushers. We also ask for prayer requests at the time of congregational prayers.

PRAYER REQUESTS: Pastor Richard and the passing of his mother; Rosemary Habicht; Merv Ellwood; Diann Anderson; Bob Clark; Julie Ruter; Bonnie Fritze; Ersie Quimby.

FAMILY MEMBERS SERVING ELSEWHERE: Rob Grunwald, U.S. Coast Guard – Lake Michigan in Two Rivers, Wisconsin; Jon Underdahl-Peirce – Peace Corps, Burkina Faso West Africa, Jeffrey Johnson, Army National Guard – Afghanistan; Steph Ourada, Army – Afghanistan

NOMINATING COMMITTEE NOMINATES: At the congregational meeting today the Nominating Committee nominates: Diann Anderson, Betty Knutson, Mel Odens, and Connie Spartz for two year terms on session; Cheryl and Jeff Tebbens, David and Marsha Little for two year terms on deacons; Marguerite Austin and Marie Grunwald for one year terms on deacons; Ron Kaenel for three term on Mission Fund Board. Also, four members of the congregation need to be elected to be on next year's Nominating Committee.

FAMILY CHRISTMAS CHOIR: Following the worship service next Sunday, December 11th there will be a brief time for the Family Christmas Choir to meet and run through the one piece we'll be singing at the 5:00PM Christmas Eve Service. Everyone is invited to join this choir, it doesn't matter the age, just come if you would like to sing as a family choir. Contact Jill or Marcia if you have any questions.

CHANGING TIMES: ADAPTING TO RESOURCE CONSTRAINTS: December 11th at 1:30PM and December 15th at 6PM-First Presbyterian Church in the downstairs movie theatre. Many futurists predict that, after centuries of ever-increasing annual consumption of resources, the human race will have to learn to live with less and less. Very likely, petroleum supplies will be the first to contract. We will view and discuss excerpts from two documentary films. They explore our dependence on petroleum and how life will be affected by diminishing supplies.

ALTERNATIVE GIFT ITEMS BROUGHT BACK FROM HAITI: Becky Armstrong and Connie Spartz will have the alternative gift items they brought back from Haiti in the narthex after church. Proceeds will go to the Mission Committee. Included are small bottles of Haitian vanilla and almond extracts, bracelets made of horn, metal sculptures, and woven jute coasters.

COMMUNITY MEAL: Group 2 is serving the community meal on December 11th.

2012 PLEDGE CARDS: Budget and Finance Committee is reminding you that if you have not turned in your 2012 pledge for the general fund you do so as soon as possible so that the 2012 budget can be completed. Building Fund pledges were made for three years in 2010, so only those who have not made a three year pledge should complete a pledge for the Building Fund. Pledge cards are available in the office if you have mislaid yours. The Committee would also like to remind you to catch up on your 2011 giving if you are behind. Thank you, again from the Committee for your good responses this year.

“FAITH TALK OF THE WEEK”: How do you answer the questions, “Why do some people suffer so much?” Discuss this at home or with friends!

OFFERING ENVELOPES are ready to be picked up and are on a table in the Narthex. A special thank-you to Inez Eddy for coming in and labeling all the boxes ☺

EAGLE SCOUT CEREMONY FOR SETH JONATHAN TEBBEN: Congratulations to Seth Tebben who will be awarded his Eagle Scout this afternoon at the Kerkhoven Lutheran Church at 2PM. This is a very high honor and we're so proud of him!

POINSETTIAS: We would like to decorate the Narthex once again with poinsettias. You may purchase a red poinsettia in memory or honor of someone. The cost is \$15. Checks should be made to First Presbyterian Church, earmarked “poinsettia”. Please also include who you are purchasing it for so that we can put that information in our December 24th bulletin. **Order forms are on the table in the narthex** or contact the office with your order before December 19th. The poinsettias will be on display in the Narthex through the holiday season and may be picked up after the Christmas Eve services.

NEEDED: As of January 4th a new 4th and 5th grade Gospel Rock teacher(s) is needed. Resources are available to look through and use as your curriculum. Please contact Jill Boeyink if you are interested, or have any questions.

MITTEN TREE MISSION: A Mitten Tree Mission for the Salvation Army will take place in our church through December 17th. Hand knit mittens, scarves and hats for all ages, especially teens are needed. If you don't knit you may purchase items or provide yarn. If you have any questions please contact Dorothy Caine or Sally Packer. Thank-you!

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM: Our Annual Children's Christmas Program is scheduled for Sunday, December 18th during the 10AM Worship Service. The N&F Committee will be hosting a meal following the service in JKH. Food and drink will be provided. There will be a free will donation.

ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS TABLE: Our Alternative Christmas Table is set up in the hallway near the main entrance to the Sanctuary. Buy or donate a Christmas gift that helps make a difference in the world! Buy Chico bags as a reusable shopping bag to help the environment; buy olivewood carvings that help support a Christian coop in Bethlehem, Palestine; or buy Equal Exchange coffee to help third world farmers. Give a donation in someone's name to the Willmar Area Food Shelf, Heifer Project, the local Habitat For Humanity, or Presbyterian Clearwater Forest.

WOMEN'S MORNING FELLOWSHIP: Women's Morning Fellowship Christmas get-together on Thursday, December 8th at 10AM at Perkins Restaurant in Willmar. All women are welcome!



Thank-you for all the cards, thoughts and prayers during and after my surgery. It means a lot for us to be part of this wonderful church family.

~Bob and Diann Anderson

SUNDAY ADULT ED CLASSES: December 11th-Jon Gubrud on Parenting in a Text Messaging World; December 18th-Sheila on Advent; December 25th and January 1st-No Class.