



The Tidings

January 2012

Ministerial Moments

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HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Wow! Another year gone. I will have been here 5 years as of February 1, 2012. My 10 year anniversary of ordination is in March. It's hard to believe so much time has gone by.

Has everyone made their New Years' Resolutions yet? I quit making resolutions a few years ago and started naming goals. With a goal, I can work toward it and see progress, whereas a resolution seems absolute and if I slip, I feel that the resolution is broken so I push it aside with a feeling of guilt and failure.

Before setting goals, I feel it is important that I mention the things of this past year that I am thankful for:

1. I am very thankful for all the support shown me by the congregation after Mom's passing last April.
2. I am thankful for the Church Council which has been very supportive this year and has taken responsibility for many of the church administration items I previously felt Ron and I had to do:

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2012 Annual Meeting Sunday, January 15th

Correction!!!

In the December Tidings, I had the wrong date for the Annual Meeting.

Annual Meeting is Sunday January 15th.

We will enjoy a potluck dinner after church service and then begin our meeting. All organizations should have all reports to Lori by January 1. No reports will be accepted after this date. You can email them to loriselman@gmail.com. If you have any questions, please feel free to ask.

2012

Comments from the Church Mouse

Last year I told you the story of a long ago relative who had been in the stable in Bethlehem when the Christ Child was born. It was a true story and makes me proud to think that I am of the lineage of one of the first creatures to see and worship baby Jesus, the light of the world.

The lights around town, or at least the ones I can see from church, are very festive. I love our “rose window” and its wreath. It is so pretty. Our church looks beautiful with the advent decorations.

With all the weddings we have had lately, our church has been ornamented in many different ways, lovely ways. I just wish people would decorate with food. A magazine someone left in fellowship hall showed arrangements of fruit that looked yummy, fit for a bride or a little mouse. Ah, well.

Now I will wait for the Annual Meeting and its food. If I’m careful, I can score some tidbits afterwards. Our church has such good cooks. I hope they are giving Evangelical Daughters recipes for the cook book they are putting together.

Besides food, what also pleases me is having the choir back. Oh, I just enjoy the music so much, and Miss Nancy, the organist/pianist is a nice lady. She has several dogs and two cats at home, so she is used to animals. I just want her to keep her cats at home. I’m friendly – just not that friendly.

Weren’t the kids cute when they sang for us the Sunday before Christmas? I enjoy them also, but I watch them from my hidey-hole.

I was glad to hear that Jim and Dixie Ferrell are doing better and so is Dean Robert. I care about the members of my/our church.

I hope all of you are ready for the winter season. Lay in a store of food the way I do, and you’ll be set for bad weather. Stay warm and come to church when you can.



Poinsettias - In Memory and Honor List

In Memory of	ART & JULIETTA BOTTIAUX	from Julie Imes
In Memory of	DONALD L & ELEANER C. EICHENBERGER	from Ron & Gail Geisel
In Memory of	MR. JOHN G & BERNICE A. GEISEL	from Ron & Gail Geisel
In Memory of	EUGENE BARBEE, ART & MILDRED CROMER	from David Barbee and Nancy Barbee
In Memory of	GORDON WALKER, HELEN ALDERDICE	from David Barbee and Nancy Barbee
In Memory of	LOVED ONES	from Mike & Peggy Dierks & Tim Campbell
In Memory of	HARRY SR. & SELMA HOLCOMB	from Dave & Pete Dressel
In Memory of	HARRY HOLCOMB JR.	from Dave & Pete Dressel
In Honor of	GRANDCHILDREN – ETHAN, ERIK, JACOB & LAUREN COWELL	from Dave & Pete Dressel
In Honor of	MERVIN & RUTH ERB	from Todd Erb
In Honor of	FAMILY AND FRIENDS	from Marlene Vogel Karstens
In Memory of	SHANNON CATHCART	from Ken & Lorrie Lehman
In Memory of	ROY & VI LEHMAN	from Ken & Lorrie Lehman
In Memory of	MITZI & RICH RICHARDSON	from Ken & Lorrie Lehman
In Memory of	JOHN MERCER	from Carol Mercer
In Memory of	DON RIESS	from Jean Riess
In Memory of	LOVED ONES	from Kean & Kathleen Robert
In Honor of	OUR FAMILY	from Kean & Kathleen Robert
In Memory of	SHANNON CATHCART	from Gary & Susie Stewart
In Honor of	RYAN, CRYSTAL, NOLAN & ASHLYN CATHCART	from Gary & Susie Stewart
In Memory of	LOVED ONES	from Charles & Janice Schmidt
In Memory of	BERNICE SCHMIDT	from Robert Schmidt and Family
In Memory of	ARTHUR & ELSIE SINN	from Dale Sinn
In Memory of	ALBERT & EDYTHE WAELTZ	from Duane Waeltz

Ministerial Moments Continued from Page 1

- a) Marlene took a load off my shoulders with personnel matters like interviewing potential organists
 - b) Bobbie got the trees taken care of and checked out many other trustee matters.
 - c) Larry, in addition to being a good President, got the bell rotated and maintained and has been working on places around the bell tower where water used to set and leak.
 - d) Bobbi and Susie put together a new guide book for potential wedding couples and building use
 - e) Curt is getting the elevator registered and maintenance authorized.
3. I am thankful for having the opportunity to perform/participate in 4 weddings this year.
 4. I am thankful that Lori is always in communication with me and gets things done in a timely matter and that Dale keeps the church clean and the lawn cut.
 5. I am thankful we have a new organist in Nancy Barbee and that she is bringing her husband, David, to church with her.
 6. I am thankful to my husband, Ron, for being able to help-out when ever he is needed.
 7. I am thankful for all the work Daughters, and Funds and Fellowship do for the church.
 8. I am thankful for Sonshine Corner's presence in our community and our outreach through it.
 9. I am thankful for every bit of feedback, or questioning I get from members of the congregation even if I don't seem like it at the time because it helps me grow.
 10. Thank you for Gary Stewart for fixing the church's, my, and Ron's computers
 11. I am thankful for being here in Marissa and at this church. I am sure that I have left someone out that I should have thanked which is always the case when one names names, but please, if you have worked hard and not been thanked, consider it done.

Goals for the next year are on-going. The on-going goal for the past 20 years has been to lose some weight. I am a yoyo dieter and after some bad experiences about 20 years ago, I let dieting slide. Since I've been here, I've gotten increasingly less physically active also, so that is goal #2. The last two or three years Ron has gotten me presents I asked for which were supposed to help but exercise bikes, etc. don't work if you don't use them. I am hoping by writing this that it will help hold me responsible. Gluttony is supposedly one of the seven deadly sins and since it tends to be my one of my most obvious, it is definitely important to work on.

Other goals are constant: continue to work on listening, improving communication, improving pastoral skills, be open to suggestions, opinions, and differences; spend more time in prayer, spiritual pursuits.

Life is a journey. So is our pathway in Christ. We are born, enter into the life of the church as children, become members of the body of Christ through baptism and continue our Christian education. Those who are baptized as children later take further education we call Confirmation. Our education as Christians should not end there. Hopefully, we will continue, as many of you have, to go to church, read the Bible and pray, growing in our knowledge of Christ and how to live as Christians.

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A number of ironies have struck me this week. As I write this today, word has come that one of this era's best know atheists, Christopher Hitchens, has died of cancer. I was familiar with his writing from a column he had regularly in Vanity Fair magazine, but I have yet to read his book regarding religion. As I read of his death, I am finishing a book by A.J. Jacobs called The Year of Living Biblically. Mr. Jacobs is a secular Jew and agnostic. He decided to try an experiment of following as many of the laws in the Bible as possible for one year and to see where it led him. He is married and has a young son. He and his wife are trying to have more children. Some of the story is funny. Some of it is insightful as he explores not only the reading of the Bible, but communicating with a number of conservative, even Hasidic Jews, and evangelical Christians on his journey. Imagine what it would be like if you had never prayed before and you had to figure out how to pray. He asks questions of people as to why certain things are done; i.e. why there are no longer animal sacrifices. He has several Jewish and Christian clerical advisors and goes to some Bible study classes. Through trying to live Biblically, he begins to feel that he is connecting with his ancestors. He sees advantages to rituals like prayer and watching his language. I have not finished the book yet, but I doubt he will become a Christian. He stated early into his study of the New Testament that the leap was too great and he felt that he was somehow betraying his ancestors, still we know that while some people may have a sudden, born-again experience, most of us have a more gradual growth of faith and spirituality. One year of living Biblically is probably not enough. It would be interesting if someone who considered themselves a secular Christian (believing, but inactive or relatively un-churched) tried the same experiment.

Earlier this week, it was announced that only 51% of adults are now married. Think of it. I have been ordained 9 years, 10 come February. In that time I have done 8 marriages; one at my first interim in Tehachapi, then my daughter's, and then 6 here, four of which were this year. It is indeed special that four couples should decide to have their marriages at our church this year in a time when more and more couples are not making a marriage commitment.

God works in mysterious ways. Some think the world may end this year because the Mayan Calendar does not go beyond 2012. Others may see the coming election next November as the end of the world in one way or another. Christ said that we cannot know when the end is near; that we must always be prepared. What we can know, is that no matter what happens God is with us. Let our faith in God and our desire to do His Will be our primary goal this year.

Blessings,
Pastor Gail

Daughter Bazaar Winners

The winners in the raffle held at the Evangelical Daughters Bazaar were:

Quilt - Shelly Schneider

Baby Afghan - Janice Schmidt

Crystal Dessert Set - Cyndi Muelhauser

RADA Cutlery - Janice Schmidt

Angel with Candle - Cecilia Kiminel

Thank you to all who helped in any way.

Greeters and Ushers for January and February

JANUARY

Jan. 1: Milton & Blanche Schmierbach, Ruby Lehman

Jan. 8 & 15: Leroy @ Marlene Karsten, Sandy Smith

Jan 22 & 29: Eloise Fauth, John & Janet Fauth

FEBRUARY

Feb. 6 & 13: Bob & Imogene Lehman @ Gary & Susie Stewart

Feb. 20: Fred & Marilyn Lewis, David Keim

Feb. 27: Dorothy Dressel, David Keim, Kay Trotter

Birthdays

Alberta Schifferdecker	2
Gary Stewart	3
Robert Schmidt	5
Terry Jenkins	10
Lindsay Lehman	10
David B. Schneidewind	11
Marilyn Wine	12
Judy Heil	14
Evelyn Schneidewind	15
Eloise Fauth	19
Dale Sinn	21
Kenny Lehman	27
Dennis Sinn	28
Matthew Lewis	30
Charles Schmidt	30

January Birthdays and Anniversaries



Anniversaries

Gary & Susie Stewart	1
Ken & Joyce Fitch	14

January 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Reports due for Annual Mtg.	2 Evangelical Daughters Mtg. 7:00 pm	3	4 Choir 7:30 pm	5	6	7
8	9 Illinois South Conference Books Close	9 Council Mtg 7:00 pm	11 Choir 7:30 pm	12 Epiphany	13	14
15 Annual Meeting After Worship, potluck	16	17 J & W Meeting 1 pm (Mascoutah)	18 Choir 7:30 pm 18-25th Week of Prayer from Christian Unity	19	20	21
22	23	24 Pastor Gail on Vacation 24th to the 30th.	25 Choir 7:30 pm	26	27	28
29 Substitute Preacher—TBA	30	31				

Carpet Fund

Did you know the church has a fund set aside to replace the church carpet? A year or so ago, Evangelical Daughters began a fund to replace the carpet in the sanctuary. With money from the Wurstmarkts, Christmas Bazaar, and memorials in honor of Eleanor Eichenberger, this fund grew to \$4163.90.

Funds and Fellowship has recently added \$1500.00 to the fund giving it a total of \$5663.90. Cost of replacing the carpet in the sanctuary, entry-way, and hallway, however, will cost approximately \$10,000.00. If you would like to make a donation to this fund, please make your donation to Evangelical Daughters. Thank you.



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