

Please Note: This newsletter will look very different to you without all the graphics, etc, but Marian Moore is having health problems and Ken is busy taking care of her so I am just filling in for a month. Bear with me please..... Lois Jorlin

Outside My Window

"Where in the world is God?" a phrase heard on more than one occasion after the Haiti earthquake; people seeking to find reason for tragedy. It is a statement heard after the bombing of the World Trade Center, after natural disasters and other times of horrific devastation or loss. Perhaps it is something you have said or thought during a time of difficulty or loss in your life.

As the season of Lent begins I invite you to join in a study that seeks to answer that very question. Beginning Thursday the 25th of February and every week thereafter, until Maundy Thursday, we will be studying a Lenten series title, "Where In The World Is God," written by Stephen J. Carter.

Often in Lent individuals give something up, chocolate, donuts, a favorite television show, shopping and a myriad of other things. This year, however, I challenge you to add something to your life and join in this study, which begins each week with a soup and sandwich supper, beverage and dessert.

Lent begins at a time of year when the gray days of winter seem they like they will never end. This is an opportunity to join with friends and family in a journey toward spiritual discovery. We will consider four questions that will serve as benchmarks along this path of spiritual enlightenment:

- Where is God in the world?
- Where is God in my world?
- Where am I in God's world?
- Where is God in his world?

To assist the Fellowship Committee with meal preparation we request that a sign-up sheet in an upcoming church bulletin be filled out, or please call the church office (815-246-8004) to register your attendance.
In Christ's love, Pastor Del

February Lay Readers for Traditional Service

7	Sandra Kofoed
14	Marcia Spies
21	Mary Keilman
28	Bill Martin

Session Report

The Session met on January 11, 2010. The 2010 Budget was discussed and reviewed for the Annual Meeting. A Lenten study was discussed paired with a light supper beginning in February. The movie "Flywheel" will be shown on January 30th at the church. The Angel Food Ministry will also be helping Leland, in the near future.

Jane Russell, Clerk of Session

Deacons Report

Serving and preparing for communion on Feb. 14 is Kaye Druen, Casandra Mitchell, and Jeannie Van Horn
In charge of Angel Food Snacks - Karen Gibson
Flowers for Feb. - Casandra Mitchell
We are working on Angel Food Baskets.

The next Deacons meeting will be February 22nd.
Karen Gibson

Angel Food Ministries

We just finished our first year of Angel Food Ministries. I hope everyone at EUPC agrees with me that it was a success and that they are glad that we have taken on this ministry. We have reached out to a lot of people in the local areas around Earlville. The need for this way of reaching out to people is more important than ever. We had a total of 72 orders this month.

It was wonderful to see the church full of our members working to reach others. Any extra money contributed is added together to purchase a box to give to someone in need. I give everyone who has ever worked on a distribution day a great **big hug** and **thank you**.

This months order dates are Wed. Feb. 10th 1-2, Sat. Feb. 13th 3-4 and Sun. Feb. 14th 10-11 and 12-1.
Menus are posted on both church bulletins. Judy Robb

Acolytes for February

7	Travis & Tyler Bretsch
14	Sarah Kofoed, Catrina Martin
21	Tessa Konzal, Abby Eckles
28	Breanna Novak, Jamie Hardin

Ushers for February

Jean Imel
Karen & Mark Mathesius
Pat Russell

Coffee Hour February

7 th	Mary Keilman, Brian & Kelly Keller
14 th	Keith & Myra Flcikinger, Angela Konzal
21 st	Sandy Cockcream, Patti Carter
28 th	Don & Judy Robb, Randy & Wendy Keller

Church Attendance - both services

Dec. 20 th	65	50
Dec. 24 <u>5:00pm</u>	125	<u>8:00pm</u> 30
Dec. 27	34	45 (baptism)
Jan 3, 2010	49	38
Jan, 10	59	43

Keep In Your Prayers

Hazel Helm Marian Moore (illness)
John Mash Pat Russell (GB surgery)
Pat Russell's father, Ernie Russell (illness)

Our Church Family.....

Our Prayers and Sympathy go out to:

Jane Boardman whose mother died recently.

Betty Edgecomb passed away recently so keep her family in your prayers.

John Rickard, head of the Blackhawk Presbytery, at the passing of his father on Jan 11th.

Delbert Erwin's daughter-in-law's mother passed away.

Special thanks to:

Helen & Dave Goddard for redoing Pastor Del's office. It is freshly painted, reorganized and looking great!! *Now Del, you know what you are supposed to do?!*

"Thanks to all for your prayers and cards." Marian Moore

Lifeline Screening

We received word that Lifeline Screening will be offered February 15th at the Mendota Senior Center. Pre-registration is required by calling 1-800-324-1851.

Screening is done for Stroke/Carotid Artery, heart rhythm, abdominal aortic aneurysm, peripheral arterial disease, and osteoporosis. There is a fee charged of \$139 for 4 tests plus \$10 for the osteoporosis test. It is not reimbursable by Medicare.

February Happy Birthdays to:

1 Frank Green	15 Don Novak
4 Adam Carter	20 Packard Campbell
10 Lynda Lantz	21 Kelly Keller & Abby Eckles
11 Nancy Bidstrup	25 Jane Bunnell
11 April Busse	26 Jeremy Mumm
14 Karen Gibson	28 Bill Eckles

For February...Happy Anniversary to:

3 Rick & Nancy Stallman

Communion February 14

Preparing and serving for Traditional Service:

Kay Druen, Casandra Mitchell Jeanne Van Horn

Elders Serving: Brad Kofoed & Allen Worsley

Chili Cook-off- February 14th

Join us at church on February 14th, Valentine's Day, for a Chili Cook-Off - serving hot and mild chili, rolls, beverage, and dessert all for \$5.00/person. The fun starts at 6:00pm and we hear the competition is 'heating up'. Anyone can enter but the chili must be prepared at the church. Where else can you get by for \$5/plate on Valentines' Day!!!! *Sponsored by Young Life.*

Our 158th Birthday Dinner February 21st

Our Annual Birthday dinner will be held at the church on Feb. 21st at 12:30pm. Meat, rolls, and beverages will be furnished by the committee. You are requested to bring a dish to pass and your own table service.

Our speaker will be Elmer Rhoads who will enlighten us on the windmills we see around our countryside. We see more and more of them every day appearing especially north of us near DeKalb and Shabbona. Most of us don't know the mechanics, cost, and output of these huge windmills. It will be interesting! Questions will be welcome!

Special Services for February

Our **Ash Wednesday service** with the Methodists will be held at our church Feb 17th at 7:00pm.

Beginning on February 25th and every Thursday thereafter through March 25th, a weekly **Lenten service** will be held at the church. The evening begins with a soup and sandwich supper at 6:30pm and the study will last about one hour. This year's theme is **"Where in the World is God?"**

Looking Ahead.....

We want to snap your picture! On May 18th and 19th, 2010, plans are being made to have pictures taken at the church for a new church directory. Mark your calendars now so all can participate. More on this later.

3 Days with God

Would you like to spend 3 days with God? Then it's time to think about **Tres Dias**. It is a 3 day weekend worshipping God. **It will change your life.** The cost is \$125.00 for the entire weekend. . There are no other expenses.

You would leave Thursday night and return Sunday evening. The fee includes transportation, all meals, room and so much more. The men's weekend is May 13-16th and the women's is May 20-23rd. If you need more information please see Pastor Del, Wendy Keller, Brian Pratt, or Don and Judy Robb. Applications are on the front table.



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS



Oh Boy ~ Do We Have Exciting News..... We are going to be starting something new in Sunday School!

Beginning this month, February, on the 2nd Sunday of every month all the classes will be getting together and doing a group class. On these Sundays, the class will not have an actual lesson. Instead, it will include an activity and/or game that is faith based. We will have prayer partners amongst the kids. Each older child will have a younger child and they will be prayer partners. The older child will also help the younger child learn the Books of the Bible, answer questions, talk with them, etc.

January Review:

We had some of our 5th & 6th graders participate in another mission service. On Sat, Jan 23rd, the kids helped with Angel Food Ministries handing out the food. Thank you kids (and Dawn ☺)!

We also had a Sunday School teachers meeting. At this meeting, wonderful ideas transpired! ☺ One of them being, the brainstorming idea for our 2nd Sunday of each month! We also discussed other items, a few of which include: a new idea for our skating fellowship; a new date for Rally Day; and we're introducing a couple new grades to our "home created" curriculum – instead of purchasing curriculum for the rest of the school year!!

Looking Ahead into March....

We are a planning another mission service for this month. We will be helping at one of our local area homeless shelters again. We are looking into the Ottawa PADS this time.

In March, our lessons will lead up to the Great Easter Story!

There will be no Sunday School classes on Easter, April 4th.

"Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it." Prov. 22:6

Respectfully Submitted ~ For Him, Rita Novak

Food For Thought

Ann Lamott, evangelical author of Travelling Mercies and Grace (Eventually), says the two best prayers she knows are "Help me, help me, help me" and Thank you, thank you, thank you". Two very useful and meaningful supplications.

