

# *The Covenant Echo*

A newsletter published by the  
Evangelical Covenant Church  
of Lake Norden, SD

## *January 2011*

### *MISSION STATEMENT*

**We are a church committed to serving Jesus Christ as Lord. We welcome people of all ages and needs. Our desire is to be obedient to God's word through prayer, worship, evangelism, and teaching. As believers, we seek to follow Christ's example in our lives for the glory of God.**

*Church Office: 605-785-3829  
PO Box 15  
Lake Norden, SD 57248*



# ANNOUNCEMENTS!

## JANUARY

- 8 Shirley Hansen
- 8 Austin Monteith
- 10 Valerie Strande
- 13 Derek Geranen
- 13 Mick Tulson
- 14 Margaret Geranen
- 18 Samone Runia
- 28 Heather Runia

## FEBRUARY

- 12 Jennifer Turrill
- 13 Christopher Drake
- 14 Mary Jane Anderson
- 16 Clarice Logan
- 17 Francis Bearden
- 25 Delbert Petersen

## MARCH

- 4 Wes Nelson
- 9 Shari Layman
- 10 Christena Geranen
- 10 Robert Runia
- 11 Gail Nelson
- 16 Dale Thue
- 16 Jaidi Turrill
- 17 Cameron Thue
- 17 Dan Poppen
- 21 Cynthia Runia
- 26 Frances Squashingroff
- 28 Darren Hoyer
- 28 Donald Logan

## APRIL

- 2 John Layman
- 3 Matthew Layman
- 5 Allen Johnson
- 16 Josh Munson
- 17 Rose Olson
- 17 Kathie Tormanen
- 24 Justine Poppen
- 28 Marilyn Tormanen

## CALENDAR of EVENTS

Feb 7<sup>th</sup> .....Pastor on Vacation  
 Feb 9<sup>th</sup> .....All Church Bds meet  
 Feb 13<sup>th</sup> ....David Anderson speaker  
 Feb 20<sup>th</sup> ....Gideon Speaker

March 13<sup>th</sup> ...Daylight Savings Time  
 March 20<sup>th</sup> ...Spring Begins

April 10<sup>th</sup> ....Lenten Service  
 @ Baptist Church  
 April 17<sup>th</sup> ....Lenten Service  
 @ Covenant Church

## FAMILY NIGHT PLUS

Wednesday Evening  
 Meal @ 6pm  
 Light Zone @ 6:30pm  
 Adult Bible Study @  
 6:45pm

NO school-No church activities

## TABLE

Together And Blessed – Let’s Eat!!



TABLE is every Monday evening from 5-7 at the Trinity Lutheran Church. Everyone is welcome to attend! There is no cost for the meal, but a freewill offering is appreciated.

TABLE is a ministry of the  
 Lake Norden  
 Ministerial Association

## Cookie Connection



“Taste and see that the LORD is good; Blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him.”  
 Psalm 34:8

Do you know anyone that would appreciate visitors and **HOMEMADE COOKIES?**

If you know of anyone that is new to the community, has just been in the hospital, is homebound, or in any situation where they would welcome a visit,  
 Let the Cookie Connection know by contacting either the Covenant Church at 785-3829 or Janet Johnson at 785-3636

## MEN, R U HUNGRY?

Tuesday’s at 7:30am  
 Warren Vendt’s  
 Call 785-3180 for  
 Breakfast Reservations.  
 Come join the fun and start your day with a Double Blessing!

**Reminder:** 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month = Bring Food Pantry items and offering for the Benevolence Fund.

## The Pastor's CORNER

### A Recipe for Joy

One of the things my wife enjoys doing with our two little girls is cook. She will take a different letter from the alphabet each week and the girls will learn a scripture verse for that letter and they will also cook something that starts with that letter. They have made a variety of things from A to Z. Q-quesadillas, N-nachos, A-applesauce (homemade), M-mousse, C-cookies and so on...and each dish involves a new recipe. Some are more elaborate than others but there is a recipe none the less.

Recipes don't always have to be for something we eat. We've all heard of a recipe for success, or a recipe for disaster. I would like to give you a recipe from the Word of God for joy. Mix these ingredients together and see what you can cook up for the New Year.

### #1 The Joy that comes from making Gods word personal

**Jer 15:16** Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart: for I am called by thy name, O LORD God of hosts.

**Ps 119:111** Your statutes are my heritage forever; they are the joy of my heart.

**Ps 19:8** The precepts of the LORD are right, giving joy to the heart.

### #2 The Joy of knowing that your heart is right with God

**Psalms 32:11** Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, ye righteous: and shout for joy, all ye that are upright in heart.

### #3 The Joy of winning souls

**Psalms 126:5** They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. 6 He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him.

### #4 The joy of prayer

**John 16:24** Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full.

### #5 The Joy of knowing the presence of the Lord

**Psalms 16:11** Thou wilt show me the path of life: in thy presence is fullness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.

### #6 The Joy of knowing that great is your reward in heaven

**Luke 6:23** "Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, because great is your reward in heaven.

### #7 The Joy of knowing trials

**James 1:2** Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds

### #8 The Joy of knowing that we have salvation

**Ps 149:4** For the LORD takes delight in his people; he crowns the humble with salvation. 5 Let the saints rejoice in this honor and sing for joy on their beds.

**Isa 12:3** With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

**Isa 44:22** I have swept away your offenses like a cloud, your sins like the morning mist. Return to me, for I have redeemed you." 23 Sing for joy, O heavens, for the LORD has done this; shout aloud, O earth beneath. Burst into song, you mountains, you forests and all your trees, for the LORD has redeemed Jacob, he displays his glory in Israel.

**1 Peter 1:8** Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, **9** for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

In conclusion we say with Jude:

**24** To him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy- **25** to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen.

## **Pastor's 2010 Annual Report**

In 2010 we had one funeral service at the Covenant Church...Ruby Skoglund.

There was one baby dedication/baptism...Lila Bentley, November 28th at Sunday morning service.

Nine new members were added: New Members-Brad and Heidi Noem, Pat and Cindy Hauge, Pam Bentley, Roslyn Person, Bertha Waldner, Darren and Vanessa Hoyer.

Family Nights have continued to bring out more kids: 21 to 25 up 6 to 11 kids from last year. We are making new contacts through FCA and Hamlin High School as I continue to work with Wanda Drake on monthly meetings

We are continuing through the Gospel of Luke and Sunday mornings and should finish next year at this time.

Wednesday nights we have been going through a Focus on the Family film series: That The World May Know...attendance ranges between 10 and 18 adults.

I continue to work on required classes for the Covenant Licensing. I attended the Mid Winter in Denver, Co in Feb. 2010 and a Pastor's Retreat in Oct. 2010. I have two classes to finish and hope to complete them in 2011.

The Covenant, Baptist, and Lutheran Churches came together for our annual Independence Day Service (this year at the ball field). Our plans are to continue at the ball park.

The Covenant and Baptist Churches came together for Lenten Services in April, meeting one time at the Baptist Church and one time at the Covenant Church. Both meeting were started with a soup supper.

Community outreach continues to be made through our Christmas program and the Harvest Celebration. The money collected from the Harvest Celebration raised mission funds for the Jarrett family.

We also began a new ministry (Holy Buckets) that raised money about \$200 in two offerings for the Food Pantry. The Sunday School Kids bring the collected monies to the front of the church on last Sunday of the month (we will continue this ministry through 2011).

Ministry continues monthly at the Golden Living Center with a service and singing.

We have 2 students currently in Confirmation: Tyjah Monteith and EJ Drake. Graduation is set for May 2011.

## COVENANT WOMEN NEWS-2010



“Whatever is TRUE, Whatever is NOBLE, Whatever is RIGHT, Whatever is PURE, Whatever is LOVELY, Whatever is ADMIRABLE, If anything is EXCELLENT or PRAISEWORTHY...Think about such things...And the God of PEACE will be with you!” Thank you God!  
Philippians 4:8

All of the women of the church are considered to be members of the Covenant Women organization. It's not possible for all to attend the first Thursday of every month at 2:00 meeting, but everyone is always generously willing to help support and join in the ministry of our group as the need arises. We are so blessed by the fellowship, encouragement, harmony and love we enjoy with each other.

Some of the highlights of our ministry this year:

...A much-needed Church Directory organized by Vanessa Hoyer and published by Lifetouch was completed by July.

...”Break the Chains” awareness of human abuse in North America.

...Missions: Nat'l Covenant, NW Conference, 2 Special Interest missionaries, Local Food Pantry, Jarrett “Ends of the Earth” ministry, Amy Tulson –Costa Rica.

...A 2<sup>nd</sup> Refrigerator was given to our kitchen.

...Fundraisers for Camp Kids.

...Inspiring film “The Lord is my Shepherd” showing where Jesus walked and taught while on earth, explained by Pastor Joe.

...helping with the Lutefisk Supper, potlucks, etc.

...the Harvest Festival special event with the “Celebration” singers of Watertown.

...sharing in song, scripture, concerns, prayers, tears, and laughter.

...Clarice Logan led the way to purchase and package supplies for a complete Christmas Turkey Dinner for ten families. These were distributed to our community through the local Food Pantry.

The ministry and help of Jennifer and Pastor Joe especially bless us. Special thanks go to all who have made this a joyful 2010 year. May the Lord Jesus Christ glorified thru this ministry.

### **CW Officers:**

Pres: Shirley Larson  
Sec: Vanessa Hoyer  
Roslyn Person  
Treas: Janet Johnson

V Pres: Clarice Logan  
V Sec: Margaret Ann Kangas  
Flowers: Mary Jane Anderson  
Covenant Correspondence & Cards:  
Clarice Logan

## **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS-2010**

Happy New Year, I hope everyone's Christmas season was a wonderful one- the C.E. Board is not losing any of its members this year. Thank you to all who sit on this board with me. It has been such fun to serve our church with you.

Our Family Night ended May 5, 2010 with singing at the Golden Living Center and a party at the Church. We restarted Sept. 22, 2010 after a break for the summer. We have between 21-25 kids attending each week for Light Zone, and Pastor Joe is also leading an adult Bible study.

We sent seven kids to the Lake Poinsett Bible camp this past summer. All seven children were paid for through fund raising that the families participated in. We are hoping to send our children there again this summer.

VBS ran from June 28- July 1, the theme was High Seas Expedition. The kids seemed to have a good time. It was well attended with plenty of volunteers helping.

In Sept. a \$100.00 from Sunday School offerings were spent on food for the food pantry and delivered to the Lutheran Church.

One third grade Bible was given out this year to Josh Pagel.

Children's Church is back in session after taking a summer break. We have two classes this year with 14 children attending.

Our Christmas program was run by Wanda Drake and Heidi Noem. The children put on a play where Reporter Mitchell Noem traveled back to Bethlehem, to the birth of Jesus, to find the true meaning of Christmas. the children did a great job as did Wanda and Heidi. Afterward we enjoyed coffee and desserts hosted by the Covenant Women. We passed out over 24 candy bags to kids who performed and who were in attendance.

This year we were able to get 4 tags from the Lutheran Church Angel Tree and provide gifts. Thank you to all who participated.

Blessings to all Jennifer Turrill

## **TRUSTEE'S REPORT-2010**

Trustees for the past year were Burt Tulson, Vice Chairman of the Church, Al Johnson, Julie Severson, Gus Ruotsalainen and Clark Hilton.

The trustees met monthly and were in charge of making sure the necessary maintenance was kept up on the church building and property. The main projects accomplished this year were the patching of the parking lot and getting our church up to code for risk assessment in order to keep our insurance rates down.

The lawn was again maintained by volunteers who did a great job. Due to all the rain, there was a lot of mowing and week pulling to keep up with. Snow removal was also done by volunteers who, again, had a big job due to all the snow. We had a very successful church cleanup day in the

fall which got our church looking great for Fall Festival the next day. A huge thanks to all the above volunteers.

We also thank Gail and Steve for their work as custodians and Gail for her job as church secretary.

God has blessed this church with great leadership and financial support. As of 12/31/10, our budget was in good shape and we had no need to dip into the reserve fund to end the year. We appreciate all who have given this past year to support our church.

Julie Severson, Trustee Board Secretary

### **TREASURER'S REPORT-2010**

Treasurer's report through January: Budget: \$6305, offerings: \$5364. Average offering: \$1341, budget needs: \$1576. We have been short an average of \$235 per week.

### **DEACON BOARD-2010**

Members – Brad Drake, church chairman, Linda Tulson, David Anderson, Bob Severson and Janet Johnson.

The Deacons have set up a Benevolence Fund to be used at Pastors discretion.

The Prayer room has been set up to be used to pray with Pastor before the service.

We had two Sunday night Lenten services with the Baptist Church.

Vanessa & Darren Hoyer, Roslyn Person, Patrick & Cindy Hauge, Pam Bentley, Bertha Waldner, and Brad and Heidi Noem and family joined our church in 2010.

Sunday services will begin at 9:00 the first Sunday in June and return to 9:00 and 10:30 the first Sunday after Labor Day.

Michael Jarrett is a newly appointed Bishop of the Anglican Church.

Pastor Joe will be on vacation Feb. 7<sup>th</sup> through Feb. 25<sup>th</sup> in 2011. Donald Roe, from the Gideons, will be speaking on Feb. 20<sup>th</sup>. We need to find someone to fill the pulpit on the 13<sup>th</sup>.

As Deacons we would like our church to be an outreach to the community. God has been so good to us as a church family. Let's share what God has given to us.

WITH GOD ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE.

# **CHURCH CHAIRMAN REPORT-2010**

Happy New Year with Blessings,

Nothing is impossible with God. Another year has gone by and we have had another year of great teaching to help us understand how true this statement is.

We have seen many answered and unanswered prayers throughout this past year, but we have seen how God is in control in all situations. We have learned many lessons through the year and they continue to teach us to listen to and lean on our Lord, for He is in control!

Thank you to everyone for making our Church a home. The many friendly smiles, handshakes, and hugs (Thanks Clarice) is truly a symbol of God's love. We are so blessed in how God has continued to grow our family with new members. The Lord keeps building his body stronger with people that have the right gifts for making his house stronger.

Thanks to everyone for the dedication and hard work it takes to bring our Fathers Message to everyone that enters and to those around us.

Brad Drake            Church Chairman

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## ***IN MEMORY***



**Brad Nielson, 60**, of Lake Norden died of cancer Tuesday, January 18, 2011, in a care center at Lake Norden. Funeral services were held Saturday, January 22, at 2pm in the Covenant Church at Lake Norden. Geise Funeral Home of Estelline was in charge of arrangements.

Brad was born April 18, 1950, in Watertown, the son of Red and Fern Nielson. He attended Lincoln Elementary School and Madison High School. He then attended Huron Presbyterian College on a presidential scholarship where he majored in theology and hoped to one day become a pastor. He later moved back to Madison where he spent the majority of his life. He enjoyed playing sports as a child. He earned trophies from diving, tennis, shooting marbles, baseball, track, but most of all he enjoyed basketball. As a sophomore in high school, he started as a guard on the varsity team. He also enjoyed his family, friends, his band, playing jazz on the piano, being in school plays and played the tuba in the S.D. All-State Band for several years.

Survivors include three brothers, Jay (Silvia) of Atlanta, Bruce of San Diego and Terry (Nenne) of San Diego: one sister, Julie (Bob) Severson of Lake Norden.

# Top 10 Predictions for 2011

1. The Bible will still have all the answers.
2. Prayer will still be the most powerful thing on Earth..
3. The Holy Spirit will still move.
4. God will still honor the praises of His people.
5. There will still be God-anointed preaching.
6. There will still be singing of praise to God.
7. God will still pour out blessings upon His people.
8. There will still be room at the Cross.
9. Jesus will still love you.
10. Jesus will still save the lost when they come to Him.

Isn't it great to remember who is really in control, and that; "the Word of the Lord endures forever." ( 1 Peter 1:25 )

I hope you found this encouraging!

I sure did, sometimes we need the reminder of just "WHO" is really in control.