

Lewiston Church of the Brethren Lifestyle April 2006

Our vision: Bound together on a journey of faith, we are a Christ-centered community, prayerfully discovering and sharing God's love.

Our Mission: Knowing Christ and making Him known, through worship, growing in faith, community building and service.

“Green shoots will emerge again”

I have been sitting at my desk on this first day of Spring. I've also been shivering from the cold northeast wind blowing across snow-laden fields. It's hard to believe the calendar on a day like this, especially when it looks and feels more like winter. I've had enough of gray skies, bleak landscapes, and coldness that penetrates to my aching bones. I imagine I'm not alone in wanting winter to melt into the warmth and color of springtime. I noticed a push toward spring in the daffodils that graced our tables at Sunday's fellowship meal.

We also have experiences like winter in our lives, when life seems dreary, stark, and our whole outlook turns chilly. We so easily become lost in feeling as gloomy as the sky, wondering if there is hope for sometime better to happen. However, God does not let us stay there in that winter of the soul. Just as the winter will turn into spring, so also our lives will turn around to face the warmth and brilliance of God's presence. All that once was considered damaged, worthless, and barren will be turned into that which is valuable, whole, and fruitful.

As I ponder this, I am reminded of a praise poem by Jan Richardson, a Methodist minister.

Blessed are you, O God,
in whom nothing is wasted.
You salvage the remnant,
the scrap, the shred.
You bless what is left
from the consuming fire, the devouring flood,
the shearing wind, the shifting earth.
All that remains
returns to you
and is reborn again.

Blessed are you, O God,
who brings life from the earth
and will return it to the earth
once again.

May we raise our praise to God who will take the hurting bits and pieces of our lives and bless them so that we may be reborn again, like green shoots emerging from the earth in Spring.

--Sister Cara

April Scripture

2	Jer. 31:31-34; Hebrews 5:5-10
9	Isaiah 50:4-9a; Phill. 2:5-11
16	I Corinthians 15:1-11; Mark 16:1-8
23	I John 1:1-2:2; John 20:19-31
30	I John 2:1-5; Acts 3:12-19

Easter Sunday – April 16

Easter Sunday is a high point of celebration in the lives of Christians. It's our celebration of Christ's conquering and overcoming sin and death and offering His followers new life!

We'll begin our celebration with a Sunrise Service in the cemetery (weather permitting) at 8 am.

Women's Fellowship will serve up pancakes and sausage for a breakfast fund-raiser from 8:30-9:30 in the church fellowship hall.

Celebratory worship will begin at 10am in the sanctuary. Come on out and invite your friends and family to join us!

Hold in prayer

Judy and Bill Jamieson in Judy's upcoming surgery and for her recovery
....*National and world leaders* that they seek God's wisdom in their leadership and work for peace and justice for all people
....*New Church Development projects* in our district;
Hands of Christ in Rochester, *Living Peace* in Sioux City, IA. and *Common Spirit* in Minneapolis

Because we have different ways of expressing our prayer requests and different needs for expression, we ask that you submit any prayer requests you wish to have listed in the bulletin and in the Lifestyle newsletter to the office in writing or via phone. Also notify the office when you wish to have that request removed or moved to "Thanks be to God" as we celebrate answered prayer. Let us continue to make prayer a priority in our congregational life!

For this we pray:

Spend some time reading the Bible, and allow the Holy Spirit to speak to you through the scriptures. Thank God for this gift.

Ask God's blessings on all those who teach classes for children, youth and adults in the church.

Pray for the work being done on various levels to encourage new church development, including training and planting churches.

Ask the Holy Spirit to reconcile the perpetrators and victims of violence related to cartoons of the Prophet Muhammad.

Ask God to open wide the denomination's heart for cross-cultural ministry, and say thanks for the many gifts and blessings that come from different cultures and experiences.

Youth Coffee Fundraiser

Plan to stay for refreshments following worship on Sunday, April 2nd. The youth will be serving "a little lunch" fundraiser - to help with expenses for traveling to National Youth Conference in Fort Collins, Colorado this summer. Jeff Peckover will host the "Coffee" and Sunday School classes will follow.

April Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 1 Timothy Radatz
Mike and Pat Bollinger
- 6 Amy Pospichal-Heublein
Marilyn Glover
- 11 Thomas Lee
- 23 Ray Radatz
- 27 Charles Radatz
- 28 Verna Carlin
Charles and Coralyn Radatz

Thank you...

...for the lovely azalea. It is beautiful and greatly appreciated.

Please remember us in your prayers.
Love, Verna Carlin

Serving us in April

Ushers: Jess Hoffert & Jeff Peckover
Greeters: Lee Family
Jr. Usher Daniel Dahl
Worship Leader: Cliff Bollinger
Worship team: 2 Jess, Diane, Linda, Cassie
9 Cliff, Sue, Karen
16 Cliff, Sue, Karen
23 Uli, Roger, Judy
30 Uli, Jess, Judy
Special Music: 2 Choir
9 Choir
16 Choir
23 Diane Radatz
30 Jess Hoffert
Children's Story 2 Uli Schorn-Hoffert
16 Pastor Cara
30 Millie Bollinger
Children's Church:
9 & 23: Gordon Hoffert
Nursery: 2 Marilyn
9 Linda Risser
16 Penny
23 Linda Dahl
30 Fran B.
Youth Coffee Fellowship: 2-Jeff P.
Fellowship Meal 16 - Easter Breakfast by
Women's Fellowship
Youth Fundraiser Meal: 30 - Youth

MARCH ATTENDANCE AND OFFERING

Date	S. School Attendance	SS offering	Worship Attendance	Worship Offering
5th	17	\$17.00	30	\$ 605.00
12th	23	95.00	35	1,039.00
19 th	--	--	39	1,323.60
Ave.	20	\$56.00	35	\$ 989.20

\$6,584.00—projected need for our ministries each month.

\$2,967.60 received during first 3 weeks of March

Our current deficit -\$10,744.29

God is able to do exceedingly abundantly—above what we can imagine.

Meals on Wheels

If you are available at lunch time April 3-7, to bring a nutritious lunch and a warm greeting to shut-ins and elderly folks in our community, please contact Cleyson and Fran Plank.

Congregational Meeting – April 23

Our Spring congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, April 23, following worship. Youth will serve light refreshments before the meeting. Plan to attend and share your thoughts and ideas about our life of faith in this congregation.

“Chocolat” – Lenten Home Gatherings

Brethren believe that one becomes stronger in the faith by small group Bible studies. There will be an opportunity to continue our growth during Lent as we use vignettes from the movie, “Chocolat” to guide our discussions.

The final one of our three Lenten Home Gatherings will be Sunday, April 2nd, 7:00 p.m, at the home of Dale and Judy Mill. All ages are welcome and of course there will be food and fellowship.

Gulf Relief update

Gary Gahm, our District Relief Coordinator, reports there were 13 persons from Northern Plains involved in the Mississippi Recovery Project January 27-February 4. Four persons from Lewiston, five from Ivester, two from Salem and two from South English. The need for supplies for the recovery is great. It includes 2 extension ladders, cordless drills, miter saw, folding saw table, 16 foot covered trailer, 2 2-ton trucks, and 2 12-passenger vans. The vans are used to transport volunteers to and from the airport. Contact Marlin Hershey at 319-342-4210 if you can help with these donations.



Camp Pine Lake Schedule

The Camp Pine Lake Board announces the schedule for camps in 2006. Plan now for summer camping experiences for your children, youth and family!

Senior High Camp June 12-17, 2006
Middler Camp June 19-23, 2006
Primary Camp June 23-24, 2006
Song & Story Fest July 5-11, 2006 (Yes, our district is hosting this national event!)
Junior Camp July 17-22, 2006
All Ages/Family Camp-September 2-4, 2006

Deacons' Potluck Lunch Meeting will be held Sunday, May 7, following Sunday School.

April Fellowship Meals

Our fellowship and meals in April will take a different format from our usual 3rd Sunday of the month potluck dinner.

We'll enjoy an Easter Breakfast of pancakes and sausage on Easter morning, April 16. Youth will serve "a little lunch" following worship on April 23, before we fellowship over our Spring Congregational Meeting. And we'll celebrate April birthdays at the Youth Fundraising Meal immediately following worship on April 30. Come on out and enjoy these opportunities to share in good food and good conversation together.

District Conference 2006

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

As I prepare for the 2006 District Conference, I have been reflecting on John 14:15. This is the verse from which we have our theme, 'Together: Living Our Love for Jesus.'

This year's District Conference will be very much abbreviated. Rather than our usual three-day conference, we will meet for only three hours from noon to 3:00 p.m. July 1, 2006 at the Des Moines Convention Center. A fellowship meal, worship, Board reports, and our business items will fill our time together.

We are meeting in July this year to attach District Conference to Annual Conference. It has been 48 years since the Northern Plains District has had an opportunity to host the "Big Meeting." Holding our conference then will maximize time, resources, and participation. I am excited about this year's conference!

I ask you diligently to consider participating this year in both the District Conference and Annual Conference. Also, spread the word to others in your congregation. We're going to have a great time! See you in Des Moines July 1!

Diane Mason, Moderator

Adoption Complete

Congratulations to all in the Lewiston Church of the Brethren. We have successfully adopted 2 ½ miles east of the church. It is now our responsibility to keep the roadside clean. The NEW (Nurture, Education, Witness) committee decided this would be a wonderful witness and service project for our church to adopt. So, our investment is our time; at least 2 times a year we are to walk the roadside and pick up trash. We'll wait for the snow to melt and schedule the first clean up time in early to mid spring.

Sometime in the spring the county will put a sign up with our name on it stating that Lewiston Church of the Brethren has adopted part of the highway. Look for more information when it is time to clean!

National Youth Conference

The time is drawing close when we will have 4 youth and one adult advisor head off to Colorado for National Youth Conference. Those attending will be: Jeff Peckover, Jess Hoffert, Joe Lee, Cassie Hendrix & Paula Hoffert. We have been working over the last 2 years to earn enough money to pay for the \$400.00 registration fee per participant and the travel costs for the advisor. Thanks to your generous support we have met our goal. The NYC planning committee has challenged all youth groups to tithe a portion of what they have raised to the Church of the Brethren Global Food Crisis Fund. Our youth have decided to accept that challenge instead of putting the extra that we raise towards their travel expense. So, the next time you donate to a youth cause it will be going to help those who do not have enough to eat. Again, thanks for your strong support of our youth.

April Mission Outreach One Great Hour of Sharing

50 years ago, during World War II and immediately following, Protestant churches made appeals for relief and reconstruction. In 1950 the title “One Great Hour of Sharing” was used for the 1st time. From the beginning this has been an ecumenical effort. As denominations changed and merged, “One Great Hour of Sharing” has varied from 8 to 29 participating groups.

The purpose of “One Great Hour of Sharing” has remained the same: to collect special gifts to assist those in need. Today, projects are underway in more than 100 countries, including the United States and Canada.

“One Great Hour of Sharing” has given Church of the Brethren members a channel to live out our faith and share with others. As we open our hearts through our gifts, may we know the inflowing of God’s love.

Our offering to benefit “One Great Hour of Sharing” will be received on April 9th during our worship service.

Can we serve God with passion?

Hopefully, by the time you read this we will all be enjoying warm April sunshine along with the month’s well-known showers in preparation for the busy planting season. But as I write this on a chilly March morning I look through my window at white-out conditions as the wind redistributes a new blanket of snow. The recently-arrived robins are shivering out there somewhere.

Many of us have a passion for the warmer weather that lies ahead.

Having a passion for something is generally what motivates us. We’ll do a good job if we have a passion for what we are doing.

Right now, in the midst of the Lenten season, we reflect on the Passion of the Christ. Saving us was the reason God gave his son—the only perfect man to walk on this earth. Jesus’ passion was to suffer and endure unbelievable pain for each and every one of us. Because this was God’s plan, and since Jesus was totally obedient to our Heavenly Father His passion made our eternal salvation possible. It’s a gift superior to any other we could ever receive.

God’s wonderful gift should fill us with joy and keep us on the straight and narrow path. Because of this and all the other gifts with which God has blessed us, are we able to give back to Him with praise and thanks for what He has done for us?

We can thank and praise God by attending church, by reading and hearing His word, and being obedient to His Ten Commandments. And when we do, we will realize how we need to support our church from the financial rewards with which God has blessed us. When we support our church, we are providing a place of worship where others may come to learn of God and to hear the message of salvation. We are to reach out to others that they too, might know the joy of the Lord.

Can we do the will of the Lord with passion?

Can we give back to God what is God’s?

He wants to bless us.

Let’s give it a try.

—Fran Bockenbauer

Youth Fundraising Meal – April 30th

Plan to stay following worship on Sunday, April 30th for a tasty lunch fund-raising meal served by our youth. This will be their last fund-raising meal before leaving for National Youth Conference in July.

April birthdays will also be celebrated during this event. So come on out, give generously to support our youth and enjoy great food and fellowship.

Annual Conference

Annual Conference exists to unite, strengthen and equip the Church of the Brethren to follow Jesus.

Our 2006 Annual Conference moderator, Ron Beachley writes, "Discipline was a hallmark of the early faith community. It appeared to be a natural part of commitment, because of the persecution faced by Jesus' followers. Dedication and commitment seem to be lacking from our lives and faith vocabulary today. The church needs to be encouraged and challenged to a stronger commitment.

Therefore, I'm going to challenge us to a new level of discipline and commitment. Part of the discipline will be to read a chapter a day in the New Testament. Secondly, pray daily for an individual who needs to know Christ as Lord and Savior. I would also encourage you to join a "cell group" in your congregation to pray with on a regular basis. I'm proposing, **"TOGETHER: EXERCISE DAILY IN GOD,"** as the theme for the 2006 Annual Conference, using 1 Timothy 4:6-8 as the primary text."

This year's Annual Conference will be close to home! Plan now to attend. It will be held at the Iowa Events Center in Des Moines, Iowa on July 1-5 and our district will host the event. Housing and registration information is available online at www.brethren.org. Contact the church office if you do not have web access and need housing information.

Singing in the Rain

Interest has been expressed about seeing a play together.

Rochester Civic Theater will be presenting, "Singing in the Rain," this month. If you wish to attend the 2 pm show on Sunday, April 9th, please notify Beth Cage by April 2. Ticket cost is \$20.

Bible humor

A new pastor was visiting in the homes of his parishioners. At one house it seemed obvious that someone was at home, but no answer came to his repeated knocks at the door. Therefore, he took out a business card and wrote "Revelation 3:20" on the back of it and stuck it in the door.

When the offering was processed the following Sunday, he found that his card had been returned. Added to it was this cryptic message, "Genesis 3:10." Reaching for his Bible to check out the citation, he broke up in gales of laughter.

Revelation 3:20 begins "Behold, I stand at the door and knock." Genesis 3:10 reads, "I heard your voice in the garden and I was afraid for I was naked."

Love Feast – April 13

We have been invited to join Root River Church of the Brethren for Love Feast on Maundy Thursday, April 13, 7 pm. Let us join together in celebrating God's love for us through Christ and our love for one another as we serve Him together. We'll be carpooling from the church. Please meet in the parking lot at 5:45pm to share the ride.

Faith Ramblin's

In Ephesians 5:1 the Bible tells us, "Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God"

God is love, so we, as His children, need to love others as He first loved us. I struggle with loving others as myself. I'm prone to be too critical of others. God is dealing with me on this issue. The scripture that says we should "do unto others as we would have them do unto us," is where I need to be. God is requiring me to love individuals who are giving me a rough time. He is asking me to forgive again and again. God is asking me to start putting the best construction on all things. It is just as easy to find the good things in others as it is the bad.

God says love always believes the best and keeps no records of wrongs done to it. Love covers the faults of others. In Joyce Meyer's new CD on love, she says the power of life and death is in the tongue. Not only does the tongue speak life and death for others, but it also speaks life and death for us. When we speak evil against others, we open the door for the devil to walk into our life. We learn how to not treat others by going through the same situation ourselves. Our trials give us compassion for others who are going through the same thing that we did.

Isn't it wonderful to know that when God forgives us, He doesn't keep records of it? We also can choose to forgive others and overlook their faults even when they are less than lovable. We can choose to let it go. Resentment builds walls and love builds bridges. In Mark 11: 25 & 26, it says, "And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive him, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins." God forgets, but we have to work on forgiving and forgetting as God does.

We can enjoy a lot more peace and joy if we don't keep records of bad things. Instead, we need to keep records of good things. Love keeps no record of wrongs. I pray for all to receive the grace to let things go and find reasons to think well of others to the glory of God's Holy name. AMEN.

--Linda Risser