

Lewiston Church of the Brethren Lifestyle November 2007

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.

Knowing God – Our Greatest Thanksgiving Blessing

We think of God as Almighty God, Our Heavenly Father, a genuine Friend, a true Companion, our Guide, Ultimate Healer, One who care deeply about each one of us. He is our Hope, the source of our Faith, our Mainstay, our Master, Provider, Caregiver, Promise Keeper. He gives us Hope, Joy, Assurance, and Unconditional Love. He provides protection and security. His presence in our lives is like a "security blanket". To have God's safety net of protection around us feels like a Mama Chicken protecting her baby chicks under her wings. We can feel safe and secure and assured that He is always with us. He is a God of Love, mercy, hope, compassion, and amazing grace. When bad or evil things happen, we can be assured that He is trustworthy and faithful and is walking with us through the journey, when we depend and lean on Him.

God is All-seeing, All knowing, All-powerful, and present everywhere. God knows us; God is with us; and His greatest gift to us is to allow us to know Him. What a privilege and blessing we have!

God is Our Provider. He gives us everything we need. In reading Matthew 6:25-34, Jesus teaches us about worry. He tells us not to worry. All that we need will be provided. The same God who created life in us can be trusted with the details of our lives. A footnote in my Bible gives a good explanation of these scriptures. It says: "Because of the ill effects of worry, Jesus tells us not to worry about those needs that God promises to supply. Worry may (1) damage our health, (2) disrupt our productivity, (3) negatively affect the way we treat others, and (4) reduce our ability to trust God. How many ill effects of worry do we experience? Here is the difference between worry and genuine concern—worry immobilizes, but concern moves us to action." Hmm. Maybe that's a good tool to decipher if we are worried about something or concerned. Are we paralyzed by 'fear of' of 'what ifs,' or are we

motivated to respond. Worrying shows a lack of faith in and understanding of God. Worrying keeps us from real challenges God wants us to pursue.

Another portion of this scripture in Matthew where Jesus tells us to "make the Kingdom of God your primary concern". Again my Bible footnote says: "this means to put God first in our life, to fill our thoughts with His desires, to take His character for our pattern, and to serve and obey Him in everything. What is really important to us? People, objects, goals, and other desires all compete for priority. Any of these can quickly bump God out of first place if we don't actively choose to give Him first place in every area of our life." Hmm. More "food" for thought. Does God really hold "first place" in our lives.

We have a great privilege to learn to know God better and better with each new day. Our Bible is a great tool to learn more of God and His ways. It is God's road map to keep us from making a wrong turn and losing our way. It gives God great pleasure when we look to Him for guidance in this journey of life.

These are not my words...they come from God's Word. There are so many things we can learn when we study the Bible and take segments and "chew on them," or meditate on them, like Sue said in her message one Sunday morning. Do we make God's words a vital part of our everyday life?

God and His Word: True Blessings to be thankful for at this Thanksgiving time and all times.

As we learn and grow in Him,
Judy Mill

**Worship Team practices at
8:45 AM Sunday Mornings**

**Sunday School & Worship times:
9:15 AM Sunday School – 10 AM worship**

Hold in prayer ...

...*Marilyn Glover* and family following the birth of granddaughter, Avah Christine, and the death of her sister, Irene. Avah is in neo-natal care in Rochester. Please pray for Avah and her mother, Janette, for recovery of health.

...*Joey Mundt* as he recovers from surgery

...*all flood victims and families* of those who lost loved ones.

...*National and world leaders* that they seek God's wisdom and work for peace and justice for all people

...*Maxwell Church of the Brethren, Maxwell, IA., Monroe County COB, Albia, IA, Mount Etna COB, Corning, IA, and the District Board/Office at Ankeny, IA,* are the churches and offices we are praying for during this month's District prayer project.

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!

OCTOBER ATTENDANCE AND OFFERING (3 Sundays only)

Date	S. School Attendance	SS offering Offering	Worship Attendance	Worship Offering
7	15	\$8.00	37	\$ 760.00
14	19	10.75	37	680.00
21	11	111.00	36	1,013.10
Ave.	15	\$ 43.25	37	\$ 817.70

\$2,453.10 offerings received during the first 3 weeks of September. God is able to do exceedingly abundantly, above all we can ask or think!

Serving us in November 2007

Ushers: J/L Risser
Greeter: Dahl Family
Worship Leader: Todd Cage
Worship team: 4 Cliff, Sue Karen
11 & 18 Roger, Linda, Fran
25 Judy, Uli, Diane
Special Music: 4 Lois Hoffert
11 Marilyn & Sue
18 Beth Cage
25 Diane Radatz
Children's Story: 4 Sara Laqua
18 Uli Schorn-Hoffert
Children's Church: 11 & 25 Gordon Hoffert
Deacon Caregivers: Judy Mill & Mary Lee
Fellowship Meal Hosts:
18 Mill and Dahl

Thank you...

...for your good wishes, prayers, cards, gifts and for attending our recent 50th wedding anniversary. It was a day of blessings for us.

Earl & Fran Bockenbauer
* * *

Lewiston Church of the Brethren

Thank you for your gift of \$1,080 in support of the flooding relief efforts.

Our highest priority will always be to aid those facing challenges from disaster. Your contribution has made their lives a little easier, restoring hope and resiliency. On behalf of the American Red Cross and those we serve, Thank You.

Stephanie Orr
Board Member
National Red Cross – Winona Chapter

Thanks be to God...

...that Carley Jamieson was able to return home the same day after having 6 baby teeth extracted. Pray this will result in more rest for the whole family.

November Calendar of Events

Sun, Nov. 4: Gathering Hymn Sing before Worship;
Choir Practice following worship;
Youth serve Fund-raiser Lunch following worship;
Fall Congregational Meeting following worship.

Mon-Sat., Nov. 5-10 Long-term Recovery Volunteers in SE Minnesota

M-F Nov. 5-9 Meals on Wheels

Wed, Nov. 7: Women's Bible Study, 8:30am

Sun., Nov. 11 Choir practice following worship

Wed, Nov. 14: Women's Bible Study, 8:30am
Church Board Meeting, 7:30pm

Sun, Nov. 18: Mission: Hands of Service for the Lord
Fellowship Meal: hosts: Mill & Dahl
Missions Pie Auction

Mon., Nov. 19-Ministry Relations Team @ Planks

Wed, Nov. 21: No Women's Bible Study, 8:30am;
Villa Worship Service

Thurs., Nov. 22 – Thanksgiving – Thank God for His
Many blessings

Wed, Nov. 28: Women's Bible Study, 8:30am

November Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 12 Jim Risser
Shawn Sanders
- 13 Wilfred Schossow
Gary and Marilyn Sanders
- 23 Joyce Peckover
- 28 Roger Peckover
- 30 Mary Lee

Singing Together

Choir has formed and will practice each Sunday during November, immediately following worship. It has been said that singing together is not only healthful physically, as we expand our lungs and improve breathing, but also spiritually and emotionally as we take God's positive words within and enjoy fellowship with one another. So, come on out and do something good for yourself and for us as a congregation as we share in the special music of the upcoming Advent season.

Fall Congregational Meeting

Plan to stay following worship on Sunday, November 4, for our Fall Congregational Meeting. Our youth will serve a light lunch (fund-raiser) before the meeting.

The congregational meeting is the final authority and the governing body of the Lewiston Church of the Brethren. At its scheduled meetings the church receives and reviews reports. It will be responsible for any actions not delegated to the Board or Commissions and will approve any long range goals or plans that may affect the life of the congregation. It elects officers, gives final approval to budgets, passes on amendments and rules on church policy and organizational matters. All members of the church are eligible to vote at the congregational meeting.

Your ideas, insights and visions for our church are invited and encouraged. Please plan to stay for the meeting and share together as we celebrate what has happened in the last 6 months, and look forward to what God will do in and through us in the months ahead!

Gathering Hymn Sing

Choose a favorite hymn and be ready to suggest it as we join in a hymn sing for Gathering Music on Sunday, November 4. Maybe you feel, "I wish we'd sing _____. Why don't we ever sing that any more?" Here's your chance to enjoy singing it with the congregation.

Disaster Response: Long-term Recovery Efforts

There has been a change in the plans for the District Disaster Response in Rushford. Due to a lack of volunteers, there will not be a project held October 29-November 3.

David Engel, Project Director, says plans will continue November 5-10. Please contact Sue as soon as possible if you can help at any time during that week. (Both skilled and unskilled workers are appreciated!)

Our congregation will be serving meals to the volunteers during that week – notify Judy Mill if you can help with cooking and/or serving.

Contact Sue at 507-932-4686, 507-251-0333, or sbolli1004@aol.com.

November Mission: Hands of Service for the Lord

This year was the 19th year of work in Mexico for "Hands of Service for the Lord", the ministry headed by Arnold and Jeanie Lein. Cliff and Sue Bollinger assisted with the work there in January. Blankets which were made by women of the church were taken along and distributed, as well as household goods, clothing and other donations from the congregation. The donations, along with Cliff's concrete tools, made for a very full van! We thank you for your generous donations.

The weather was very cold for about 2 weeks, even got down to freezing. The poor in Mexico who live in little shacks do not have the means for heat in their houses so they build a fire outside to stay warm. Some take coals inside their homes, and sadly 2 small children were asphyxiated during the time we were there.

One day Jeanie observed a boy, about 10 years of age, trying to sneak up to birds to see if he could catch one. When she asked what he was doing, he said he wanted to catch one to eat. It is heart-breaking to see such poverty.

The ministry of Hands of Service for the Lord includes building housing and churches, conducting general health clinics, distributing food and clothing, Bibles, school supplies, and teaching the ways of Christ. Volunteers from the USA work along with native people. Pastor Jesus has worked with the project for all the 19 years, and directs the volunteers in prioritizing the projects. Volunteers from Hands of Service for the Lord actually support and enhance the ministry that the local church does in Reynosa throughout the year.

Our offering to support this ministry will be received on November 18.

Ministry Relations Team

Deacons and Church Board emphasize the importance of our ministry relations team. This team consists of 3 persons, on staggered 3-year terms, chosen by the congregational body, church board and by the preaching team and ministry coordinator.

The role of the team is to work to create healthy relationships among persons in the congregation.

They will:

- meet at least quarterly
- brainstorm ways to build on the positive qualities within the congregation
- constructively deal with concerns of the preaching team and ministry coordinator and of the congregation.
- report to the Congregational Meeting each Spring
- report at least 2 times a year to the church board.

The team consists of members in good standing in the congregation, who demonstrate fairness, good judgment, and sensitivity in human relations. Those who are currently serving are Linda Risser, Dale Mill and Frances Plank.

If you have questions, joys or concerns about any facet of our congregational life, feel free to contact these people.

Ministry Relations Team will meet with the Preaching Team, Sue Bollinger, Gordon Hoffert and Roger Peckover, on Monday, November 19, at 7 pm at the Planks.

Advent Adventures

What comes to your mind when you hear the word “Advent”? Sometimes, it seems, when the term is used in church settings, it has a lonesome, longing, sad feeling. But the root word for advent is the same as for adventure! It also means the beginning of something—something new is on the horizon.

Advent is the beginning of the church year – the weeks before Christmas, when we think of the coming of Christ into our world at His birth. We remember the hope, peace, joy and love Christ brings into our lives and tells us to share with others.

Using the church year is also a good schedule for personal spiritual reflection – using Advent for renewal, recommitment, new life, Christmas for celebration of the coming of Christ – “God with us,” Lent for reflection on the sacrifice of Christ, Easter to celebrate God’s resurrection power, etc.

Advent begins Sunday, December 2. We will have 2 Sunday evening Advent Home Gatherings this year – December 2 and December 9 at 7 pm. Save the dates and watch for more information to come. May this year’s Adventure lead you to new life!

God is where I find a wide pocket of peace in a world of turmoil.

God is the One – the only One – who can make me stronger
when I admit my weakness and choose to lean on Him.

Yes, strong enough.

God stands poised, ready, answer-engine roaring to life when I face
an unknown that threatens to rattle me.

So even if earthquakes of circumstances shake me and ocean waves crash rudely against the shore of my heart,
even if the mountains I thought I could count on crumble,

I will not fear.

(Adapted from Psalm 46:1-3)

Celebrate Brethren Heritage in Germany in 2008

Join hundreds of others on the banks of the Eder River in Schwarzenau, Germany, next year in August and celebrate the founding of the Church of the Brethren!

Ed-Ventures, Inc., a tour company with over 30 years of experience in arranging group travel in Europe, has designed three different Brethren Heritage tours, all of which include the anniversary celebration in Schwarzenau.

Each team is led by a professional tour director and accompanied by Church of the Brethren escorts: Jim and Mary Miller of Bridgewater, VA, Jim and Pam Hardenbrook of Nampa, ID, and Fred and Joice Bernhard of Arcanum, OH.

For detailed information visit:
www.ed-ventures.com or call Gordon Hoffert at 800-658-7128 or 289-3332. See poster in narthex.

Thanksgiving quotations

“I do not think of all the misery, but of the glory that remains. Go outside into the fields, nature and the sun; go out and seek happiness in yourself and in God. Think of the beauty that again and again discharges itself within and without you and be happy.”
-Anne Frank

“Thanksgiving Day comes by statute, once a year; to the honest man it comes as frequently as the heart of gratitude will allow.”

-Edward Sandford Martin

Faith Ramblins

In one of my previous special music selections I chose a song with the lyrics of . . . "let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me." It sounds so wonderful, but it definitely takes a lot of help from God to get there. It's one of the things we need the most, but many times enjoy the least.

The reason for this is that Satan robs us of our peace. Every moment, he seeks entry into our lives through strife, worry, fear or doubt. That's life in the flesh. Life in the flesh is like a cycle of worry, strife, doubt and fear—all of which lead to negative thoughts and actions that keep us powerless. On the other hand, life in the Spirit begins with peace. When we are walking in peace, it puts us in a position to hear God more clearly and to experience His presence and power.

Those of you who heard my testimonial a few weeks back know that I have wrestled with many different kinds of adversity. God never said we would live without adversity. Peace means being able to trust God in the worst of times. In John 16:33 NIV Jesus said, "In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world". It is how we journey through the storms of life that sets us apart as Christians.

God had to get me to a state of brokenness and humility to make me want to live peacefully. Here's a quick test for you: If life's problems leave you feeling abandoned or punished, then you are not at peace with God. If that's you, then you must consistently begin to replace all the "whys" in your life with, "God, I trust You." There you will find that peace that passes all understanding. Then, and only then, will your life and relationships carry an anointing and power like you've never seen.

Are you so hungry for peace that you are willing to make whatever changes are necessary in order to have it? At the end of the day, we have only two choices: either trust God or try to be God by trying to control everything around us without God's blessings. We have to pursue peace in the same way we pursue relationships, jobs, fun or anything else worthy of our attention and effort. It is something we must choose to do. And as we consistently choose peace over and over again, we diminish the enemy's influence in our lives, and the door is opened wide to all that God has to offer us.

I know that I know that I know that peace is the foundation for allowing God's power and blessing to be released in our lives. What would happen if peace ruled your life?

-Linda Risser

Cranberry Sauce and Pumpkin Pie

Turkeys and cornucopias and pilgrim hats. Seasoned stuffing hot from the oven. Creamed onions, cranberry sauce and pumpkin pie. Uncles and aunts and cousins to play with. Grandmothers and grandfathers with family gathered round. Children waiting for the Great Pumpkin rise over Charlie Brown's pumpkin patch and dads watching college football. A day to relax and maybe rake leaves in the afternoon.

But Thanksgiving? How much will our celebrations have to do with giving thanks?

A glance at the first Thanksgiving brings it all back. On December 21, 1620, the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth Rock. Through the dead of winter the colony struggled with poor and meager food, strenuous labor, a biting wind that chilled to the bone, and ravages of disease. Nearly half the 102 Mayflower passengers did not live to see Spring refresh Cape Cod Bay.

But God sent Indians – Samoset, Squanto, and Massasoit – to help the English settlers plant and hunt and fish. The bountiful harvest that autumn led Governor Bradford to invite the Indians to celebrate God's goodness. Ninety tall braves accepted the invitation to join the Pilgrims in a feast of Thanksgiving to God for His blessings.

The Pilgrims lived close enough to the soil to know how dependent they were on God's Providence. They had learned to thank God in the midst of the bitterness of winter past. And they were quick to thank Him during abundant blessings, too.

We teach our children to say, "please" and "thank you," as the rudiments of courtesy, yet it is so easy to be rude and unthinking toward God. How often we forget to gratefully acknowledge His goodness towards us.

This Thanksgiving let your prayers and expressions of love rise toward your Heavenly Father.

"What shall I render unto the Lord for all His benefits toward me? I will take the cup of salvation, and call upon the name of the Lord." (Psalm 116:12-13).

-Dr. Ralph F. Wilson

**Brethren Disaster Ministries
opens Minnesota project.**

In response to flooding in southeastern Minnesota in late August, Brethren Disaster Ministries is working closely with the Church of the Brethren's Northern Plains District to begin working in the Rushford, Minn., area. A weather system produced heavy rains in the upper midwest as remnants of Tropical Storm Erin made their way inland, producing major flooding across a broad area. Storms downed trees and power lines, and an estimated 1,500 homes were damaged.

There is an immediate need for volunteers to begin reconstruction before the cold weather sets in. Work will include repair or installation of insulation, drywall, flooring, cabinets, and painting. During the winter months the project will operate on a week-by-week basis, requiring volunteers to be flexible. The disaster project director will be Dave Engel, and volunteer housing and meals will be at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Rushford. Each volunteer group will be limited to 15 volunteers. Call Jane Yount, 800-451-4407, to schedule a volunteer group.

- Brethren Newsline