

Lewiston Church of the Brethren Lifestyle October 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.

How Will the Church Be Lighted?

Several centuries ago in a mountain village in Europe, a wealthy nobleman wondered what legacy he should leave to his townspeople. He made a good decision. He decided to build them a church. No one was permitted to see the plans or the inside of the church until it was finished. At its grand opening, the people gathered and marveled at the beauty of the new church. Everything had been thought of and included. It was a masterpiece.

But then someone said, "Wait a minute! Where are the lamps? It is really quite dark in here. How will the church be lighted?" The nobleman pointed to some brackets in the walls, and then he gave each family a lamp, which they were to bring with them each time they came to worship.

"Each time you are here" the nobleman said, "the place where you are seated will be lighted. Each time you are not here, that place will be dark. This is to remind you that whenever you fail to come to church, some part of God's house will be dark"

That's a poignant story, isn't it? And it makes a very significant point about the importance of our commitment and loyalty to the church. The poet Edward Everett Hale put it like this:

I am only one,
but still I am one.
I cannot do everything,
But still I can do something;
And because I cannot do everything
I will not refuse to do the something I can do.

What if every member of our church supported the church just as you do? What kind of church would we have? What if every single member served the church, attended the church, loved the church, shared the church, and gave to the church exactly as you do? What kind of church would we be?

James W. Moore, "Some things Are Too Good Not To Be True"

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

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

Hold in prayer ...

... *Chet and Mary Peckover* as Chet heals from hip replacement surgery.

... *all flood victims and families* of those who perished in the floods of August 18-19.

... *National and world leaders* that they seek God's wisdom and work for peace and justice for all people
... *Ivester, Kingsley, Libertyville and Living Peace Churches of the Brethren*. These are the congregations we are praying for in 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!

SEPTEMBER ATTENDANCE AND OFFERING

(4 Sundays only)

Date	S. School Attendance	SS offering Offering	Worship Attendance	Worship Offering
2	16	\$129.00	41	\$1,393.60
9	16	10.00	37	746.00
16	11	8.00	39	642.50
23	17	13.00	77	1,043.60

Ave. 15 \$ 40.00 49 \$ 956.43

\$3,825.70 offerings received during the first 4 weeks of September. God is able to do exceedingly abundantly, above all we can ask or think!

Serving us in October 2007

Ushers: Ray & Diane Radatz
Greeter: Randy & Mary Lee Family
Worship Leader: Sara Laqua
Worship team: 7 Roger, Linda, Fran
14 & 21 Judy, Uli, Diane
28 Cliff, Sue Karen
Special Music: 7 Todd Cage
14 Linda Risser
21 Lois Hoffert
28 Uli & Diane
Children's Story: 7 Uli Schorn-Hoffert
21 Millie Bollinger
Children's Church: 14 Penny Wilson
28 Gordon Hoffert
Deacon Caregivers: Cleyson & Fran Plank, Minnie Wright
Fellowship Meal Hosts:
21 G/U Hoffert, E/F Bockenhauer

Thank you...

...for your award to Winona Volunteer Services, Inc. We received your gift of \$84.00 on August 8, 2007. Your financial support enables us to purchase food to feed the hungry in our community through our supplemental food shelf and emergency food boxes. Thanks again for helping Winona Volunteer Services make sure no one goes hungry in Winona.

Sandra Burke
Executive Director

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Lewiston Church of the Brethren-

Thanks so much for your letter reminding us of your prayers! Be sure your name has been brought before the Lord as well! God bless you!

Pastor Ron Pinckney
Hillcrest Baptist & Brethren Church

October Birthdays & Anniversaries

1 Chris Peckover
13 Harlen & Penny Wilson
18 Fran Bockenhauer
25 Karen Bollinger
26 Elizabeth Lee

October Calendar of Events

Wed, Oct 3: Women's Bible Study, 8:30am
Sun, Oct 7: Gathering Hymn Sing before worship
World Communion Sunday – Love Feast
Wed, Oct. 10: Women's Bible Study, 8:30am
Church Board Meeting, 7:30pm
Wed, Oct. 17: Women's Bible Study, 8:30am
Villa Worship, 10:30am
Fri-Sat, Oct. 19-20: District Dialog at Camp Pine Lake
Sun, Oct 21: Mission: Brethren Volunteer Service
Fellowship Meal: hosts: Hoffert/Bockenhauer
Mon, Oct. 22: Preaching Team meets at Peckovers, 6pm
Wed, Oct 24: Women's Bible Study, 8:30am
Sun, Oct 28: Deacons' Potluck Lunch Meeting following worship
Wed, Oct. 31: Women's Bible Study, 8:30am

District Dialogue: October 19-20

Jesus asked these questions: "Who do people say that I am? Who do you say that I am?" Now we want to prayerfully listen to the Master Himself!

District Board invites us to bring our Bibles and participate as we dialog to discover a common understanding of what Jesus has to say about Himself to the churches of the Northern Plains District.

The date is October 19-20. Place is Camp Pine Lake.

There will be no registration fee. A free will offering will be received to off-set the expenses of using the camp facilities, lodging and meals. Please reserve the date and join the dialog.

150th Anniversary of our Congregation

What are your memories and stories of this congregation?

Next year we will celebrate the 150th anniversary of our congregation. Thanks be to God!

Please contact Todd Cage, board chair, if you would like to join a planning group to commemorate the anniversary. Your ideas about how we can share our stories, invite former pastors and members, display photos, etc. are welcomed as we think creatively about how to make this an enriching celebration.

October Mission: Brethren Volunteer Service (BVS)

Brethren Volunteer Service is persons giving their time and skills to help a world in need. It is a way for people to work at issues greater than themselves, recognizing that their efforts may not immediately solve deep-rooted problems, but can be part of on-going work for justice, peace, and the integrity of creation.

Sharing God's love through acts of service

Volunteers bring hope to shattered lives, offer food and shelter to those in need, and build understanding between individuals, groups, nations, humanity, and the world we share. BVS seeks persons willing to act on their commitment and values. We challenge individuals to offer themselves, their time, and their talents to work that is both difficult and demanding, rewarding and joyful.

Volunteers receive room, board, medical insurance, transportation to project and a monthly allowance of \$60-\$80. Volunteers may live in a group situation, an apartment, or with a family. (In most cases, educational loans may be deferred.)

It is essential that each volunteer bring a willingness to serve. Important work towards peace, justice, meeting the needs of humanity and the environment calls out for persons willing to serve.

You can make a difference!

Affiliation with the Church of the Brethren

The sponsoring denomination brings a heritage of reconciliation and service supported by emphasis on the practice of faith in daily life. Founded in 1708, the Church of the Brethren stands with the Quakers and Mennonites as a historic peace church. To the question "And how shall your members be recognized?" founder Alexander Mack replied, "By the manner of their living." In efforts to be faithful, the denomination has a special concern for the poor and oppressed and recognizes a cost as well as joy in Christian discipleship. Out of this tradition BVS was established in 1948 to provide an intentional avenue for sharing God's love through acts of service.

Our offering to benefit Brethren Volunteer Service will be received on Sunday, October 21, during our worship service.

Faith Ramblins

Building our faith

In the August Lifestyle I talked about "Winning the bout with fear and doubt" by trusting God with all your heart to be ready when God calls you to step out in faith even though you are afraid.

As God would have it, He sent me another article this month to share with you by David Wilkerson from the World Challenge Pulpit Series entitled, "Casting Down Unbelief". David talks about Jesus being met with unbelief when He returned to His hometown. The people of Nazareth had been told of Jesus' great works. They had heard all the amazing stories of the "mighty works done by His hands." Yet to them, such things happened elsewhere, in other cities, other places, other communities, but not in Nazareth. Jesus' own people were spiritually dead. They could not believe in Jesus as God.

We cannot allow this travesty to happen to us here in Lewiston and surrounding communities. We need a testimony of our relationship with Christ. We can weep as we worship Him, we can say we are friends of God, but to have a relationship with Christ there must come a time, in the midst of our hardships and trials, when we truly let Him be God to us—the God of the impossible. Even if we call upon the Lord in our troubles, over time as trials increase and the flesh grows weary, many Christians tend to let fear and doubt creep into our hearts. Yes, I said Christians who believe whole-heartedly in our Savior, Jesus Christ. Jesus desires to do for us the same great works as he has done elsewhere. Yet wherever faith wavers, God's hands are tied. God's power is readily available just as it was in Nazareth. But if we waver in faith we are in unbelief. Where there is unbelief, there is a dead, dry wilderness.

Remember that the devil walks about seeking whom he may devour. The devil is a liar and seeks to rob you and me of our faith. He is our accuser. He comes up with some pretty convincing lies if we are not watching. Satan knows that if we are allowed to grow, it will render all his lies ineffective. Satan is determined to bring us down by causing us to give in to a spirit of weariness. That is how he aims to rob us of our faith. It is easier to believe this lie when your body begins to wear down.

The older I get, the more tired I get and the harder I work to keep up, not move forward, just keep up. When I grow weary in doing God's will, I know I can trust Him to give me strength, to lift me up. I'm not going to sit around nursing my doubts. I know I have a place to go in my time of need. I won't measure my spirituality by looking at someone else. I'm leaving all my spiritual growth up to you, Lord.

I'm going to build up my faith by spending time in Your Word. I know that without faith it is impossible to please God.

-Linda Risser

Deacon Corner

Reflections of hope

Life passes quickly. At this time in our lives while Earl and I reflect on 50 years of marriage, it seems like everything has gone by so rapidly. We ponder how we got to this point in our lives so soon. We know the blessings of our lives far exceed any difficulties we have shared during 50 years of marriage. As a mother-to-be in labor easily forgets labor pains the moment she holds her precious baby in her arms, so to, knowing God has forgiven your sins or carried you through a trial gives perfect peace.

It is easy to count our blessings when all goes well. Can we do this when problems surround us?

Since the weekend of August 18-19, we have witnessed the strength of people's faith in the face of tragedy. Hundreds in our area have suffered the loss of all their earthly possessions due to the devastating flood that destroyed their homes, vehicles and all their personal property.

Five lives were lost in Winona County because of flooded and/or washed out roads. Houses slid down muddy hillsides and collapsed in rubble with very little injury to those inside. One man was buried in an upright position with cold mud up to his chest all night long. His wife, unable to be near him, called to him throughout the darkness of a long night of drenching rain to encourage him. Three people rode the roof of their house for five hours. Fortunately, the house became lodged on the railroad tracks. If it had not stopped there they would surely have been swept away by raging waters.

All the countryside was experiencing torrential rains in utter blackness due to power outages. Our rural electric co-op was hampered in their repair work as the company lost 25 of its trucks.

It's nearly impossible for me to comprehend the depths of despair some people must be experiencing. How many times have they planned to go get an item, only to remember they no longer have it? How many tears have been shed over the grief of lost family and friends, or the loss of all possessions?

Nearly every road in Winona County suffered some washed out areas. Bridges for both highways and railroads were destroyed by walls of water gushing through the ravines...all because an approximate 17" of rain fell in a 24 hour period.

Some would ask, why does God cause such devastation? Please know, dear friends, that God does not cause the people to suffer in this way. But he does allow disasters to happen. What the people in nearby flooded conditions have learned, and God wants us all to know, is that He is there with us every step of the way. He will lead us through the frightening times of our lives. He will never leave us.

As His Word says in James 1:2-3, "Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of

many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything." (New International Version)

As members of our church and the COB's Disaster Relief workers have witnessed in working with displaced persons, perseverance is very evident among His people.

In the days immediately following the floods we were told that nearby Rushford, whose main downtown business district was all submerged in water, did not plan to rebuild. All that is changing. The town will not be the same as is once was, but many see the hope of the future and are rebuilding so their community may live on – that their "Home town" will continue.

May we, too, be ever aware of God's love for us, and know that He will see us through the trials each of face in our lifetime. God is good all the time.

--Fran Bockenbauer

A Pride Test

Proud people focus on the failures of others.

Broken people are overwhelmed with a sense of their own spiritual need.

Proud people have a critical, fault-finding spirit; they look at everyone else's faults with a microscope, but their own with a telescope.

Broken people are compassionate; they can forgive much because they know how much they have been forgiven.

Proud people are self-righteous; they look down on others.

Broken people esteem all others better than themselves.

Proud people have an independent, self-sufficient spirit.

Broken people have a dependent spirit; they recognize their need for others

Proud people have to prove that they are right. *Broken people are willing to yield the right to be right.*

Proud people claim rights; they have a demanding spirit.

Broken people yield their rights; they have a meek spirit.

Proud people are self-protective of their time, their rights, and their reputation.

Broken people are self-denying.

Proud people desire to be served.

Broken people are motivated to serve others.

Proud people desire to be a success.

Broken people are motivated to be faithful and to make others a success.

Proud people desire self-advancement.

Broken people desire to promote others.

Proud people have a drive to be recognized and appreciated.

Broken people have a sense of their own unworthiness; they are thrilled that God would use them at all.

Proud people are wounded when others are promoted and they are overlooked.

Broken people are eager for others to get the credit; they rejoice when others are lifted up.

Proud people have a subconscious feeling, "This ministry/church is privileged to have me and my gifts; they think of what they can do for God.

Broken people's heart attitude is, "I don't deserve to have a part in any ministry;" they know that they have nothing to offer God except the life of Jesus flowing through their broken lives.

Proud people feel confident in how much they know.

Broken people are humbled by how very much they have to learn.

Proud people are self-conscious.

Broken people are not concerned with self at all.

Proud people keep others at arms' length.

Broken people are willing to risk getting close to others and to take risks of loving intimately.

Proud people are quick to blame others.

Broken people accept personal responsibility and can see where they are wrong in a situation.

Proud people are unapproachable or defensive when criticized.

Broken people receive criticism with a humble, open spirit.

Proud people are concerned with being respectable, with what others think; they work to protect their own image and reputation.

Broken people are concerned with being real; what matters to them is not what others think but what God knows; they are willing to die to their own reputation.

Proud people find it difficult to share their spiritual need with others.

Broken people are willing to be open and transparent with others as God directs.

Proud people want to be sure that no one finds out when they have sinned; their instinct is to cover up.

Broken people, once broken, don't care who knows or who finds out; they are willing to be exposed because they have nothing to lose.

Proud people have a hard time saying, "I was wrong; will you please forgive me?"

Broken people are quick to admit failure and to seek forgiveness when necessary.

Proud people tend to deal in generalities when confessing sin.

Broken people are able to acknowledge specifics when confessing their sin.

Proud people are concerned about the consequences of their sin.

Broken people are grieved over the cause, the root of their sin.

Proud people are remorseful over their sin, sorry that they got found out or caught.

Broken people are truly, genuinely repentant over their sin, evidenced in the fact that they forsake that sin.

Proud people wait for the other to come and ask forgiveness when there is a misunderstanding or conflict in a relationship.

Broken people take the initiative to be reconciled when there is misunderstanding or conflict in relationships; they race to the cross; they see if they can get there first, no matter how wrong the other may have been

Proud people compare themselves with others and feel worthy of honor.

Broken people compare themselves to the holiness of God and feel a desperate need for His mercy.

Proud people are blind to their true heart condition.

Broken people walk in the light.

Proud people don't think they have anything to repent of.

Broken people realize they have need of a continual heart attitude of repentance.

Proud people don't think they need revival, but they are sure that everyone else does.

Broken people continually sense their need for a fresh encounter with God and for a fresh filling of His Holy Spirit.

--by Nancy Leigh DeMoss; © Revive Our Hearts.

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Flood Relief – Disaster Response

There have been various ways we have responded to the flooding in our area recently, using our skills, tools, gifts and resources.

Volunteers from our district have assisted us; 15 volunteers came from Open Circle Church on August 25-26, while many of us were still pumping water from basements and repairing damage from roof leaks and the high water table. 7 volunteers came from Ivester, Council Bluffs and Fairview Churches on September 13-14. David Engel, who serves as a COB Disaster Response Project Coordinator assisted us on a project and Gary Gahm, our District Disaster Coordinator helped with maintaining communication with community agencies and organizing the projects. We appreciate the support of these brothers and sisters, as they assisted us in reaching out to help our neighbors.

Members of our congregation worked with the volunteer groups from the district in clean-up and offered overnight lodging and food. Members also volunteered with Red Cross in clean up, assisted with food preparation and serving meals to flood victims and volunteers at Montini Hall in Rushford, mucked out mud and debris and helped to clean up for friends, family members and associates, and offered counseling to flood victims in Hokah. We received a special offering which was donated to flood relief through the local Red Cross, and donated supplies and materials to the Flood Recovery Centers.

This experience has given us opportunities to use various gifts, resources and skills “for the glory of God and our neighbor’s good”. May we continue to look for opportunities to help in meeting needs in our community and around the world as we serve in the name of Christ, who gave himself in the ultimate gift of service for us.

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.

Love Feast

We will celebrate Love Feast as part of our morning worship service on Sunday, October 7, World Communion Sunday. Plan to attend, as we join Christians around the world in remembering our Lord and renewing our commitment to follow Him more closely.

Fall Congregational Meeting

Our semi-annual congregational meeting is a very important time for us to meet together and share the mission of the congregation. It is an opportunity to hear your vision for how we can meet needs as we serve God together. Please plan to attend our meeting following worship on Sunday, November 4th.