

# United Methodist Church

## March 2008 Monthly Newsletter

[www.lcmnumc.org](http://www.lcmnumc.org)

Please email newsletter submissions or corrections to  
[umcsecretary@embarqmail.com](mailto:umcsecretary@embarqmail.com)

### Service Volunteers for March

	8:00 am Scripture	9:30 am Greeters	9:30 am Scripture	9:30 am Liturgist
<b>March 9</b>	Connie Anderson	Vonda Sprick & Laura Bigelow	Jessica Holm	Pat Bremer
<b>March 16</b>	Pat Bremer	Dorothy & Jim Schenk	Devin Ogden-Hover	Pat Bremer
<b>March 23</b>	Sandi Mayfield	Jim & Mary Kay Paine	Roshanda Pratt	Jim Paine
<b>March 30</b>	Merle Mahn	Gladys Linder & Eileen Laudon	Taylor Siewert	Jim Paine
<b>April 6</b>	Louise Rainey	Lyle & Nancy Krumrie	Joey Stevens	Rev. Don Jones



### Knitting Group

Volunteers meeting every  
Monday in Rogers Hall @ 10am.  
Everyone is welcome to come anytime!

# *The “Hard Part” for a Church*

*Or “What is your ‘guidance system?’”*

*It is better to take refuge in the LORD than to trust in man.*

*Psalms 118:8*

Dear Friends,

I am continually amazed at both the faith and unfaith of Christian people. Their faith can sustain them through awesome and turbulent times, like fighting in the long war in Iraq. And yet, when it comes to everyday, practical circumstances, people are hesitant to apply that same faith. The current increase in church attendance during the war really shows us how people tend to view God: God is used for “big” things that we can’t handle ourselves.

But what about the things that we think we can handle ourselves?

When it comes to the decisions of life or the source of strength in life, people tend to turn to anything but God. People cherish independence. The Spirit and scripture are available to guide us. But many people put far more reliance in advice from Dear Abby or Psychic Friends.

In this presidential election year, we are asked to trust key leaders to guide our nation. In the past, when those leaders failed, people felt betrayed. Too seldom, people turn directly to God in Christ, through scripture and direct communication through the Holy Spirit. This is the “guidance system” that works in crisis as well as in good times.

The Bible is full of passages urging us not to trust our own wisdom, leaders, or methods:

*Proverbs 3:5: Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding.*

*Proverbs 16:25: There is a way which seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death.*

*Galatians 6:3: For if anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself.*

This is nowhere more apparent than the administration of local churches. Local churches in America are declining in membership, attendance, and influence over people. The Kingdom of God keeps growing. But that grows is often in house churches, factory Bible studies, and

Christian rock concerts. The gospel message is not always thriving at the local congregation.

As a result families become enslaved to two or three jobs, running around town meeting an endless parade of deadlines, seldom spending extended time in quality communication. (As I was writing this letter, I was taking valuable time away from family!) People work really hard to maintain their standard of living. They have little time for true rest. Rates of mental illness are reliably put at 23% of adults. 90% of families are dysfunctional in some significant way. Generations and ethnic groups are alienated from each other.

What I am describing is a genuine Crisis of spirit. People are surviving and at times materially prospering. But they suffer in a tremendous spiritual vacuum, asking “Why am I doing this?”

Our church is called to minister to Lake City in this situation. Each one of our Methodist families is called by God to live the lifestyle of salvation through faith in Christ to every person.

Why don't churches do this? I would focus on an overall spiritual answer.

*Romans 8:5-9: For those who are according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace, because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not*

*subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so; and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you...”*

Today, church people tend to set their minds on the flesh. There was a time in the Protestant church that people got on their knees and prayed fervently for the Lord's work to be done with power to change the world. Not many pray that way now. People tend to trust in methods, technologies, or philosophies.

These things may have value. But they are all generated by “the flesh”. According to the Bible, “the flesh” stands for all of the part of reality that is created by God but subject to decay.

“The flesh” is not evil. But it is too limited, faulty, sin-prone, weak, lazy, resistant, or selfish to help us reach our highest aspirations. People can't find joy, peace, kindness, love, or freedom with materialistic

methods alone. Some suggest that we can find love by buying toothpaste and other products!

That is a really weird idea. But we hear it over and over. And people purchase the products, because in part they believe it.

The “new way” to get our highest aspirations met is from Romans 8 above: Setting our minds on the Spirit. That means having regular contact with God’s Spirit every day. I’ve preached this ever since I’ve been at Lake City: Let’s up on our own wisdom. Let’s learn to listen to and follow the guiding Spirit as informed by the Bible. In Christ, we have a source of truth, of power, of guidance, of courage, of passion, of love, of comfort, of peacefulness, and on and on.

This is how I try to live. Because God offers so much, I cling to God. I hang around God. I yearn for God. I take delight in God. This is “setting the mind on Spirit.” It’s a kind of radical reliance that is unlike most people’s view of God and the church. Yes, I’m the preacher. “I have time for this.” But I’m like you. I spend a lot of my day just doing ‘busy work’. I am stretched to find true time for God, just like you are! I have sought God’s Presence to get through all the challenges of these last seven and a half years.

*2 Cor. 2:14-16: But thanks be to God, who always leads us in His triumph in Christ, and manifests through us the sweet aroma of the knowledge of Him in every place, or we are a fragrance of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing; to the one an aroma from death to death, to the other an aroma from life to life. And who*

**United Methodist Men's TLC Club  
Would like to welcome you to breakfast the first  
Saturday of every month at 7:30 am**

**Diamonds In The Rough**

**Women’s Group**

Meeting for Bible Study and Fellowship

**Our next meeting will be Tuesday, March 4th @ 7:00 pm.**

Meeting at the Church—Everyone is welcome!

For more information contact Dianna Flater @ 651-345-5297

*is adequate for these things?*

The hardest thing for the local church is to have this same radical reliance on the Spirit of Christ. If a single person needs God's grace to live, how much more does a group of imperfect people who are trying to accomplish something for God. We are not adequate.

This is a more "complete faith" that relies on God in good times as well as bad.

When a church practices radical reliance, we all see the mighty holiness of God. We immediately realize that we are not adequate. Without Christ leading us, we squabble over petty things. We work hard for the Lord, but bad things at church stop the Lord's work from bearing fruit, wasting precious energy.

As we learn to listen to God's voice as a church, we become more united. Let's let the things we do for God (the big and small things) be centered in God's will. **What you are doing at this little church has  tremendous, lasting value.**

Sorry for this long letter. But radical reliance is what we must have to continue the fruitful ministries in Lake City. I can't emphasize it enough! Let's turn to Him! Amen!

Yours in Christ,

*Don*



*October 17th & 18th*

*Excel Energy Center - St. Paul, MN*

Contact: Mary Kay Paine ~ 345.5757

Reservations by March 1st - Payments by May 1st

Registration form found in weekly bulletin

**Reminder**

**A missions meeting is scheduled for March 18th @ 7:00pm**

**United Methodist Worship Schedule To Be Viewed On  
Cable Channel 18 Schedule**

**Sunday**

6:45 - 8:00pm Traditional Service  
8:00 - 9:00pm Live Alive Service

**Monday**

9:00 - 10:15am Traditional Service

**Tuesday**

12:00 - 1:00am Live Alive Service

**Thursday**

8:30 - 9:45pm Traditional Service  
10:30 - 11:30pm Live Alive Service

**Friday**

4:00 - 5:00pm Live Alive Service

**Saturday**

1:00 - 2:00pm Live Alive Service

***THE MATRIX***

The Matrix continues to be open every Saturday evening from 7-10 pm through March. Stop down and check it out. Bring a parent or guardian with you and get your paperwork completed. Its just that easy! Besides, what else is there to do in Lake City on a weekend?

**Lake City Food Shelf**

A very important time for the financial health of your Food Shelf is **March**. This is the time when the Minnesota Food Share program takes closer note of what we are doing and contributes to us according to the amount we have taken in. So **March** is an especially important time to contribute both food stuffs and dollars.

All are important and greatly appreciated.

Yvonne Lupton

345-9911

**Easter Flowers**

Anyone who would like to give a Lilly or a Flowering plant for our Easter Garden, Please bring it to the kitchen Saturday, March 22nd with your name attached.

**UMW Meeting - Thursday, March 6,2008 @ 1:00 pm**

**Susanna Circle**  
**Monday, March 10, 2008**  
**@ 7:30 pm**  
**Gladys Linder's Home**

**Priscilla Circle**  
**Monday March 17, 2008**  
**@ 9:15 am**  
**Katie Schmidt's Home**

**Disciple Bible Study on the Book of Romans**

We will meet every Thursday evening from 7:00 - 8:30, beginning Thursday, April 10th and going through the end of May. This will be a 8 week course.

If you are interested there is a sign up sheet located in the Narthex or call

Ginger Holm - 345-3458

Anne Olson - 345-4866

**Bingo**

**Each month Disciples In Action plays bingo with the Nursing Home residents on the 4th Saturday. We now have six members of our congregation there and we need some volunteers to support this program. What a great way to let them know that we still care about them. Will you help?**



**Call Al @ 448-0107 ( Local call)**

**Thank You**

**Dave and I want to Thank all who sent cards, flowers, prayers, and well wishes while we were in Arizona. It meant so much to have the touch of home while we were there. We thank all the Methodist cooks who brought food so we didn't have to cook after we got home.**

**Words cannot express our gratitude for all your caring. God smiled on us when we became part of this loving, caring church family. Also thank you for the beautiful flowers– they brighten my day and remind me life is so good.**

**Love,**

**Dave & Pat Bremer**



## **Financial Update**

Receipts as of 2-17-08	\$19,648.28
Disbursements as of 2-17-08	\$17,955.18
Salaries and bills to be paid by the end of February	\$13,349.46

## **New Address....**

Cathy Briggs 1127 North Oak St, Lake City, MN. 55041

**Please join us Thursday March 20 for a special  
Maundy Thursday Service  
7:00 pm. The Choir will have special music and you are all  
invited and encouraged to attend.**

### **CHERRY EASTER BISCUITS (Makes 12)**

**110g (4oz) butter**      **75g (3oz) caster sugar** plus 1-2 tbsp for sprinkling  
**1 egg, separated**      **200g (7oz) plain flour**  
**1/2 tsp ground ginger**      **1/2 tsp ground cinnamon**  
**75g (3oz) dried cherries**

Preheat oven to 200 C / 400 F / Gas 6. Grease a baking sheet.

Cream butter and sugar together in a bowl and beat in the egg yolk. Sift the flour, ginger and cinnamon together into the creamed mixture. Add the dried cherries. Knead the dough on a lightly floured surface and roll out to 1/2 cm (1/4 inch) thickness.

Use a 8cm (3 inch) cutter to cut out 12 biscuits. Place on the sheet and bake for 10 minutes. Lightly beat the egg white. Remove biscuits from the oven, brush with egg white. Sprinkle with caster sugar, bake for a further 5 minutes until golden.

**Congratulations.....**

**Roger & Debbie Eggenberger on the birth of a Granddaughter  
Ella Lynn Eggenberger born Feb.22nd at RW Fairview  
Parents are Robert & Erica & big sister Emma**

**Aron & Lindsey Meyer on the birth of their new baby girl  
Born Tue., Feb 12. at the Methodist Hospital in Roch.  
Great Grandmother is Katerine Mancilman**

**Joys.....**

**Lincoln Sr. High & Middle School Honor Roll Students  
Kelsey Fick, Carley Siewert, Katie Loppnow, John Anderson,  
Taylor Siewert, Zach Loppnow, Brad Levenick, Dan Craig**

**Jenny Martin, Katie Loppnow, & the entire Lincoln High Dance Line on  
going to the  
State Tournament on Sat., Feb.16th**

**Zach Loppnow awarded the Lincoln High Triple A Award for  
excelling in Academics, Arts, and Athletics.**

**Zach Loppnow taking 1st Place at the LC Invitational Wrestling Tourn.  
His second year in a row.**

**Amanda Hilsman named to the fall semester deans's list at Winona  
State U.**

**ANGEL FOODS  
Distribution**

**Saturday, March 15 @ 3:00 pm**

**(volunteers needed at 2:15)**

**Please let Al Thompson (448-0107) know if you plan on working on  
the distribution team that day.**

## Sympathies To.....

Katherine & Bernice Mancilman & families  
on the death of their cousin's husband, Ernest Banitt, of  
Pine Island on Jan. 31. His funeral was Feb.4th at  
Grace Lutheran Church in Oronoce with burial in Pine Island  
Cemetery.

Our Deepest Sympathy to the Family and Friends of  
Eloise Mobley who passed away Monday, Feb.18, 2008 in  
Texas.

A memorial service will be held in McAllen, Texas and  
another service will be held at the United Methodist Church in  
Lake City, this will be scheduled for sometime in April.

*If you have a love of singing and wish to give back to the church in a small way, please consider joining the Choir. We meet Wednesdays at 5:30pm. Come join us for fellowship and fun. (We're not kidding, we have fun)*

Thank you to our wonderful church family for the support you have shown toward our Lenten Program. Your support is greatly appreciated

### ***Special Thanks To:***

*Rev. Don Jones, Ginger Holm, Dorothy Schenk, Joyce Moechnig, Joann Loppnow, Wendy Siewert, Cindy Craig, Vanda Sprick, Randy Olson, Kandy Olson, Kathy Sanders, Jennifer Martin, Roshanda Pratt, Jessica Holm, Taylor Siewert, Darianne Douglas, Wendy Roberts, Larry & Dianna Flater, Al Thompson, Gloria Feigal, Mary Kay Paine, Pen Seepaya, Sonya Reckmann, Cathy Briggs, Donna Vining, Kathy Lyons, Pastor Kristine Marshall, Lilly Marshall and all of the Circles for helping decorate the rooms.*

**Please remember to bring a T-shirt for the Lenten Program. If you are in need of a t-shirt please contact-Don Jones or Greta Martin**

## Youth News

### Back by popular demand, it's the 2nd annual lock in of the churches...

March 15<sup>th</sup> we will be participating with 1<sup>st</sup> Lutheran for a lock in. The lock in will start at 7 p.m. The location will be at the 1st Lutheran Education Building and we will go all night. The youth will need a signed covenant and \$5 (for food) to attend this event. Registration is required by March 9<sup>th</sup>. Please contact Rann or Valerie for the form or with any questions (753-2065). Last year's event included "Fear Factor Lake City Style" and "Nerf Dodge Ball". The youth won't want to miss this event. Some fun things are already being planned.

**WANTED:** Some very cool adults to "hang out" at this event. Please contact us if you would be willing to give up a night and have fun with a great bunch of teenagers! We promise that you will laugh and have a lot of fun!

### Easter

The youth are preparing for the Easter sunrise service and breakfast. Please join us on Easter morning for a 7:30 service and a free will donation breakfast. This is one of our STORM camp fundraisers and is very important in helping our youth get to STORM. It's a great way to start your Easter day and help our youth be able to afford the camp tuition.

### Big Fish

Wednesday night Big Fish gatherings are still continuing through Lent at the same time. We meet in the sanctuary at 7:00 p.m. and conclude around 8:15.

### Upcoming events:

Spaghetti dinner fundraiser for the youth going to STORM this summer.  
30 Hour famine for World Vision.

