



THE CURRENT WORD

LAKE NOKOMIS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

November 2006

Searching for the Best

Unlike the malls and stores, which already have Christmas decorations up, the church is moving more deliberately towards that very special event. November usually is a time of 'giving thanks,' pausing to remember those who have sacrificed to make a difference in our lives.

Thanksgiving Day is a composite day for me.

- It is a national day to remember how lucky we have been to be part of this country, and to remember our responsibilities as citizens – especially to carefully consider candidates for office in light of the Christ event and all that Christ said, lived and taught when we vote.

- It also is a personal and family day of a family meal when we eat turkey, or ham, or wild rice, or so many other good things all together. A very special time is when we drive 'up north' and stand around in the kitchen updating each other on our lives. God gives us a wonderful opportunity to reenter their lives, even for that brief time. Of course we sneak a look at a football game or two, just to complain how poorly they are doing. It's always amazing to me all the statistics about players they know. During commercials and intermission we share our stories, maybe a feeling or two, and it's like we were never apart. I am always grateful for that special time and family love.

- It is also the day in which all the special ads in the paper are checked out for the 'day after' shopping. We begin to 'search for the best.' We want to shop for a special present that we will give to others, and hopefully remember not to give them the same thing as the previous year. In our search for the best, we search for a special gift which will embody our love, our thoughts, and our prayers for them. Practical gifts, yes, but also gifts representing the special relationship and love as well.

Perhaps, as we search for the best, the best is really found in our thoughts and prayers as we search for the special gift. The gift is to represent a physical connection. The prayers and thoughts and listening we do represents a connection which goes beyond. We move from what can be seen to that which cannot be seen – the realm of God’s love and grace through the most perfect gift every shared – Jesus the Christ.

May God touch our hearts with the gift that never tarnishes or rusts, the very best that there is – the gifts of wonder and love which renew our spirits and lives. May God lead us in new pathways of celebration and love.

Wayne

Wayne Herstad - Interim Pastor and Moderator of Session

2006 Session

- Gary Johnson –Administration
- Terry Gilberstadt – Personnel/Nominating
- Sue Goodspeed – Worship
- Alisa Lucas – Worship
- Joyce Tesarek Petrik – Education
- Bill Fischer – Education / Nominating
- Dennis Johnson – Clerk
- Butch Goodspeed - Treasurer
- Presbytery Commissioners - Bill Fischer, Sue Goodspeed

Staff:

- Jan Johnson – *secretary*
- Andrew Crow – *choir coach* *
- Andrew Tessman – *organist*
- Rodney Seek (Best Way) – *custodian* *
- * (contract position)
- Editor-for-the-month - Sue Goodspeed

MISSION STATEMENT - LNPC

In gratitude for God’s great love, freed by the forgiveness we know in Jesus Christ, and convinced by the Holy Spirit of our need for Christian community, we join together as a community of faith to share Christ’s love through worship, sacraments and prayer to grow through education and mutual support to prepare and receive empowerment for faithful living. and we go out into the world to share the joy of God’s love to open our faith community to others to work in the world for justice, healing, and peace.

Prayer Network

We have been called to communicate with God through prayer. God encourages us to pray for one another and has promised to answer. To enable us to pray effectively for one another and for our church, the LNPC Prayer Network has been organized. Call Pat Erickson, coordinator (612-925-4418) with prayer requests.

Current Events in the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area! Major events in the life of the presbytery -

SUMMIT 2006 - November 10th and 11th (Friday and Saturday), members of congregations of the presbytery are encouraged to participate in a retreat, **Summit 2006: Seeking A New Life Together**. The goal of the two days of discussion, using affirmative inquiry focus techniques, will give us space to "seek God's will for our life together and in response, to create new ways for it to empower ministry and mission." At this critical time in the life of the larger church, the presbytery is trying to find a way to be faithful to God's call on each of our lives as we live and work in a larger context. Up to five members of each congregation are encouraged to participate in the discussion. How will we be a presbytery together? How can we most effectively do God's work in this place? If you have questions, or would like to be one of our congregational representatives, talk to Rev. Herstad or Sue Goodspeed.



November 10-11

ORDINATION OF UMO UDO - The presbytery will meet Sunday, November 12, at 4:00 p.m. at Lake Nokomis Presbyterian, to celebrate the ordination of Umo Udo as a Minister of Word and Sacrament! Umo passed all her ordination requirements, the last of which was to appear before presbytery at their meeting in July to be examined as to her "Christian faith and views in theology, the Bible, the Sacraments, and the government of [the PC(USA)]." (Book of Order 14.0402) She aced it, of course. Everyone is encouraged to witness this "new thing" in her life.

If you plan to stay for the celebratory meal, please e-mail her at umo.udo@leaderoptions.com.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The Presbytery is in regular need of volunteers to do a variety of clerical tasks in their office at Pillsbury and Franklin Avenues. You might find envelopes to stuff, mailings to prepare, documents to collate, and other sundry, necessary, much-appreciated activities. AND you can have a free lunch! (who said there's no free lunch?) If you have occasional spare hours, give Katie a call at 612-871-7281 X 21. Ask Barb Day or Sue Goodspeed how great these people are!!

Cuba, anyone?

A trip to Cuba is being planned for next spring by the presbytery's Connectional Ministry Task Force. Names are now being taken and placed on a roster, due to possible limited space available. It is important that if you have **any** interest in going to visit our Reformed brothers and sisters in Cuba, and in having the experience of a lifetime, you speak to Rev. Herstad, who is chair of the task force, so that you can be counted as interested. *Several other churches in the presbytery have already submitted names, so contact Wayne soon!*

NOTE FROM THE NATIONAL CHURCH - PC(USA)

"The spirit of the Reformation calls each new age to work for the renewal to which God is calling churches.

On this Reformation Sunday, the World Alliance of Reformed Churches is calling us in particular to remember and celebrate the remarkable way the Reformed movement has literally circled the globe. There are now some 75 million Reformed Christians, two thirds of which are now in Africa, Asia, and Latin America.

Reformed Christians from all over the world will be joining us to re-appropriate the great themes of the Reformation that are at the core of faithful Christian living:

- * faith alone, grace alone, Scripture alone;
- * the priesthood of all believers;
- * the sovereignty of God over the whole creation; and
- * the church as a covenant community."

*From the Reformation Sunday message of Cliff Kirkpatrick,
stated clerk of the General Assembly PC(USA)
and president, World Alliance of Reformed Churches*

In the spirit of reformation and transformation, leaders of the PC(USA) met in October to build on the positive responses of delegates to the June meeting of General Assembly. Voices lifted up positive aspects of the denomination, including: **Educating** Presbyterians "in fresh new ways" about their heritage, tradition, theology, polity and resources for ministry; Deepening Presbyterian **connectedness** through commonalities such as **mission** and **worship**; Working on **reconciliation** and inclusiveness; Increasing **ecumenical** vision and involvement; and Strengthening **trust** at all levels of the church.



~LIFE AT LNPC~

The world came to Minneapolis:

The weekend of October 13-15 brought the visit of Rev. Yahya Tirta Prewita to the Twin Cities. He traveled the U.S. as a part of a group of International Peacemakers invited by the PC(USA). His month included visits in Southern California, Illinois, Minnesota, and Rochester, NY. The International Peacemakers program invites leaders to share their experiences as peacemakers in their own contexts.

Yahya spent his week in Minneapolis as the guest of Butch and Sue Goodspeed, between gatherings at the Mission Fair, worship with LNPC, a "cluster gathering" at the Church of All Nations, and visits with Indonesian congregants at Knox Presbyterian, St. Paul, and with Rev. Herstad (to experience the capital of unbridled consumption - the Mall of America).

What did this journey bring to us? What to Yahya and his congregations? We were able to experience his effervescent joy and optimism; his perspectives gained from ministering not just to a faith community, but to the whole community, predominantly Muslim, subsistence agrarian; his creativity and determination in facilitating the economic stability of his area through micro-credit and disaster relief. Our gifts to him were less tangible, perhaps (except the sweater and finding the computer), but hopefully gave him a glimpse of Americans outside the actions of our government; the commonalities we share in faith and agriculture; and the international support within the Christian community... and he'll never forget the combine he was able to ride in Illinois!



BAZAAR 2006 - NOVEMBER 4

**Bring your baked goods, Bring your crafts,
Bring your collectibles, But MOST of all -
Bring your friends and Bring your neighbors
To the annual Fall Bazaar!**

Proceeds benefit charitable organizations of the City and LNPC, and your presence benefits your church family and neighborhood. See you there!

Education for November:

Sunday Morning Adult Classes

Come for a special journey with Rev. Herstad through the stories and Scriptures of the birth of the Christ child, the coming of the Messiah. The class will share the Prophets and the Gospels on the Sundays of November and December.

Please plan to join us on this special pilgrimage of our faith.

Meet in the library at 9:00, and yes, there will be coffee available.



Worship as we look toward the season of Advent:

Communion will be celebrated November 5 and December 3 (the first Sunday of Advent).

Many traditions surround our family and cultural celebrations of the Christmas season. One of these is the presence of a manger scene or creche.

If this has been a part of your tradition, and if you are willing, the Worship Team will be displaying as much variety as we are able in the back space of the sanctuary, the ArtSpace, and as much other space as is needed! We welcome traditional 3-dimensional pieces, as well as expressions in other forms - painting, quilts... If you have a piece you'd like to contribute, please contact Georgia Mroska or the church office.

Session approved the recommendation of the Worship Team that we have **ONE Christmas Eve** service this year.

Christmas Eve falls on Sunday. We will have morning service at 10:30 (no Sunday School), and a traditional Christmas Eve service of lessons and carols at 4:00 p.m. Please think of this as you plan your family activities for the evening.

Use this as a helpful meditation tool! (from Kathryn Sathre):

The Five-Finger Prayer

1. Your thumb is nearest you. So begin your prayers by praying for those closest to you. They are the easiest to remember. To pray for our loved ones is, as C. S. Lewis once said, a "sweet duty."
2. The next finger is the pointing finger. Pray for those who teach, instruct and heal. This includes teachers, doctors, and ministers. They need support and wisdom in pointing others in the right direction. Keep them in your prayers.
3. The next finger is the tallest finger. It reminds us of our leaders. Pray for the president, leaders in business and industry, and administrators. These people shape our nation and guide public opinion. They need God's guidance.
4. The fourth finger is our ring finger. Surprising to many is the fact that this is our weakest finger, as any piano teacher will testify. It should remind us to pray for those who are weak, in trouble or in pain. They need your prayers day and night. You cannot pray too much for them.
5. And lastly comes our little finger - the smallest finger of all which is where we should place ourselves in relation to God and others. As the Bible says, "The least shall be the greatest among you." Your pinkie should remind you to pray for yourself. By the time you have prayed for the other four groups, your own needs will be put into proper perspective and you will be able to pray for yourself more effectively.



Treasurer's Report - September:

Unrestricted income: \$ 7,934.55

Designated income: 90.00

Total Income: \$8,024.55

Unrestricted income to meet Annual
Budget (month) 11,333.25

September actual expenses: \$ **9,699.67**

Stewardship is more than money, but the responsible use of our finances is an opportunity for us to put our faith in action. It is also an act of discipline - honoring commitments that we have made to one another.

As we move together into a new future, remember the promise you have made to this congregation through your pledge.

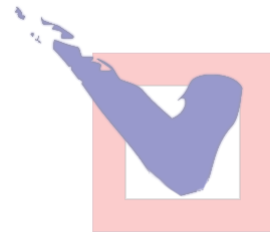
Watch for events of this Season of Stewardship!

NOVEMBER 7 IS ELECTION DAY - VOTE!

The denomination has produced a workbook titled "***Christian and Citizen,***" a copy of which is available in the church office. The denomination points to a statement from 1983 ("The more things change..."), "The Reformed View of Politics and of Church and State:"

"We still believe we are a socially reforming church committed to the transformation of society. ...However, we are still called to overcome our apathy and be involved in the political process....

The Gospel and the Scriptures have meaning for the whole of human life. The ministry of the church, while beginning with "the equipping of the saints," must concern all those ties that link humans together in a society. God sends the church on a mission, to be light and salt to all society... Church and government are both called to "serve the Lord." ...The individual Christian serves God in both the church and the rest of society. Discipleship consists in the awareness that "during one's whole life one has to do with God" (Calvin). But such discipleship is not only a personal, individual calling. The sovereign Lord works not only in the depths of individual souls but also in the organizations, the institutions, and the movements of human history..."(*Minutes*



78)

As has been expressed from many places in the church, while our faith may be personal, it is NOT private. **VOTE!**

....from Dennis and Lisa Johnson:

Lisa and I would like to thank all of you for your prayers and support following my recent illness. A special thanks is in order for those of you who provided meals and in-home care after my hospital discharge. I am easing back into work this week to the extent that my IV-line, energy and weather allow. My encounter with Lyme-meningitis is a reminder how fragile and tenuous life is. I'm going to pass on two unsolicited recommendations to you. First, if you find yourself in deer tick habitat, take the time to really check for evidence of ticks and know the symptoms of Lyme disease. Second, live in the moment as tomorrow is always uncertain.

Thanks again, Dennis Johnson

Anyone getting overwhelmed with Fall Chores? TRUST coalition of churches (of which LNPC is a member) offers a year-round chore program:

What is TRUST's Chore Program?

TRUST's Chore Program provides household chore and maintenance services to disabled persons of all ages and seniors (over 60) living in South Minneapolis. The project uses a neighborhood skills bank to match workers having the necessary skills with those needing assistance. The goal of the project is to help disabled persons and seniors continue living safely and independently on their own homes and apartments. Both permanently disabled persons and those disabled by illness or accident may use the Project's services.



To get help, call TRUST HandyWorks at 612-827-6150.

A poem by William Stafford:

The Way It Is

There's a thread you follow
It goes among things that change.
But it doesn't change.
People wonder about what you
are pursuing -

You have to explain about the thread.
But it is hard for others to see.

While you hold it, you can't get lost.
Tragedies happen:
people get hurt or die and
you suffer and get old.
You can't stop time's unfolding.
You don't ever let go of the thread.

Remember ~ the sign-up sheets are always in need of volunteers to serve as ushers and coffee-hour treat providers!

The Petrik's have stocked the freezer with *lots* of banana bread, so you don't even have to cook! (for awhile)

Get creative, team up with friends!