

STAFF

Interim Pastor

Chris Hagen

Children's/Handbell Choir Director

Kathy Hardy

Church Secretary

Nancy Jandro

Custodian

Clarissa Clymer

Custodian

John Boyum

Faith Formation Director

Nick Bannon

Finance

Scott Prunty

Organist

Mary Schultz

Chancel Choir Director

Martin Windholz

OFFICE

Monday - Thursday.

9 AM to 3 PM

Friday

9 AM to 12 PM

Telephone: 651-436-1138

Fax: 651-436-7267

Sunday Worship

8:00 & 10:30 AM

E-Mail: office@memoriallutheran.org

Website: www.memoriallutheran.org

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2012

ANNUAL CONGREGATION MEETING

JANUARY 29, 2012

10:30 AM

- 9:30 AM Worship Service
- 9:30 AM Sunday School
- 10:30 AM Annual Meeting
- 10:30 AM Midday Movie Mania

****All confirmed members are expected to attend!**

Blessed New Year 2012!



NOTE FROM PASTOR

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. John 1:1

The gospel writer with these words places Jesus at the beginning of time. Our Lord rules time, is beyond time, and in Jesus enters time, enters our time.

We mark time with arbitrary dates, such as New Year's Day. This is not a Christian holiday, but a day that ancient Romans dedicated to Janus, the god of gates, doors, and beginnings. January is named after Janus, who had two faces, one looking forward and the other looking backward.

A lingering tradition of New Year's Day is taking stock of the year past, and resolving to behave differently in the year to come, what we call "New Year resolutions." It's a good tradition.

But we Christians also remember that Jesus forgives our past transgressions and goes with us into the unknown future. We have no fear of the future for Jesus is already there and "has prepared a place for us" (John 14:1-3).

The year 2012 will be a year of changes at Memorial. The interim time will end and ministry with your next pastor will begin. Long cherished ministries will continue, but will not be exactly the same as in the past. People age and pass. New people are born. Those who embrace change as new adventures with God will thrive in the future.

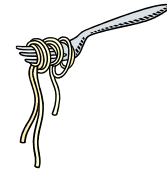
At the end of the Gospel of John, one of the last words Jesus says to Peter is, "Follow me." With

these two words is hope and confidence and purpose for the future. Jesus does not leave. God does not withdraw. With these two words, Jesus declares that he is still in this world leading us into the future. We are not on our own. Jesus leads and we follow still.

Pastor Chris

FAITH FORMATION/ SUNDAY SCHOOL YOUTH

Valentine's Vespers. New Orleans' youth will be hosting a brief vespers style service followed by a fantastic pasta meal. Mae Vogt will be making the pasta from



scratch and there will be live music at the event. Tickets are limited to 60 seats and will only be sold until January 22. You can purchase tickets in the fellowship hall on Sundays, or contact Nick for tickets on other days. Prices are \$20 single, \$35 couple, and \$50 family. You can see a full menu for the event posted in the fellowship hall.

Pizzas for Sale. Youth will be selling Little Caesars' pizza kits, pie kits, and cookie kits in January. We are planning to have the pizzas to you by February 4th, ensuring that you can make them on Super Bowl Sunday if you choose.



Midday Movie Madness. January 29, during the annual meeting, we will be offering a movie event for children. We will



offer movie options for the kids and will provide snacks.

Giants Ridge Ski Trip. We are planning a ski trip February 17-19 to Giants Ridge. This is a youth event, but is open to family members and other adults interested in participating. We will be staying at the local YMCA. The 2-day lift ticket is \$65, with rentals extra. Full cost will include the lodging, the lift tickets, the transportation, and meals. Deadline to sign up is January 15. Talk to Nick to sign up.



1st Communion will be February 26. If you know of any families who are not currently participating in Sunday School that may have children in 5th grade interested in 1st Communion instruction, please give their information to Nick, or ask them to contact the church for more information.



Winter Party. The Winter Party for children will be February 26th. Activities will include sledding (snow dependent), games, snacks, etc. This event is currently scheduled from 1-3:30. Time is subject to change, so please look for more information as this date approaches.



Volunteers for VBS. Be on the lookout for information about volunteering for VBS. We will begin signing up volunteers in mid/late January and will cut off sign ups in early March. We will update the



congregation on volunteer needs for VBS prior to beginning volunteer sign ups in January.

Mentors. Confirmation youth will be selecting their mentors in the coming weeks. If a youth approaches you, please consider whether you can make the commitment to serve as their mentor this Lent. Youth and mentors meet



on Wednesday evenings during Lent, prior to service, and discuss a variety of topics. This is a great opportunity to build relationships with youth. Do not feel any pressure to become a mentor if you don't feel that you can fully commit at this time. Mentor introductions will take place February 15.

Lunches. New Orleans youth will be offering lunches following the 10:30 service, once a month. January 8th and February 12th are the next two.



Possible meals include: soup, salad and bread; pasta, salad, and bread; sandwiches, chips, and salad; grilled meals; brunch lunch of eggs, pancakes, and sausage. Suggested donation for these meals is \$5. Please consider eating lunch on one of these Sundays and supporting the youth at the same time.

Shepherds. Youth are encouraged to sign up with Nick as shepherds for the Winter/Spring Sunday School classes. We would like 2 shepherds per class, so that at least one shepherd is able to help out each week.

WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

Evening Bible Study and Fellowship, Monday, **January 9th**, 7 PM. For information call Mona Capuzzi, 651-436-7335.

Morning Bible Study and Fellowship, Tuesday, **January 10th**, 9:30 AM, at church. Call Nancy Johnson, 651-436-7833.

Bible Study Theme "To Follow and to Serve: The Gospel of Mark"

Evening Bible Study and Fellowship, Monday, **February 13th**, 7 PM, call Mona Capuzzi, 651-436-7335.

Morning Bible Study and Fellowship, Tuesday, **February 14th**, 9:30 AM, at church, call Nancy Johnson, 651-436-7833.

Try reading the book of Mark in one sitting; it takes about 2 cups of coffee.

LIBRARY NEWS



We have just completed the yearly inventory in the Library and have

discovered the following items missing that have been checked out. Please check your bookshelves at home to see if you have any of these books or CDs and return them to the RETURN BASKET in the library near the Children's section.

CDs "Sing & Play Swamp Stomp Music"

ADULT BOOKS

Where God Was Born by Bruce Feller
The Four Loves by C. S. Lewis
Conversations With God: Book One by Donald N. Walsch

Conversations With God: Book Two by Donald N. Walsch
Peanut Butter, Paper and Paste by Brenda Gilliam

Story Telling by Karyn Henley
Hitler's War Against the Jews by David A. Altshuler

CHILDREN'S BOOKS

Brian's Winter by Gary Paulsen
Brian's Hunt by Gary Paulsen
Chrysanthemum by Kevin Henkes
Arthur's First Sleepover by Marc Brown

Dora's Search for the Seasons by Samantha Berger
The Puppy Who Wanted a Boy by Jane Thayer

Four on the Shore by Edward Marshall

Candy is Dandy by Carolyn Keene
Pony in Trouble by Emily Costello
Dear Mr. Henshaw by Beverly Cleary

If you are a member of MLC and would like to borrow a book from the library, PLEASE SIGN THEM OUT AT THE TABLE NEAR THE DOOR. Instructions on check-out procedures are on the table. Thank you.

BLOODMOBILE



Please sign up to help with our Annual Blood drive **Monday, February 27th from 1:00 p.m. to 7:00 PM.** We need many

volunteers throughout the afternoon and early evening to make this blood drive a success. Please contact Elise Winter to see how you can help.

XYZ'S (Extra Years of Zest)



X YZ Club, for seniors 55 years and older, meets every Tuesday morning at Memorial Lutheran Church in Afton. Cards will be played at 9:00 AM with a coffee break at 10:00 AM, followed by more card playing until noon. Programs will be announced as they develop. For information, registration or cancellation, call Marion Glasbrenner at 436-7742 by 9:00 AM on Mondays.

THE CALL COMMITTEE

Nominations are being taken for Memorial's Call Committee. Election of the Call Committee will take place at the Annual Meeting, January 29th at 10:30 am (There will be only one worship service that Sunday, at 9:30 am). Contact any council member or Pastor Chris to nominate oneself or to recommend someone.

pastor@memoriallutheran.org
church 651-436-1138

The calling of a pastor represent a valuable partnership between God, the calling congregation and the synod... An ideal Call Process builds on trust, openness and good communication...

In the call process, the Bishop/synod, the congregation and the prospective pastor work together with the guidance of the Holy Spirit to bring about a new partnership that is faithful to the Gospel, empowers the local church in its ministry, and strengthens the whole church as people of God.

There should be a diverse representation of gender, age, and ethnic/racial identity on the Committee. All segments of the

ministry of the congregation should be represented (Worship, Youth, Education, Evangelism, etc.). Beyond these, there should also be a balance of long-term and newer members, people from different elements of the congregation, drawing upon a variety of contributing styles and gifts.

*It's important for the Call Committee to be clear about its task. The foremost question for the Call Committee always is whether this is the person God requires this congregation to have as its pastor. (from St. Paul Area Synod **Call Process Manual**)*

Call Committee tasks may include:

- Committee team building.
- Ensuring adequate congregation support for the *Ministry Site Profile*.
- Finalizing the *Ministry Site Profile*.
- Interviewing of candidates design and preparation.
- Interviewing candidates.
- Presenting the final candidate for congregation call.
- Supporting the start of the next pastor.

Skills needed for Call Committee members:

- Ability to work in a team.
- Representing the interests of God and the entire congregation.
- Listening and respecting the insights and opinions of others.
- Ability to work toward consensus.
- An understanding of the *Ministry Site Profile*.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Hello Everyone,

It has been a very fast and busy year.

We saw many changes and are in store for many more.

Serving you as president of the church council has been a really great experience. It was a wonderful

opportunity to work with so many talented and amazing people. Thank you for the opportunity.

We will have a great 2012. Pastor Chris will keep us on the right track for our new Pastor and all the excitement to come.

Have a Blessed New Year

Neil Clymer