



Luck Lutheran Church Newsletter

Letter from the Pastor...

Dear Friends,
Which is the greatest generation?

NBC newscaster Tom Brokaw wrote a book saying that the greatest generation is the GI Generation. This is an interesting conclusion and I can see how he arrived at it. These days we talk a lot about generations: we talk about generation X and the Boomers and the Busters.

Is the GI Generation the greatest?
Independence Day bring to mind the sacrifice of many who were intent to preserve freedom.

The GI Generation stormed the beaches of Normandy, bought war bonds to support the effort and worked long hours in factories to produce the necessary goods. Many of them gave their lives. Others left limbs on the battlefield and still others brought home shrapnel embedded in their bodies. They were the ones whose dreams of love down by the old mill stream turned to nightmares involving them in the Big War.

This was the generation that protected the world from fascism and preserved the land of the free and the home of the brave. Many of the GI Generation made huge sacrifices.

So have citizens who have been thrust into the brawl of other wars? Upon reflection, I think asking which is the greatest generation is asking the wrong question. It is not the Boomers or the Builders or the Busters or the Millennial Kids. It is all those and more.

I know of heroes of every generation. I know of people who, through faith, have conquered kingdoms. I know of people who quenched the fury of flames, people who stood tall before the forces of evil, and people whose weakness was turned to strength.

I know people dedicated to stopping poverty one hungry mouth at a time. I know people who are dedicated to freeing people from ignorance one tutoring at a time. I know people who are dedicated to conquering fear one sincere hug at a time. They are heroes too.

The truth is that we all stand before the awesome divine presence of God as part of the human generation.

God calls us to love, to serve, to grow and to worship. Come and honor God as we gather for worship. In particular, I urge you to join us to celebrate the great gift of independence at worship on July 3. Freedom is a wonderful gift. Let us rejoice and give thanks!

God Bless us all! Pastor Ralph

July

2011

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Luck Lutheran Church Council Minutes—May 2011

The meeting was called to order by Brian Paulsen.

Members present: Pastor Baardseth, Brian Paulsen, Amy Dueholm, Butch Nick, Steve McCormack, Al Tomlinson, Carol Giller, Spike Maiden Mueller and Paul Hawkins. **Absent:** Bryan Allen .

Opening Prayer: Pastor Baardseth provided a prayer.

Representatives from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans provided information on Thrivent and the various opportunities Luck Lutheran has to obtain additional monies through a program called “Thrivent Choice.” More information will be provided to the congregation regarding this at a future date.

The Council Meeting Minutes from April 20, 2011 were reviewed. Motion to approve the minutes was made by Steve McCormack and seconded by Al Tomlinson. Approved.

The Treasurer’s Report for April 2011 was reviewed. General Fund Giving as of April 2011 was \$46.5K compared to April 2010 of \$46.2K, a slight increase over prior year. Motion to accept the Treasurer’s Report was made by Steve McCormack and seconded by Al Tomlinson. Approved.

Pastor’s Report: Pastor Baardseth provided information on his activities for the past month with the hours and number of visits. He also asked if he would be able to get two weeks paid vacation. Based on all of his hard work over the past months it was agreed that this should not be a problem. A motion to provide Pastor Baardseth with two weeks paid vacation was made by Al Tomlinson and seconded by Butch Nick. Approved. Pastor Baardseth’s last day will be June 5 with Pastor Thompson starting on June 6. Council thanked Pastor Baardseth for all he has done for the congregation over the past several

months.

Committee Reports:

Education/Youth: Met 5/17. 1.) OFJ – met with other church (Cushing) about VBS and the date is set for 8/7-8/11. They are still putting together the theme. Registration forms will be sent out as soon as everything is set. 2.) Thank you to the Education committee for the hanging baskets gift given to the Coordinators for their hard work this year with OFJ. 3.) ABC Express & OFJ and Vacation Bible School will be in the Lucky Days parade this summer on Sunday, July 24. Those wanting to walk in the parade should meet at the church at 1:30pm. 4.) It was decided that there will not be a lock in for OFJ – maybe a movie night. 5.) Youth – Music in the Park schedule is in the newsletter. Senior High youth are serving and it starts Tuesday, June 7. 6.) More work was done on the youth room. 7.) Middle High youth lock in is cancelled and may be done in the fall. No summer plans for Middle High youth. 8.) Next meeting is June 14, 7pm.

Evangelism:

Fellowship/CCC Team: 1.) Met on 4/27 at 6pm. Discussed Pentecost Sunday (6/12). They will have the red carnations and cross again this year. 2.) The annual garage sale has been cancelled for this year. 3.) Sundae’s on Mondays will be starting in June. 4.) Ham dinner on 7/25. 5.) Next meeting 6/27.

Property: Looking into the warranty on our roof to see if it was part of the recall from shingles put on during the 1990s.

Stewardship:

Worship: 1.) Met on 5/15. Discussed new Pastor and working with him on new worship possibilities. 2.) Working with Memorial Committee to

make the Memorial Gift brochure more detailed in the giving opportunities out there for the congregation.

Old Business:

New Business: 1.) ABC Express Preschool would like to hold a fundraiser at Luck Lutheran on Friday, June 24 in the Fellowship Hall. This is an all day event. A motion to accept this request was made by Al Tomlinson and seconded by Paul Hawkins. Approved. 2.) ABC Express Preschool is asking if they can put a sign outside the church on the west side advertising the preschool. Council asked that the Property Committee meet with them to determine the sizing and style and then bring it back to council when they have an example. 3.) Luck Community Club asked if Luck Lutheran wanted to purchase a banner that will hang on Main Street for \$160. These banners will replace the Centennial banners made in 2005. Those purchasing the banner will get their names on the bottom of the banner. A motion to approve this purchase out of the miscellaneous fund was made by Brian Paulsen and seconded by Al Tomlinson. Approved. 4.) A possible mission and ministry opportunity was presented to council. This will be discussed further when Pastor Thompson is here. 5.) We will be moving Pastor Thompson on Saturday, May 21. Those helping are to meet at the church at 8am. Thank you to everyone who has volunteered.

Next regular Luck Council Meeting: Wednesday, June 15, at 7:00 pm.

Al Tomlinson made a motion to adjourn. Carol Giller seconded. Carried.

Council closed with the Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,
Amy Dueholm, Secretary





Luck Lutheran Church Council Minutes—June 2011

Opening Prayer: Pastor Thompson provided a prayer.

The meeting was called to order by Steve McCormack.

Members present: Pastor Thompson, Bryan Allen, Amy Dueholm, Butch Nick, Steve McCormack, Al Tomlinson, and Paul Hawkins. Absent: Brian Paulsen, Carol Giller and Spike Maiden Mueller .

The Council Meeting Minutes from May 18, 2011 were reviewed. Motion to approve the minutes was made by Al Tomlinson and seconded by Butch Nick. Approved.

The Treasurer’s Report for May 2011 was reviewed. General Fund Giving as of May 2011 was \$58.1K compared to May 2010 of \$58.8K, a slight decrease from prior year. Motion to accept the Treasurer’s Report was made by Amy Dueholm and seconded by Al Tomlinson. Approved.

Pastor’s Report: Pastor Thompson thanked everyone for the wonderful welcome on his first Sunday. He has visited a few members at their homes this week. There is a sign up sheet in the Narthex to schedule meeting times. This is a great way to introduce yourself and get to know Pastor Thompson. He will be on vacation August 8 – 15. He will be attending meetings on the National Youth Gathering over a couple of Saturdays during the next month. Juanita Dietmeier and Donna Johnson are also attending these meetings.

Committee Reports:

Education/Youth: Met 6/14. 1.) OFJ – VBS will be held at Luck Lutheran and will include our church, North Valley and First Lutheran of Cushing. 2.) Will meet on 6/28 to discuss more youth activities. 3.) Men’s Group – Had three men from Bone Lake Church attend their Saturday breakfast. The

Bone Lake members discussed possibly hosting a breakfast. 3.) Next meeting is 7/19, 7pm.

Evangelism: 1.) We are getting pictures of our church activities in the local papers. 2.) We will be providing a write-up of Pastor Thompson along with some photos in an upcoming issue of both local papers. 3.) We are working on getting more outreach to our members and community members.

Fellowship/CCC Team: 1.) Sundaes on Mondays will be starting at the end of June. 2.) Ham dinner on 7/25. 3.) Next meeting 6/27.

Property: Met 6/15. 1.) Working on getting working faucets on the outside of the building. 2.) In the process of getting our landscaping updated. Thanks to all that have been working hard on this project. 3.) Will be getting estimates for our roof within the next month. These would include estimates for both shingles and steel. 4.) Working through the signage with ABC Express Preschool. Paula is still working on an example to present. This signage would be located outside the west door of the church, close to the wall, parallel to it. 5.) Will be working with the Synod to get ideas for outside signage for the church to provide better visibility for us. This may include signs at intersections throughout town and updating our current sign in the front yard.

Stewardship:

Worship: 1.) Still working with Memorial Committee to make the Memorial Gift brochure more detailed in the giving opportunities out there for the congregation. We should have more to present at next meeting. 2.) Will be meeting with Pastor Thompson to discuss worship options and opportunities.

Old Business:

New Business: 1.) Reminder: Red Cross Bloodmobile will be at Luck Lutheran on August 10, Noon – 7pm. 2.) Discussed the thought of updating the church directory, possibly by adding supplements for new members. A committee will look into this and provide more information at our next meeting. 3.) Pastor Thompson asked if council would consider allowing Paula to go to a continuing education class titled “Soul Support” on August 1 – 2, total cost \$110. This is a class for church secretaries where they can meet and discuss their individual situations and gain ideas to bring back to the church. Motion to approve payment of this continuing education class for Paula out of the education fund was made by Butch Nick and seconded by Al Tomlinson. Approved. Pastor Thompson also mentioned that some congregational members inquired as to why the minutes are always a month behind. This was discussed and we will begin getting the current minutes out timelier. Pastor Thompson also would like to start a prayer chain at Luck Lutheran. Council agreed this would be a great idea.

Next regular Luck Council Meeting: Wednesday, July 20, at 7:00 pm.

Butch Nick made a motion to adjourn. Al Tomlinson seconded. Carried.

Council closed with the Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,
Amy Dueholm, Secretary





CHOICES...

Choices. All day, every day each of us are making choices. Some decisions of life are basic and simple, like choosing what to have for breakfast, or what color socks to wear. Other decisions are profound and life-altering, such as taking a new job in another city, or offering or accepting a proposal of marriage. Whether we are aware of it or not, we make dozens and dozens of choices every single day.

Every age of life brings different choices. Whether we are young or old, we have to make choices. The bottom line question for each of us is this: how do I make life-giving choices? In that moment when I am faced with a decision, on what can I rely or where can I turn?

We who are believers in the one true God have been given the gift of the amazing resource book called the Bible. It has stood the test of time and has so much to offer us. Psalm 25:12 says: *Who are they that fear the LORD? He will teach them the way that they should choose.* What a beautiful promise! Trust in God and God will teach us to make the right choices in life. Again in the Old Testament book of Joshua 25:12 we hear some important words about choice: *Now if you are unwilling to serve the LORD, choose this day who you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; **but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD!***

The choices that life brings can feel overwhelming and perplexing at times. But we are happiest of people because we know the truth - in choosing to follow God we are given the help we need to make life-giving choices for ourselves and for our families. Thanks be to God!

A pastor heard that one of his parishioners was going about announcing to one and all that he would no longer be attending church services. This parishioner was advancing the familiar argument that he could communicate with God just as easily out in the fields with nature as his setting for worship.

One winter evening the pastor called on this reluctant member of his flock for a friendly visit. The two men sat before the fireplace making small talk, but studiously avoiding the issue of church attendance.

After a while the pastor took the tongs from the rack next to the fireplace and pulled a single coal from the fire. He placed the glowing ember on the hearth. As the two watched in silence, the coal quickly ceased burning and turned to ashen gray while the other coals burned brightly.

The pastor's silent message was not lost on the parishioner. After a long pause, he turned to the pastor and said, "I'll be back at services next Sunday."

I know how easy it is, especially in the summertime, to have other activities take priority in your life: picnics, ball games, rounds of golf, yard work, sleeping in, traveling, family reunions etc.

I encourage you to make weekly worship a priority the rest of this summer. As Christian disciples we need to be strengthened by the community of Christian believers. Together we hear God's word, sing God's praise and are strengthened by God's life-giving meal. We **NEED** to be in the presence of other Christians - for worship - so that the light of Christ, lit in each of us, may burn brightly. Alone, without the presence of the community of faith, our light will dim to ashen gray. **See you in worship.**





RANDOM THOUGHTS FROM THE PASTOR...

THANK YOU!!! There are so many people to thank as we begin our ministry together. Thank you to the call committee that persevered in sending us the call to Luck Lutheran. Thank you to the Call Committee and the congregation for affirming their decision. A special thanks to Butch Nick and Brian Paulsen for their leadership. Thank you to the crew that moved us and helped unload our things (I apologize I did not throw more things away before we moved.) Thank you to the congregation for the warm welcome that we received. Thanks to all who made installation Sunday so special including the choir that stayed singing together that extra week. And, thanks be to God for His presence in our lives and ministry.

HOSPITAL HELPIII! I need your help identifying people who might be in the hospital or need a “shut-in” call. Please call me on my cell phone (715-977-0694) and let me know if you are in need of a call or someone you know is in need of a call. I would rather have ten people call me that someone needs a call rather than miss the opportunity to make the call. Hospitals do not call pastors to let us know of your hospital stay. I will really appreciate this.

NEW MEMBERS One of the notes that was left for me was that there are several people in the community in community that would like to join Luck Lutheran. Please let us know if this is you or if you know someone who might have that interest in joining the church.

VISITS I have enjoyed the home visits that I have made so far. It has been a great way to get to know you a bit better. Thank you for inviting me into your homes. Please continue to sign up on the appointment sheets.

PRAYER CHAIN Prayer is powerful. One of my reassuring moments is to know that when I need prayers, I have a ninety year old friend that will go into her prayer room and spend time before God asking for his help. It is great to know that people all over are joining together in prayer. We are reminded that we are not alone and that we can take seriously the words of the hymn writer to “take everything to the Lord in prayer.”

Basically, it will work like this: A request for prayer will be made. It can be a need or a thanksgiving. It is for whatever you want people to join you in prayer. You will set the request. The prayer request will be sent to a person who has been designated the lead person of the prayer chain. Depending on how many people sign up will determine how many chains we will have. The request will be passed down the chain and you will be asked to pray this request. Usually you will pray this prayer for a week.

This is an equal opportunity group that can and should include men and women. Please sign up on the signup sheet or call the church office. If you have e-mail, we invite you to share that so we can have an “e-mail” prayer chain as well. Thanks in advance.

SUNDAY SCHOOL I am excited about our plans for Sunday School this fall. We will continue the rotational Sunday School, but we are using the SPARK curriculum from Augsburg Publishing House. This curriculum is one of the best things the church has done in years. Churches across the country have enthusiastically embraced this curriculum to share faith with our children. We are looking forward to great things this fall.

LUTHER POINT CAMP It’s not too late to register for camp. There are still many openings for summer weeks. It is a great place to be. If you are registered for camp, please let us know. I would like to spend time with you at camp.

One more request... I am thankful for all of you who have joined us for worship. I am missing many of the children of the parish. Please come and worship with us so that I can get to know you.



DIAL~A~DEVOTION

July 3
July 10
July 17
July 24 In Honor of Janet Holdt's Birthday from Sheila Brom
July 31

NOTE: Sponsors are needed for Dial-A-Devotion. Please call the church office at 472-2605 if you would like to sponsor a week or weeks. Thank You!

MONDAY NIGHT WORSHIP

Are you going away for the weekend? Looking for an alternative worship opportunity? Regular worship is a vital part of being a follower of Jesus, even during the summer. And because people's schedules are hectic during the summer (trips to the cabin, busy children's schedules, tee times, etc.) we offer a weekday worship service on Monday nights at 6:30 pm. There is inspiring music, relevant teaching and good fellowship.

JOIN US!

Luck Lutheran Member: Graveside service at Luck Lutheran Cemetery, Thursday, June 16: Edis Calder

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR VBS!

August 7-11, 2011—5:30-7:45 pm

WE ARE PLANNING A FUN WEEK OF LEARNING, GROWING, AND SHARING OUR FAITH IN JESUS, TOGETHER WITH FIRST LUTHERAN AND LAKETOWN, CUSHING, AND NORTHVALLEY LUTHERAN. OUR THEME IS "PANDAMANIA". PLEASE SEE REGISTRATION FORM IN THIS NEWSLETTER!!

MEN'S GROUP BREAKFAST

Saturday, July 9th
At Luck Lutheran Church

7:00 am coffee

7:30 am breakfast

Everyone is welcome, so come enjoy breakfast and fellowship

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!!

THANK YOU

Luck Lutheran Members for the great gift certificate to the Majestic Spa. It is very much appreciated!

Paula Hischer

**THANK YOU TO
LUCK LUTHERAN
JULY/AUGUST SERVICE
GROUP**

Thank you to the July & August Service Group for their ministry during these two months. Service Group Leader for the months of July & August is Jean Giller. We give thanks for her leadership.

The Service Groups are vital to our congregational life and especially our worship life together. Each of the Service Groups have approximately 50 members. The Service Groups service in the following capacities:

- *Ushers
- *Coffee Time
- *Lectors
- *Prepare Communion
- *Greeters
- *Serve Communion
- *Cheer
- *Funerals
- *Altar & Flowers

If you are not presently involved in one of our Service Groups and would like to help in this way, please contact Steve McCormack, Council Representative at 715-483-3157.



Lutheran World Relief
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. LASTING PROMISE.

Dear Friend in Christ,

On behalf of the palm harvesting communities in Guatemala and Mexico, we present you with this certificate and appreciation to thank you for using Eco-Palms for Palm Sunday this year! We hope you will proudly display this certificate on a bulletin board or other public place to let the members of your congregation know the difference they have made.

Because of you, we celebrated our most successful Palm Sunday yet. More than 815,000 Eco-Palms waved jubilantly this year, with 340,000 of those in the hands of Lutherans across the U.S.

Because of you, more than \$40,000 will go back to the palm harvesting communities to provide scholarships to local children and improve their ability to manage the palm program.

Your simple act is making a big difference.

Blessings,

Kattie Somerfeld

Fair Trade Projects Coordinator

Lutheran World Relief



Serving Polk and Burnett Counties
2201 U.S. Hwy 8, P.O. Box 736
St. Croix Falls, WI 54024-736
Building homes in partnership with God's people

Dear Friend:

On behalf of Wild Rivers Habitat for Humanity, we would like to thank you for your recent donation of \$176.65. Because of your contribution, we will be able to build safe, decent, affordable homes in partnership with families in Polk and Burnett Counties. It is the purpose of Wild Rivers Habitat for Humanity to create these partnerships between low-income families in need, volunteers and organizations with financial and material resources.

Since our organization began we have been improving lives, one home at a time. The continuation of our work is possible because of thoughtful contributions from people like you.

We are very thankful for the trust you have shown in Habitat for Humanity. Your gift proves that even in these difficult times, we live in a world hope.

Please note: Our office has moved to St. Croix Falls, WI into the new ReStore building located on U.S. Hwy 8.

Sincerely,

Marcy Plomski—Office Assistant



“The Sunshine Team”

June 13th we hosted the June birthday party at the United Pioneer Home. Each of the eleven churches take turns during the year to host a special party for the birthdays during that month. Anyone may come and visit friends they know in the home and have coffee and dessert with them.

We have been notified that at least six visits have been made to shut-ins—Good Going! Remember...You think you are doing them a favor. However, you will get more out of that visit than they do...

It's a wonderful thing!

One prayer shawl and one fleece prayer shawl were donated. One prayer shawl and one fleece prayer shawl were given to people in need of comfort. This is a very rewarding ministry of our church.

DON'T FORGET TO “REACH OUT”





Program Updates...

MISSION ACTION

“God’s work. Our hands.”

A few bars of soap and some toothbrushes have been received for the **Personal Care/Health Kits** for Lutheran World Relief. Could you help provide other items needed for maybe 30 kits—sturdy combs, metal nail clippers, bath towels (approx. 52” x 27”), and more bath-size bars of soap & adult-size toothbrushes? There is a container in the narthex in which to place the items. The kits are needed throughout the world for those people who survive natural disasters, political conflict, etc.

Near the end of July, watch for school supply sales for items for **School Kits** (notebooks of 70 or 150-200 sheets, blunt scissors, 30-centimeter rulers, pencil sharpeners, #2 pencils, 2 ½” erasers, boxes of 16 or 24 crayons). Bags, with listing of supplies needed, will be available in the church narthex about mid-July.

Bible—Basic Information

Before Leaving Earth

Music in the Park

The Music in the Park series continues throughout the summer—Tuesday evenings beginning at 6:30 p.m. in Triangle Park. Moved into the Church in case of rain. LLC Sr. High Youth are serving food each week. Brats, Hot Dogs, Nachos are served weekly in addition to a weekly special and a different weekly dessert. Please join us for dinner and enjoy good music and good friends each week.

July 5th—Jim Armstrong

July 12th—Danville Singers

July 19th—Wilson Family Singers

July 26th—Rex Cactus

Baby Care Kits (formerly Layettes) for Missions

The following items are needed for the Care Kits

Two receiving blankets, up to 52”

Four cloth diapers, flat fold preferred

Two pair of socks

One hand towel, dark color preferred

Two diaper pins or large safety pins

Please put them in the storage room and have them marked Baby Care Kits.

Interfaith Food Pantry—Monthly Director’s Report May 2011

400 Main Street South, P.O. Box 553, Luck, WI 54853

Households served: 129

Luck School District: 62

Adults served: 225

Unity School District: 68

Children served: 95

New Families: 14

Total served: 350

Luck: 4 Unity: 10

USDA food received: 48 cases

Non-USDA food (donations): 1392#

Groceries purchased: 1500#

Cash Donated: \$1686.00

Volunteer hours: 61.5

Each month the government provides approximately 50 cases of food to our food shelf. Most of this is meat and vegetables. The month of July and September there will be no government donations. During this time of year our donations lessen too.

Loaves & Fishes is send out a plea to all churches and organizations to please help with donations of any canned goods, meat, or meat products (with at least 8% protein). We can use ANYTHING! Soap, toilet paper, cereal—and of course CASH.

Times are hard for all of us, but think about those that are worse off than you are, and find it in your heart to help, if you can. Thank you very much!

Gwen Klotz for Pat William, Coordinator



July 2011

Luck Lutheran Church

Worship 10:30 am

Contemporary Worship—Monday Evening 6:30 pm

Non-Perishable food donations for Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry are accepted at our church.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 <u>3rd Sunday after Pentecost</u> <i>(Green)</i> Holy Communion at Worship	4 No Men's Bible Study ++++++ No Worship	5	6	7	8	9 Men's Group Breakfast 7:00 am
10 <u>4th Sunday after Pentecost</u> <i>(Green)</i> Council & Call Committee Gathering	11 Men's Bible Study 5:30 pm ++++++ Worship 6:30 pm	12	13	14	15	16
17 <u>5th Sunday after Pentecost</u> <i>(Green)</i>	18 Men's Bible Study 5:30 pm ++++++ Worship 6:30 pm	19 Education/Youth Committee Meeting 7:00 pm	20 Quilting 10:00-2:00 Property Cmt. 6:00 Council Mtg 7:00 Newsletter Deadline	21	22	23
24 <u>6th Sunday after Pentecost</u> <i>(Green)</i> OFJ/VBS/ABC Express Preschool walking in Lucky Days parade 3:00 pm	25 Men's Bible Study 5:30 pm ++++++ Ham Dinner 5:30-6:15 ++++++ Worship 6:30 pm	26	27	28	29	30
31 <u>7th Sunday after Pentecost</u> <i>(Green)</i> Holy Communion at Worship		<u>Next Month</u> August 7–8th Sunday after Pentecost (green) <i>Matthew 14: 22-33</i> August 14–9th Sunday after Pentecost (green) <i>Matthew 15: 10-28</i> August 21–10th Sunday after Pentecost (green) <i>Matthew 16: 13-20</i> August 28–11th Sunday after Pentecost (green) <i>Matthew 16: 21-28</i>				