

August 2014

MICHIGAN LUTHERAN CHURCH

UCC OF LAKOTA

SARNIA UNITED

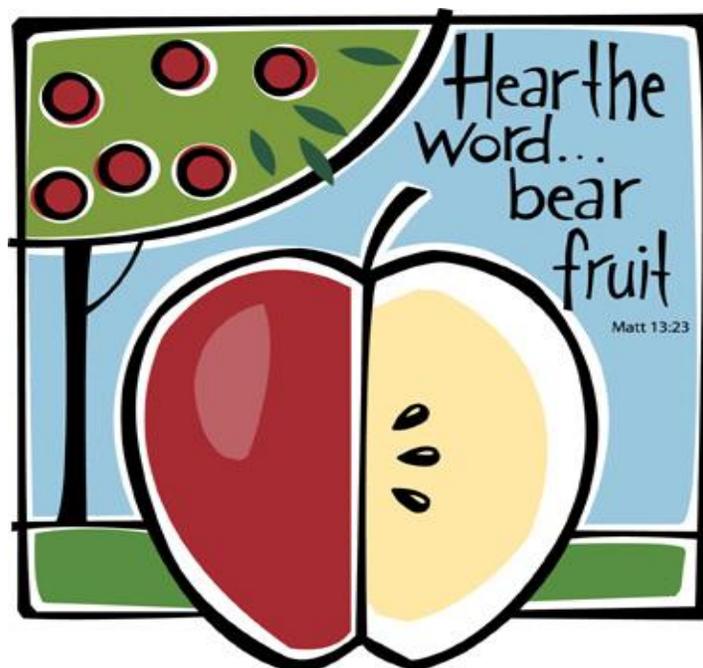


Reminder from your Newsletter Editor

Newsletters, a way to keep our three congregations together. An easy way to communicate among each other, but this cannot happen without information from everyone. I understand that all of us do our jobs for church on pretty much a volunteer basis. This job of doing weekly bulletins and producing and printing the newsletter, I also do on a volunteer basis. But in order to continue to do so I ask that you keep the deadline for monthly newsletter in mind. In the beginning of our new venture it was decided that a monthly newsletter would be done and either handed out or emailed by the last Sunday of the month so all would have the next month's information. In order to do this I have asked for the information by the 3rd Monday of each month, with the intention of producing the newsletter on Tuesday, so they can be sent with the bulletins for that week. A reminder of this deadline is printed in the weekly announcements, but it is still difficult to get all the information in a timely fashion. Information not emailed or called in by the production of the newsletter will not make it into the edition being produced. Also a reminder to all that if you would like to have something placed in the newsletter, PLEASE email it to michlucssar@yahoo.com or give me a call at 701-247-3323. Thank you to all who have contributed to our newsletters!

God's Blessing

Jason Flom



August 2014

Dear Friends in Christ,

Are you anxious? Do you worry about how you will provide adequately for yourself and your family? Is there something that you have seen and desire with all your heart and are willing to work hard to get it-even if it affects your well-being, your family life, or your relationship with God? This is the malady of contemporary life. Our desire has no limits and we are captive to it. The problem creates anxiety and we all suffer from it.

It is time to “break the anxiety cycle” (Walter Brueggemann). The question is, how can we do that? God lays out a plan for us and it is very simple, if we let ourselves act on it. This plan can be summed up in one word, “Sabbath”. Sabbath rest is part of the Ten Commandments. It reminds us that when God worked hard creating the world, when it was finished, God was satisfied and enjoyed the Divine handiwork. Are we ever able to sit back and enjoy our work?

Sabbath rest has traditionally found its practice in Sunday worship. This break from the daily routine allows our minds and bodies to find a different rhythm rooted in God, the Creator. We are all created in the image and likeness of God and that includes the ability to rest well.

Sabbath, (see Deut. 5:6-21) as found in Deuteronomy, is based not in the creative actions of God, but in the liberating deeds of release from Pharaoh. Sabbath allows us freedom from anxiety and that is indeed emancipating.

The question is, how do we do Sabbath when we live in a 24/7/365 world? As a pastor, my first response is to say, come and worship God. That is based in scripture and well-founded in many cultures. The break in daily routine allows us to open ourselves to God’s time. Many years ago Sabbath was a practice based on rules and its practice was legalistic, not freeing. Today, I would suggest a way of resting in actions that enhance relationships. One of my dear friends always spent Sundays visiting friends and relatives, particularly those who could not get out much. I think this is a wonderful Sabbath practice.

We must as faithful people, resist the culture of desire, particularly on the Sabbath. All too often (and I am guilty of this) we see Sunday as a time to go shopping or go out for dinner. That may be a break in routine for us, but it is not for those who must work and cannot attend worship or rest. And yes, even pastors work on Sunday (in fact it is our “busy day”). What we (and I include myself in this) need is to carve out time in our daily and weekly life to find some rest.

This must be intentional. If you are a list-maker, include rest on each and every list. See if you get to cross that one off. As you become more adept at finding Sabbath time, you will come to treasure it and insist that it be an integral part of your day or week. This is a challenge I am working on and I hope you will find this a worthwhile goal. Sabbath is a gift of God and as such we must practice it and treasure it with all our being. May each of you find Sabbath time to rid your life of the anxieties of our culture.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Barb



August 2014

It's back to school time! August 20th for Dakota Prairie and August 21 for Lakota Public is the first day of school. On Sunday, August 17, there will be a special service for children, parents, and teachers as they prepare for the school year. Anyone, from preschool through college can participate. All are invited to bring their backpacks or briefcases to worship on August 17. During the worship service, children, parents, and teachers are invited to come forward for a moment of prayer and blessing. Each child will receive a special backpack tag and parents will receive cards to place in the backpacks as children need special encouragement. We want to send the precious children and youth of this congregation to school with our loving support and offer prayers and God's assurance for those who dedicate their lives to teaching. Please join us on August 17 for this special service.



Special Guest Speaker

On Sunday, August 24 Michigan, Sarnia and Lakota will worship together at 10:30 A.M. at Michigan to hear a special guest speaker, Ben Hylden from Park River. Ben was critically injured in a car accident and he has written his story in the book, Finding Faith in the Field. Ben will bring his message to our churches that day. Following worship, we will have a potluck together. Ben will have his book available and if you have already purchased yours, bring it and he will sign it. Please plan to attend to hear this inspiring message from Ben. I encourage our young people particularly to attend. His story speaks in special ways to our youth.

ANNUAL STUMP LAKE WORSHIP

Our three congregations will be worshipping together at Stump Lake Pioneer Village Church on Sunday August 10th at 10:30am. Everyone is asked to bring a dish to share at potluck after the service. Michigan Lutheran will be hosting the potluck!

ALL ARE WELCOME!



August 2014

News from United Church of Christ:

Church time in August is 11:00

In our prayers: Jason Schroeder (Son of Jim and Bobbie Schroeder) battling cancer.

Women's Fellowship: Thursday, August 21 at 2:00 following Bible Study at SunLac. Women's Fellowship will also continue with their Bible Study "Embraced by God".

Church Cleaning: Ruth Hatten & Ellie Pederson

Ushers: Bob Ferguson & Marian Swingdoff

ATTENDANCE & OFFERINGS

June 29	(17)	\$499
July 6	(15)	\$515
July 13	(17)	\$1448
July 20	(16)	\$227

In July there was \$12 given to the **Benevolence Fund** and \$165 given toward the **mowing fund**.

Our Parish Service will be on August 10 at 10:30 at Stump Lake. Everyone is asked to bring a dish for the **potluck dinner after the service**. Thank you to Michigan Lutheran for hosting the dinner this year.

On **August 24**, we will not have church at our regular time. Instead we will have a **parish service** with a guest speaker at Michigan Lutheran at 10:30 a.m. There will be a potluck dinner following.

In July, \$60 was sent to the Northern Plains Conference for the **Strengthen the Church** offering. Your \$12 donation to the Benevolence Fund helps to fund this offering. The UCC website says this about the Strengthen the Church offering:

Each day, visions and dreams are created in the hearts of many in the United Church of Christ. Through the Strengthen the Church offering, these visions and dreams can become a reality.

As God calls our congregations to be "church" in new ways, your generous gifts will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches, and develop spiritual life in our youth and young adults. Because of this offering, many more will hear the good news that "God is still speaking,"

All gifts are directed to activities and programs within your local Conference, as well as the UCC's national ministries.

News from Michigan Lutheran Church:

August Worship Time-8:00am

August ushers: O'Neal Johnson
Jack & Beth Donaghy

In our Prayers: The Family of John Schmidt

Beatrice Schulz-Dee Orwick's mother who is recovering from a blood clot.

Michigan Church council will meet on Wednesday, August 13th at 7pm

WELCA will meet Wednesday, August 20th at 2pm

August 2014

Offering and Attendance

June 29 th	\$567.00	16
July 6 th	\$1093.32	35
July 13 th	\$600.00	31
July 20 th	656.32	25

Noisy Bucket-\$20.46

Coffee time for June29th-July 20th-\$89.70

Memorial for John Schmidt from Pastor Barb

\$12.00 to Benevolence Fund

News from Sarnia United:

August Worship Time- 9:30am

No other Information received.



*"For where two or three
come together in my name,
there am I with them."*

Matthew 18:20, NIV

August 2014

~ August 2014 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 MLC-8am Sarnia-9:30 UCC- 11:00am	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 Joint Service at Stump Lake 10:30am Potluck to follow	11	12	13 Michigan Lutheran Council 7pm	14	15	16
17 MLC-8am Sarnia-9:30 UCC- 11:00am	18	19	20 WELCA in Michigan-2pm	21 UCC Women's Fellowship 2pm-Following Bible study at Sunlac	22	23
24 Special Speaker Joint Service at Michigan Lutheran 10:30am Potluck All Welcome	25	26	27	28	29	30
31 MLC-8am Sarnia-9:30 UCC- No Church	Notes:					

