

Exciting News!



Shetek Lutheran Ministries

- March 6 Pre-marriage workshop
- March 13 "Soar with the Eagles"
- March 21 Sugarbush Boil-off Pancake Dinner
- March 27 & 28 Snowshoe Rocker Workshop
- April 16 & 17 Marriage Retreat

(For more information please check the bulletin board or call 507-763-3567)

Day Camp Dates Set:

Day camp will be held June 7-10, 2010 at Old Westbrook! Put the dates on your calendar now ☺

Free To Be...Intentional
Bridging the gap women's conference

April 9-10, 2010

Minneapolis, Minnesota

Register with iTickets at
www.btgevents.org
800-965-9324

Job Available

HELPING HAND PREGNANCY CENTER of Worthington, MN seeks Executive Director. Primary responsibilities include administration, supervision and management of five staff members, community relations/public relations, grant writing, documentation responsibilities and fundraising.

Being a committed Christian who demonstrates a personal relationship with Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord and a strong commitment to pro-life is required. A Bachelor's degree in a related field or equivalent experience is preferred. This is a full time 36-40 hr/wk salaried position with paid vacation.

Please send letter of application and resume to Helping Hand Pregnancy Center, Attn: Barb Atchison, Board President, PO Box 21, Worthington, MN 56187.



Olan Mills

will be at Old Westbrook April 21 and Highwater April 22. You may have your picture taken at either site. Sign-up, for the joint pictorial directory pictures, begins March 21.

If you, or someone in your family, will not be available to have your picture taken during this time, please contact one of the following people:

- Joan Iverson 507-445-3388
 - Terri Stangeland 507-445-3135
 - Carol Mattison 507-572-7247
- You may also make contact through church Email:
owhw@rrcnet.org

Congratulations to Pastor Mike for being voted to be on the Synod Council during the Shetek Conference of the SW MN ELCA 2010 Annual Meeting.

Lenten Journey

The Parable of the Prodigal Son is at the heart of our Partners in Ministry Bible study during Lent. This parable is one of the most well known in the Bible, and speaks to us on so many levels about the reality of our life and relationship with God.

This is the third time in the last year I have been led back to this parable. It was the basis for a series I used in confirmation this fall, entitled, *Choosing Your Religion*. Now I am studying it from the perspective of Lent and our journey through life.

Through Lent, the verse before the gospel lesson in worship comes from the prophet Joel. Our Ash Wednesday text is, "Return to the LORD, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing." In how many ways, and how far do we travel away from God? We seek to control our own lives, make our own decisions, and live life on our own terms. But, the result of that is always the same. We can't make it on our own. There is no abundance, no life, apart for God.

In the parable, the Father waits in patience and grief for his son to return. The son doesn't come to his senses until he hits rock bottom, and finally recognizes how much better things were at home, and remembers the good character of his Father. The call of the prophet Joel to the people of Israel is along the same vein. In calling Israel to return to the Lord, he reminds them of God's character. He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

During this Lenten season, may we remember the character of God, especially the journey of Jesus to the cross. He did it for us, out of his love and mercy. Return to the Lord, to His Word, and to the abundance of life that is ours in Christ our Lord

Pastor Mike Stangeland



**ROUND ROBIN WEDNESDAY
NIGHT 7:30 P.M. SERVICES**

*Come, Follow Me;
A Journey with Jesus-
Bible Studies for Lent*

March 3 HW Ephesians 1
HW LL serving a meal at 6:30

March 10 OW John 10
OW LL serving a meal at 6:30

March 17 HW John 6
HW Ladies Aid serving lunch
after the service

March 24 OW John 15
OW LL serving a meal at 6:30

COME TOUCH THE ROBE

**Partners in Ministry Cantata – Palm Sunday Afternoon – Trinity,
Westbrook**

Unique in concept, soaring in spirit, and with music, text, and narration by Pepper Choplin, *Come Touch the Robe* allows us to encounter the Christ of healing, glory, authority, humility, and victory. This work uses the simple garment that Jesus wore as a thematic device to recount the interaction of those who were with Him during His last days on Earth. To a suffering woman, His robe conveyed divine healing. On the mountaintop, the robe shone and filled the disciples' eyes with His glory and authority. When Jesus laid His garment aside in the upper room, it displayed His humility as a servant. At the tomb, the grave clothes He left behind help us experience His resurrection and the victory over death. It is through these personal, touching moments that our hearts are fully prepared to meet Jesus in an intimate way, allowing us to experience the healing, the glory, and the power of Christ, and rejoice in the stirring celebration of the resurrection of the Lamb of God.

Partners in Ministry Bible Study Series

From Fear to Love,

Lenten Reflections on the Parable of the Prodigal Son

The Bible studies will be held from 9:00-10:30 a.m. on the following dates and locations:

March 6 – Trinity, Westbrook

March 13 – Trinity, Jeffers

March 20 – Grace, Westbrook

March 27 – Highwater

OLD WESTBROOK LUTHERAN TREASURER'S REPORT

JANUARY 2010

GENERAL FUND CHECKBOOK

Beginning Balance					\$8,887.01
Offerings This Month					
1 st \$1300	2 nd no service	3 rd \$1,706	4 th \$3813.11	5 th \$3,813.66	Total \$12,102.77
Misc. Income	Highwater		\$1,031.06		
Ending Month Balance					\$8,397.10

FUNDS

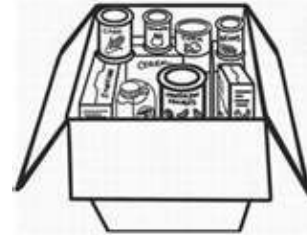
	Beginning	Income	Expenses	Balance
Parsonage Fund	\$2,271.28	\$125.00	\$0.00	\$2,396.28
Memorial Fund	\$4,942.40	\$30.00	\$3,570.00	\$1,402.40
Building Fund	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Museum Fund	\$20.80	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$20.80
Handicap Fund	\$1,342.50	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,342.50
Mission to Mississippi	\$893.49	\$1000.00	\$0.00	\$1893.49
Total Funds	\$9,470.47	\$1,155.00	\$3,570.00	\$5,055.47

CEMETERY FUND

Checking	\$3,406.09	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,406.09
Savings	\$2,469.45	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$2,569.45
Investments	\$38,000.00	\$0.00		\$38,000.00
Total Funds				\$43,975.54

BENEVOLENCE

	Budgeted	This Month	Given to Date	Balance
Synodical	\$6,500	\$0	\$0	\$6,500
Lutheran Social Services	\$260	\$0	\$0	\$260
Mission Support	\$2000	\$0	\$0	\$2000
Prison Ministry	\$1,300	\$0	\$0	\$1,300
The Banquet	\$200	\$0	\$0	\$200
Shetek Luth. Ministries	\$600	\$0	\$0	\$600
Total	\$10,860	\$0	\$0	\$10,860



COMING IN MARCH: "Be a SUPERHERO in the Minnesota fight against hunger -March is "Food Shelf Month", and Highwater will again be participating in a friendly competition with the area churches to raise money and food donations for the Cottonwood County Sharing Center in Windom. Bring your non-perishable food donations to church Sundays during the month of March, and let's make the real winner in this competition the Sharing Center!

O
P
P
O
R
T
U
N
I
T
I
E
S
T
O
G
I
V
E

The Arks are coming!

Be sure to pick up a Heifer Project Ark at church during the month of March. The Junior Lutherans will be collecting them in April.

WOW!

Fifty-six health kits and \$105 were delivered on Sunday, February 21 for Lutheran World Relief!!! There is a collection box at OW to collect items for the women to make kits in the spring.

Old Westbrook Church Council Minutes

- The Old Westbrook Church Council met on February 1, 2010 at 7:30.
- Present: Pastor Michael Stangeland, Jay Warner, Brad Berg, Mark Highby, Gretchen Warner, Gordy Kopperud, Joan Iverson, Don Enstad, Dan Warner, Greg Warner, Bruce Mathiason and Gladys Mathiason
- Jay Warner called the meeting to order.
- Jay Warner asked Pastor Mike to begin with devotions.
- Secretary's report was read by acting secretary, Gretchen Warner. Motion to approve by Brad B., seconded by Dan W. Motion carried.
- Treasurer's report for January was read by Don Enstad. It was noted that \$3570 was taken from the Memorial Fund, \$3000 was taken from the General Fund for the furnaces. Motion to approve by Joan I, seconded by Gordy K. Motion carried.
- Pastors report by Pastor Mike
 - Confirmation classes have been cancelled because of weather. Make-up times are trying to be found.
 - Jim Rands of the Gideons spoke on the 17th of January and received an offering of \$273.
 - Ash Wednesday is the 17th of February. Lenten Services will be done as a round-robin by pastors with Pastor Mike, Elton Jorde, Mark Swanson, a Seminary Student-Bruce Berg and the Methodist pastor of Tracy. Mark Swanson will be the first pastor at Old Westbrook.
 - Partners In Ministry met with John Hoyme in Storden about the same sex relationships.
 - February 21st is the Shetek Conference Assembly which is the beginning of the voting process for the 2011 meeting. We should have 6 delegates at the meeting; ideally, three male, three female, one under 30.
 - There is a Congregational Leadership Form that needs to be filled in.
- Old Business
 - Furnace is not wired yet; Parsonage heater is not wired yet.
 - The Shetek Conference is February 21st.
 - Congregational Leadership Day, February 20. A workshop for anyone interested in Leadership at Cross of Cavalry Church in Olivia. There will be a presentation of Bishop John Anderson. There will be ministry specific workshops.
 - "Healthy Congregations" event that will be held in New Ulm, February 13th.
 - Results from Synod Support vote came out. There were 11 highly rated missions. We have \$2750 to give to the missions. Gordy K. motioned that we divide the money between the top 11 votes, Brad B. seconded. Motion carried. The missions were Lutheran Disaster Response, World Hunger Appeal, Direct Support of an ELCA Missionary, Prisoners of Hope, Lutheran Social Services of Minnesota, Camping Ministry, Lutheran Campus Ministry of Minnesota, Luther Seminary, Shalom Hill farm, Director of Evangelical Mission and the Book of Faith Project.
 - Jay asked for any other old business.
- New Business
 - We will be giving \$3250 to the SW Synod
 - Dan Warner motioned to put the top 11 missions from 2009 onto the ballot for 2010 and ask for additional missions. Bruce Mathiason seconded the mission. Motion carried.
 - Joan I. stated that we need more people for the Worship Committee. Volunteers will be taken otherwise the position will be left open.
 - Gordy K., motioned to appoint Gretchen Warner secretary. Joan I. seconded the motion. Motion carried.
 - Elections were held; Brad Berg is the Chairman. Greg Warner was nominated as the Vice Chairman. Mark Highby moved that nominations cease, Dan Warner seconded the motion. Motion carried.
 - Gordy K. motioned that we elect Greg Warner as the Vice Chairman, Gladys Mathiason seconded. Motion Carried.
 - Parsonage Committee: Greg Warner, Dan Warner and Jay Warner
 - Building/Grounds Committee: Mark Highby, Gladys Mathiason and Brad Berg
 - Don E. reported that our funds mature and interest rates could change.
 - Jay Warner motioned that we renew the \$10000 Mission Investment Fund for 6 years at 4% fixed rate. Mark H. seconded the motion. Motion carried.
 - Joan I. motioned that we renew the \$7000 Mission Investment Fund for 3 years at a 1.39% variably rate. Dan Warner seconded the motion. Motion carried.

There being no further business, Greg Warner motioned to adjourn, Gordy Kopperud seconded the motion. Motion carried. The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted, Gretchen Warner Secretary

Highwater Lutheran Church Council Minutes
February 2, 2010

Pastor Mike Stangeland called the February 2010 meeting of the Highwater Lutheran Church Council to order at 7:30pm on February 2, 2010 at the home of Terry Quiring. He led devotions based in 1 Corinthians 12.

Paula Derickson presented the secretary's report for January 2010. **Motion** (Terry Quiring/Butch Redman) to accept the report as presented. Motion passed.

Deb Batalden presented the treasurer's report for January 2010. **Motion** (Duane Erickson/Joleen Erickson) to accept the treasurer's report as presented. Motion passed.

Pastor's report:

The Gideons received \$202 in offering from Highwater.

Confirmation – will try to make up some of the time that has been missed due to weather cancellations.

Thesis defense – was scheduled but missed due to weather. Will be done at conference meeting in February.

Conference meeting – Feb 21, 2 pm @ Grace Lutheran in Luverne – we are allowed 6 voting delegates (3 male, 3 female, one of those under 21) Delegate to churchwide assembly will be elected (male layperson)

Pastor Harvey will be coming to do a presentation on the 2009 mission to Mississippi February 7 during the Sunday school hour. **Motion** (Butch Redman/Joleen Erickson) to guarantee \$1300 to Harvey's trip support.

Pastor and Pastor Harvey attended the CORE meeting in Marshall on January 11. It was very well attended.

PIM – both Westbrook congregations decided not to participate. The round robin will be the Lutheran congregations from Storden, Tracy, Garvin, and the Methodist pastor from Tracy, as well as our congregation. Ash Wednesday is Feb 17.

Old Business:

Parish secretary – Brandie has decided to resign the secretary's position after all, due to financial aid restrictions for her schooling. Joint Parish Council will be acting on this vacancy. Terri will continue in the interim. She would be interested in attending a congregational leadership day on Feb. 20.

Pictorial directory: Olin Mills was contacted. Dates for photography are scheduled for Wed. April 21, & Thurs April 22 from 3-9:30pm.

New Business:

Reorganization: Duane Erickson nominated Terry Quiring as chairman. David Engen seconded. Motion passed.

Highwater Township has asked to use the church for their annual meeting March 9 at 1:30pm. **Motion** (David Engen/Duane Erickson) to allow this. Motion passed.

Exterior maintenance: Terry would like to pursue fundraising for this project as directed at the annual meeting. It was thought that we should make up a letter to each parishioner asking to see what their financial commitment might be. This idea was discussed at length. A letter was drafted and will be distributed to congregational members this week. It was decided to obtain 2 bids on the siding and possibly a painting bid as well in case the funding doesn't materialize.

There being no further business, Terry declared the meeting adjourned.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

The next meeting will be held March 2, 2010, beginning at 7:30pm at church. Paula Derickson will host.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula Derickson
Highwater Lutheran Church Council Secretary

Highwater Treasurer's Report – January 2010	
Beginning balance	\$4,283.46
Regular offerings	\$6,678.64
Memorials	\$ 50.00
Expenses	
Salaries and shared expenses	\$4,333.39
Homo Bay	\$ 550.00
Pastor Ukpe	\$ 550.00
Meadowland-fuel	\$ 969.34
Red Rock Rural Water	\$ 361.76
South Central Electric	\$ 887.96
Ending balance	\$3,359.65