



Dekorra Lutheran Church

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Pastor Ted Johanson, Interim Pastor

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February 2012 Newsletter

From the Desk of Pastor Ted...

Cell: 920-573-1604 // Email: PadrePoint@gmail.com

Worship and Study Plans for February and March

It is always tricky at this point of an interim ministry to do planning. As the Call Committee begins to receive candidate names and to carry out interviews the timing of the interim process becomes less clear. Perhaps the Call Committee will present a recommendation very quickly... or not. At the time of this writing I'm feeling reasonably sure that I'll be part of Dekorra into and perhaps throughout the Lenten season, so I'm planning accordingly.

Ongoing Sunday Morning Study on Sacramental Practices at 9:20 a.m.

I'll continue the Sunday study I began in January on the ELCA document: *The Use of the Means of Grace*. I'll soon give particular attention to the ideas of weekly communion and communion for ALL ages. Join Us!!

Wednesday Worship Continues Each Week at 7 p.m.

As happened in the previous months, an informal 25-30 minute worship service is offered each Wednesday evening at 7:00 p.m. ALL are welcomed to join us on any and all Wednesdays. The services always include communion and feature guitar-led music. (Confirmation begins at 6:30 p.m. and resumes at 7:30 p.m. until Lent; ALL are invited to be part of any and all confirmation classes.)

Weekly Wednesday Lenten Study on the Gospel of Mark at 7:45 p.m.

Beginning on Ash Wednesday (February 22) I'll offer a Lenten Study on Mark immediately following each 7:00 p.m. Wednesday worship service (except March 7.) The five-session study will provide additional information and perspective on Mark, the first gospel to have been written (around 40 years after Jesus.) Learn new insights and perspectives about this wonderful book that literally changed the world.

Sunday Worship During Lent - A Presentation of the Gospel of Mark - The Entire Text

During the Sunday worship services of Lent I'll present the entire Gospel of Mark in a series of dramatic readings. The text of the gospel will be presented in five segments, beginning February 26. Become "caught up" in the wonderfully depicted drama of Jesus as put forward by the writer of Mark. (I'll likely be gone on Sunday, March 4 and worship that day will likely be a Service of the Word.)

Wednesdays in Lent - Supper at 6:00 p.m. / Worship at 7:00 p.m. / Study at 7:45 p.m.

Commit to making Wednesday evenings at Dekorra a part of your life during the entire season of Lent this year. A supper will be offered beginning at 6:00 p.m. each week (except Ash Wednesday.) Worship begins at 7 p.m. (with a music rehearsal at 6:30 - see below.) Immediately after worship I'll offer a study on the Gospel of Mark... perhaps lasting about 30 minutes (except March 7.) Lent is a time for Learning, Personal Growth, and Fellowship.

Music Rehearsals for Wednesday Worship in Lent at 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday Lenten Worship will likely feature music of Ray Makeever (composer of ELW hymns #464 and #479.) His songs have pleasant melodies, folk style rhythms, and wonderful texts. To learn the songs for each Wednesday service I'll have a rehearsal at 6:30 p.m. each week. This is open to anybody and everybody who enjoys singing and might enjoy helping me to lead the music of worship.

Two Saturday Gatherings on March 10 and 24 - Beginning at 9:30 a.m.

I've asked my wife, Joan, to lead two congregational gatherings at Dekorra during Lent. We chose March 10 and 24. We'll begin at 9:30 a.m. on each of the two Saturdays. Lunch will be included. To help me provide a sufficient amount of food I'll ask people let me know if they plan to attend. (People can also simply show up... I'll have enough food, I'm sure.) I'll provide more information about these gatherings in Sunday announcements.



Wednesday, February 1

6:30p Confirmation Meal

7:00p Worship

Friday, February 3

7:00p Youth Lock-In at

Dekorra

Saturday, February 4

4:00p Youth Rock & Worship

Road at Alliant Energy Center

Monday, February 6

7:00p New Member

Orientation

Wednesday, February 8

6:30p Confirmation

7:00p Worship

Sunday, February 12

4:30p DMC Wild Game Feed

Monday, February 13

6:00p Executive Committee

7:00p All Committees meet

Wednesday, February 15

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

6:30p Confirmation

7:00p Worship

Sunday, February 19

New Members Received

Monday, February 20

7:00p Church Council

Wednesday, February 22

7:00p Ash Wednesday

Communion Worship

7:45p Mark Study

Wednesday, February 29

6:00p Lenten Soup Supper

6:30p Worship Rehearsal

7:00p Lenten Worship

7:45p Mark Study

A Note from the Church Council Vice President

I regret to inform you that Walt Bublitz has resigned as our congregation President.

Please join me in thanking Walt for his dedicated years of service and passion for our church. We will miss him at the helm, but are glad that he will still have his View from the Pew among us.

The congregation Council will review and determine next steps for this transition.

Our pastoral Call process continues with the Call Committee meeting with Bishop Burnside on February 1 to start the candidate search process in earnest. Please continue to support this group and your fellow members as we undertake these transitions. Thank you all.

Brad Simplot, Vice President

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GREAT NEWS ABOUT THRIVENT CHOICE!

During the first full year of **Thrivent Choice**, 36% of all eligible members participated, with approximately \$52 million of the **Thrivent Choice** grant funds distributed to 19,800 organizations as of October 31, 2011! Dekorra Lutheran Church alone received \$3,943! (Before **Thrivent Choice**, Dekorra would have been limited to receiving only \$1,350 each year!) So we can keep that money coming, we want to remind all eligible **Thrivent** members to designate the remainder of their 2011 funds to their favorite Lutheran organizations by March 31, 2012. If you have not yet participated in **Thrivent Choice**, and need help learning how to designate your money, there is information on the bookshelves in the back of the church explaining how to designate your funds online or by phone. There is also information on how to participate in **Thrivent Choice** voting events, which allow you to designate funds to your favorite non-Lutheran charity. Whether or not you designate your funds to Dekorra Church, we're hoping that we can have 100% participation of all our **Thrivent Choice** eligible members!! If you have any questions, contact Dottie Schleichert (635-2452) email at fatkat@centurytel.net.

From The Confirmation Coordinator...

We started off the year with our first mentor meal. After the meal we met in the sanctuary for some liturgy and then went out to the fire pit for a bonfire, where we burned the branches of the Christmas tree. We then met up in the fellowship hall for more conversation between the mentors and students. It was a good first experience for the confirmation program. Our next mentor night will be February 1st.

We have continued to have a short worship service within our confirmation class. We are now having that service at 7:00 p.m. instead of 6:30 since our Lenten services will be starting at 7:00 p.m. We thought this would cause less confusion. Pastor has been including a lot of music with the service and also has been explaining how the lessons are picked for each Sunday. There is a lot of information in our hymnals that I'm sure that most of our congregation doesn't know about. It truly is a valuable tool.

On Friday, February 3rd, we will be having our second lock-in at the church. It will begin at 7:00 p.m. Again there will be lots of games, some worship, food (of course) and lots of laughter. This is a good bonding experience for our kids. On Saturday, February 4th, they will have the opportunity to go to the Rock and Worship Road Show if they so choose.

February 8th is the early bird deadline for the Youth Quake event at the Wilderness Hotel in Wisconsin Dells. I am hoping to have a good number of students attending this event with me. It truly is a memorable experience for them. The Quake will take place on the weekend of April 27-29th.

We will be having students helping with the Dekorra Men for Christ's Wild Game Feed on Sunday, February 12th. This will be counted as a service project for them.

Our MacKenzie Retreat is scheduled for March 9-10th. I hope that the kids will plan on attending. It is very close and convenient and should be a lot of fun for them.

On Sunday, March 25th, the congregation will have the rare opportunity to witness the Passion Play in mime. It will be performed by the Ascension Lutheran Church youth from Waukesha, Wisconsin. There will be more information on this service coming next month, but please put it on your calendar. It is a very moving and unique service.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank Peter and Margo Holzman for their generous gift to our students. They paid for the students who wished to go to the movie, "Joyful Noise". Although the group was small, the movie was very much enjoyed and appreciated. Thank you again for thinking of our group and this gift. It really means a lot to us that you thought of us.

The students continue to participate in the worship services as lay readers, ushers and greeters. Please acknowledge them when you see them helping out.

We have a busy couple of months ahead of us, but I trust it will be filled with learning and fun.

In Christ's Love,
Merry Seng

Are you interested in becoming a member of Dekorra Lutheran Church?

We will be having an orientation meeting on Monday, February 6th at 7:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Come join other people interested in joining Dekorra; we will have people on hand from various committees of the church and we will provide an informational packet. New members will be received and recognized during worship services on Sunday, February 19th. A *phone call (635-7200) or email (dekorralutheran@centurytel.net) sent to church would be appreciated as this will allow us to know if you plan on attending one or both of these events.*

* * *

Christmas Angels

The Social Ministry Committee wishes to express our appreciation for the support received for this project. The angels on the Christmas tree were a beautiful display of God's love and our thankfulness for his blessings of loved ones, in honor or in memory of. The total donations were \$665.00. This will be divided equally between World Hunger/Disaster and River Haven in Portage. May it bring hope and a start to a new life for those in need. You made it happen! Thanks.

Dekorra Women
of the ELCA

February
Coffee Hour

Hope Circle
February 5, 12, 19, 26

**Wednesday, February
8**

(note date change)

1:00p Hope Circle at
Church

Thursday, February 16

7:00p Faith Circle at
Church

February 22

7:00p Ash Wednesday
Communion
Worship

Monday, February 27

7:00p Joy Circle at Church

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Our successful “RADA” Cutlery Fundraiser

Thanks to everyone who has placed orders. We are pleased to continue placing orders for RADA cutlery. Take time to look at the catalog which is in the card rack in the fellowship hall. Whenever we have 4-5 orders they are sent in and the merchandise is delivered within 3-4 days.

Dekorra Women of the ELCA...

Lutheran World Relief Coffee Project is 15 years Old!

For fifteen years Equal Exchange has made a 20¢ donation to the LWR small farmer fund for each pound of product purchased through the project. Over the past 15 years Lutherans have bought 1,250 TONS of coffee, tea and cocoa, raising over 550,000.00. Equal Exchange coffee is used at Dekorra for coffee hour and other events. It is also for sale in the fellowship hall. A new supply has arrived which includes Sisters Blend coffee, Decaf, 2 flavored coffees and hot cocoa mix. Very tasty products to enjoy and it helps others as well. Happy Birthday, Coffee Project!

A Message from the Dekorra Quilters

- The quilting ladies want to thank everyone who has given extra and old blankets, sheets, curtains, and fabric that can be used for the mission quilt projects. Most everything can be used. Also, if you have some extra clothing that is still good and wearable they will be taken to The Helping Hand in Wyocena, St. Vincent de Paul, Hope House or River Haven. All the good clothing will be used for homeless, abused, needy and poorer families in the Columbia County area. Place your donations in the old kitchen.
- If anyone would be interested in sewing material together to make tops or bottoms for making a quilt, you are welcome to pick up material from our quilting closet and bring back 60x80 inch tops. They do not have to be fancy or perfect. Be creative—many color arrangements are possible and fun.

If you would be interested in helping to tie the tops to the bottoms, we meet every 2nd & 4th Thursday at church from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. and have coffee and visit afterward.

D/WELCA Bible Camp Scholarships

The Women of the church are offering a Scholarship of \$50.00 for students who would like to attend Bible Camp this summer. The brochures for early registration will be coming to the office soon. So, encourage your children to take advantage of this opportunity for a fun Christian camp experience and fellowship. There are about 3-4 different camps available. The earlier the registration is entered the cheaper it is.

Thank you for reading this and have a good year in 2012-- helping others.


Margo Holzman, Mission- Stewardship- Committee. 608- 635-7772

Have You Noticed?

At the back of the sanctuary, on the shelf there is a large jar marked “Pennies for Poverty”. The jar is emptied regularly and deposited in the Dekorra Women’s checking account. The total collected each year is sent to the Women of the ELCA and is distributed to those in poverty. Last year the total collected was \$145.00. In the two prior years, \$203.51 and \$205.75 were collected and sent. We encourage adults and children to save their pennies for this special project.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

MARCH 2ND AT 1:00 P.M. AT DEKORRA: 2012 WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

 Dekorra Women’s Yearbooks are Available! They are on the bookshelf at the back of the church.

**DMC 14th Annual Wild Game Feed
at Dekorra Lutheran Church
February 12, 2012
4:30 p.m.**

Tickets are now on sale and going fast. See any DMC member for tickets or call Bill Schleichert at 635-2452/697-4434, or see Laurie in Church office. \$20 per ticket. Door prizes, Raffles and lots of great food. Hopefully the items listed below will be on the menu!

- Venison Italian Sausage/Onions/Green Peppers (we have on hand)
- Venison steak medallions (we have on hand)
- Elk Stroganoff (donation needed!)
- Orange Kist Pheasant (we have on hand)
- Moose Meat Balls (we have on hand)
- Fish (we have on hand)
- Bison Stew (donation needed!)
- Turkey (we have on hand)
- Pork and Kraut (we have on hand)
- Bear (we have on hand)
- BBQ Raccoon (we have on hand)

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Memorial Fund Update

July 1, 2011 - January 15, 2012

Memorials were received in memory of Wally Rabenberg, Betty Lou Knuteson, John Lyon and Art & Ruby Field. Memorials are much appreciated as they are used for non-budgeted special items for the church. Memorials can be designated for a specific thing or undesignated so the committee can use as needed. Designated funds are being pursued now to fulfill the requests.

Bank balance January 15, 2012: \$6,248.30, plus 2 CD's: \$10,000.00

Committee members: Ken Becker, Lois Buckley, and Kathy Pederson



We remembered in our prayers during the month of January...

LaVaine Schroeder (Don Harmon's aunt); Bill Smith (son of Nancy Salenius); James McGinnity (son-in-law of Aileen Brager); Kevin Opprecht (Merry Seng's brother); Paula Lamberg (sister-in-law of Ruth Nelson); Sherry Wiese (sister-in-law of Delores & Don Small); Loris Marcusen (Loretta Hoversten's niece); Merle Knuteson (Don Knuteson's brother); Greg Schultz (son-in-law of Bob & Cheryl Lytle); Vern Bratton (Janet Hungerford's father).



Remember Those
in the Military

Prayers for those serving our country in the

Military: Kent Riedel; Paul Dorn; Deontá Backovitch; Nicholas Paske (great-nephew of June Fiske); Cody Bratton (Janet Hungerford's nephew); Chris Holzman (Peter Holzman's nephew); Melinda Lauck (niece of Ted Koch); Dustin Hoiten (nephew of Ted Koch); Megan McDonel (Gene & Betty Hehl's niece); Bill Warren (son of Cheryl Lytle); Charles Judd (nephew of Chuck & Penny Judd); Quinten Case (great-nephew of June Fiske); James Wampole (nephew of Gene and Betty Hehl). *If this list is incorrect or incomplete, please contact the church office.*



Riedel, LeRoy
 Kent
 240 E. John Street
 Poynette, WI 53955-8201

Carncross, Jerry
 321 Santa Maria Drive
 Arlington, WI 53911-9512

Neblock, Vern & Caryl
 358 Riviera Drive
 Pahrump, NV 89048-3919

Knuteson, Andrew
 342 Oakbrook Drive
 Lake Mills, WI 53551-1947

Kienast, Tim & Janet
 103 S. Hayden Street
 Merrilan, WI 54754-9022

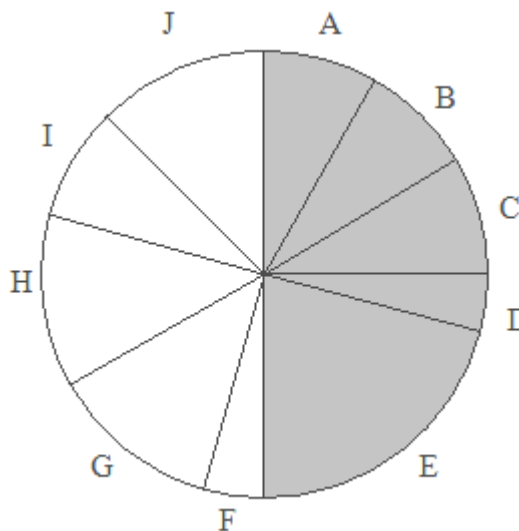
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Hat & Mitten Tree Collection

[I am happy to say that we were able to collect 42 sets of gloves, 40 scarves, 30 hat and scarf sets, 90 hats, 2 pairs of socks and 1 set of ear muffs. These have been distributed to the Lodi Elementary, Poynette Elementary, and Arlington Kindergarten schools and 2 large boxes were given to River Haven homeless shelter in Portage. A lot of ears and hands, necks and feet will be kept warm this winter. Thank you so much for your generous donations, many of which were hand knitted - we truly have very talented people in our congregation. -Merry Seng-](#)

Where is the Call Process right now?

The following graph helps to visualize the tasks and possible timing for the Call Process. It cites “average” numbers of weeks to accomplish the various steps that lead to the completion of a new call. These numbers have been fairly close to Dekorra’s timing so far. A total of 48 weeks is represented. (Note that referring to “average-times” in a call process is like referring to “average-weather”; many things make the timing unique in each pastoral call.) This graph helps illustrate where things are right now and what still needs to occur in the call process at Dekorra. Shaded tasks have been completed as of mid-January of 2012.



Brief Explanations of the Various Tasks in the Call Process

- A - Pastor Resigns and the Council meets with the Bishop (4 weeks)
- B - Arrangements for pastoral coverage or Interim Ministry (4 weeks)
- C - Call Committee is formed (4 weeks)
- D - Bishop meets Call Committee to clarify the overall process (2 weeks)
- E - Ministry Site Profile is prepared with congregational input (10 weeks)
- F - Meet again with the Bishop to initiate the search process (2 weeks)
- G - Bishop’s office searches and organizes names of candidates (6 weeks)
- H - Interviews are done and the Call Committee recommends (6 weeks)
- I - Council arranges for a congregational vote to extend a call (4 weeks)
- J - The new pastor accepts, moves, and begins the new call (6 weeks)

The call committee would like to thank everyone for participating in the survey in December. We had a terrific response of over 110 surveys. The information you shared with us has been very helpful in preparing our Ministry Site Profile for the synod. We are on track with the synod's suggested timeline.



Birthdays This Month

February 2012

Birthdays are only in the print addition