

Memorial Lutheran Church & Student Center - November 2016

messenger

BLESSED WITH GOVERNMENT

"Give everyone what you owe him; If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect, if honor, then honor." (Romans 13: 7)

November—the month the campaigning will stop. No more negative campaigns on TV, internet, or radio, no more rushing to answer a phone to have a recording give us a campaign pitch, no more debates! But it is also a month when many are frustrated by an election involving two very unpopular candidates. We say we want someone to choose from who is not political, but only the political ones seem to survive until the election. We have all kinds of reasons why our political system is getting worse. So would it ever cross our minds to thank God for our government?

The annual World Food Prize was awarded last month in Des Moines. Developments in agriculture allow us to more than feed all the people of the world. Even in poor, 3rd World countries, everyone seems to have a cell phone. Poverty is not caused so much by a lack of food and wealth, but a lack of government law enforcement. If we get a speeding ticket, we complain about the fee. But we aren't going to get jailed like some are in other countries unless they give an adequate bribe. Women and children aren't openly sold into slavery if their families go into debt. Usually there are laws in countries against these things, but they aren't enforced. Government corruption in many countries can make our politicians look squeaky clean. The result is that so many people live in poverty

just because the governments are missing or not making sure people obey the law.

That's why St. Paul wrote in Romans 13 that Christians were to obey the government. In Paul's time that government was the Roman Empire. The Romans were not Christians and their emperors had problems, but their enforcement of the law did keep the peace and protect people from the lawless. God has given us government to protect and keep the peace. Imagine living in Ethiopia right now where our friend Kebede lives. In that country people are objecting to the government by open rebellion. They may be fighting against wrongs, but the fighting has closed roads, stopped commerce, interfered with farming, and has left many dead. More will die from the lack of food and supplies and because they have to leave their homes.

Martin Luther in writing his explanation to the 4th petition of the Lord's Prayer gives a list of the many gifts God gives to us. One of them is "good government." The fact that you and I can go to work, get paid what was agreed upon, have good roads to travel on, won't lose our money in the bank, and can even vote freely is the result of God's blessing to us of government. In this month of thanksgiving, let us remember to thank God for that!

we are very
blessed

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Drawing by K. F. Dunker

Worship Schedule

Saturday, November 5	5:00 PM	Informal Worship (HC)
Sunday, November 6	8:30 AM	All Saints (HC)
	10:00 AM	Informal Worship
	11:00 AM	All Saints (HC)
Saturday, November 12	5:00 PM	Informal Worship (HC)
Sunday, November 13	8:30 AM	Stewardship Liturgy
	10:00 AM	Informal Worship (HC)
	11:00 AM	Stewardship Liturgy (HC)
Saturday, November 20	5:00 PM	Informal Worship (HC)
Sunday, November 21	8:30 AM	Divine Service 4 (HC)
	11:00 AM	Informal Worship (HC)
Wednesday, November 23	7:00 PM	Thanksgiving Eve Service (HC)
Saturday, November 26	5:00 PM	Informal Worship (HC)
Sunday, November 27	8:30 AM	Service for Advent
	11:00 AM	Informal Worship (HC)
Wednesday, November 30	7:00 PM	Advent Service



Worship Notes

November 6 is All Saint’s Sunday. We remember in our prayers those who in the past year have died and are with the Lord— Dan Stoltze, Alma Meyer, and Jerry Mullins.

Stewardship Sunday

November 13 is the date for our stewardship Sunday. Our theme this year is “Being Macedonia.” St. Paul used the example of the Macedonians as he appealed to the Christian in Corinth in 2 Corinthians. That appeal also extends to us.

Thanksgiving service

We invite you to join us on giving thanks to God for all His blessings to us on Thanksgiving Eve, Wednesday, November 23 at 7 PM. We were blessed this year with plentiful rain and a good harvest. We have so much that we take much for granted.

Advent worship begins November 27

Advent begins Sunday, November 27. We will hold our first Advent service on Wednesday, November 30. Our Advent worship this year reflects how Jesus comes into our world, our community, and our very lives as we look at these towns involved with Jesus’ birth-Jerusalem, Nazareth, and Bethlehem. Advent services are held at 7 PM and are preceded by our soup suppers from 5:30-6:30 PM.



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Memorial Lutheran Church and Student Center, 2228 West Lincoln Way, Ames, Iowa 50014-7185

Office Phone: 515-292-5005; Email: mlcomesia@aol.com

Mark Heilman, *Pastor* home phone: 232-4595; email: mkheilman@aol.com
 David Beagley, *Associate Pastor*..... home phone: 292-7542; email: drbeagley@aol.com
 Richard N. Osslund, *Pastor Emeritus*..... email: rrosslund@aol.com
 Judy Newhouse, *Coordinator of Int’l Ministry*..... phone: 292-5005; email: ism.mlchurch@gmail.com
 Jeanne Noack, *Administrative Asst.* phone: 292-5005; email: mlcsecretary@aol.com
 Lyle Groth, *Director of Volunteers*..... cell phone: 451-0573; email: legroth1@gmail.com
 Kebede & Workitu, *Agricultural Missionaries*..... email: kebedemt09@gmail.com
 Mail: Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus, Tabor Congregation, PO Box 49, Awasa, ETHIOPIA

Education

Sunday School mission effort for November

Our Sunday School teachers are well led by our superintendents Sarah and Tyler Teske and their assistants Megan Brandt and Allie Flessner. We will continue to post weekly “Talking Points” in the bulletin to help parents discuss the lessons with their children. Sunday School will *not be held* on the following Sundays:

November 27: (the Sunday after Thanksgiving)

December 25: Christmas Day

January 1: New Year’s Day

A special Sunday School will be held on Sunday, November 20 to prepare for Thanksgiving. All students will meet downstairs on the east side of the Fellowship Hall.

The Children’s Christmas Service

This year we are planning something new for the Sunday School Christmas service. Instead of having the service on Sunday afternoon, we will hold it during the 8:30 AM service on Sunday, December 11. This way our families will get to celebrate the birth of Jesus with us here at Memorial before most of them go to their home towns to celebrate Christmas. After the service a special Sunday School time will be held that includes the tea rolls and cookies made by Kathy Jurgens and Liz Higgins.

Confirmation Classes

Confirmation classes will not be held on November 23.

Cancellations due to weather.

We will always cancel class due to snow on the road or continuing snowfall. Since Confirmation classes in the winter end after nightfall, we do not want to create any danger to families. In the event of snow, ice, or other dangerous weather we ask that you call the church office (292-5005) after 3:30 PM on Wednesdays, by which time a decision will have been made about whether to cancel class. We will not have class if public school has been canceled or let out early in Ames due to the weather. We will not have Confirmation class if the children do not have school that day in the Ames Public Schools.



Youth Activities

The HS youth met on October 11 to attend the “Fields of Faith” event at Gilbert High School, cooked a meal for the Emergency Residence Shelter on October 16, and showed internationals how to carve pumpkins for the “Trunk or Treat” on October 30.

The **8th grade** confirmation class will go to Dottie Fisher’s house in November to rake leaves with men from Beta Sigma Psi.

November 9 the **7th grade** confirmation class will be making the gifts for “Project Compassion”.

The **6th grade** class will be making a meal to take to the Emergency Residence Shelter.

The middle school youth will meet for their monthly activity on November 16.

Committee

Summary of the October 11 Board of Directors Meeting

Our financial situation looks as it did in past years. We hope to make things up as we have with end-of-the-year giving. Kebede funds need to be raised by the beginning of December.

\$400 will be sent to Thomas Wilson, who is studying to be a Director of Christian Education at Concordia, Seward, NE.

The staff turned in reports listing their areas of responsibility and goals for the future.

The budget committee consisting of Don Beitz, Tom Gust, Doug Ward, Carolyn McCall, Keith Jensen, Jeanne Noack and Judy Newhouse will meet October 19 at 7 PM to come with up a proposed budget for 2017 for both the congregation and the Kebede ministry. This proposal will be brought to the board in November and the congregation in December.

Carolyn McCall and Tom Gust will try to organize a trip to Minneapolis to see the Luther articles at the Art Museum.

The congregational meeting on December 6 will not only involve the budget, but sharing from the

task forces and other groups.

Task Forces:

1. Young families—they met October 2 and propose to meet regularly in the Fellowship Hall during the Sunday School hour, plan quarterly activities, and “mentor” new families.
2. Students—September 25 the students played kickball on campus and did team building. October 22 the students will have a “VBS” where they do fun activities and crafts like making fleeces for the youth in need in Story County.
3. Middle and high school—the task force will meet October 26.
4. Graduate students and young professionals—the group cleaned up after FISH October 7. They are planning a wine tasting session.

Don Beitz has written to area Lutheran churches to invite people to meet on October 23 at 1 PM to plan for the Reformation Rally next year.

Del Koch will share during the congregational meeting on December 6 about a possible columbarium.

The board is taking the pastors out to lunch on October 18.



Take Note

Advent Suppers Coming Soon

One of the traditions that has become a warm part of our Advent preparations to celebrate the birth of the Lord Jesus Christ are the suppers we hold before the midweek Advent services. Our Advent services will be held at 7 PM on November 30, December 7, and December 14. Our Advent Soup Suppers are held from 5:30-6:30 and provide an opportunity for us to fellowship together on cold winter evenings and feel warmed in body and heart. Different groups will set up and clean up for dinners. John Anderson will be working with us to provide his so delicious bread, and we will be have a sign up list for families in the church to provide soups. Some of you have already earned a reputation for special soups...so please volunteer for the week that works best for you.

The women of Phi Beta Chi sorority wish to express their thanks to us for allowing them to sell cider and donuts on October 2. Over \$400 was raised for Bethesda Homes for the Mentally Challenged. Bethesda began as a joint project of the Missouri and Wisconsin Synods in Appleton, Wisconsin about 100 years ago at a time when the mentally challenged were ignored by society. *Continued on next page...*

Continued from page 4

Since then Bethesda runs group homes across the country. The Phi Beta Chi will also be serving our November 30 Advent soup supper as a way to raise funds for Bethesda.

The Beta Sigma Psi held their annual fall brunch on Sunday, October 16. The men of Beta Sigma Psi serve as our ushers and parking lot attendants for the 11 AM services. All funds for the brunch benefitted Habitat for Humanity, which helps provide housing for people.

Monday, November 14, join the Women of Memorial for “Church Ladies Craft night.” Patti Kimle will lead a fun evening of making clay snowflake Christmas ornaments. There will be instructions for the craft, devotion, and goodies. Go home with a finished project ready for decorating your tree. This is an easy craft anyone can do, so Mother-Daughter pairs (10 years and up) are very welcome. Join us at 7 PM at the Stone Brooke Clubhouse, 3816 Fletcher Blvd, Ames. RSVP to Sally at 233-2279.

Cost for a poinsettia is \$16 this year.

Make a check payable to the church and give to Jeanne or Judy in the office.

You are welcome to take them home after the 11 AM service on Christmas day



Student Ministry

Members of our student group attended the October 14-5 “*Fall Fling*” at College Hill Lutheran Church Student Center at UNI.

Breakfast pizza is held every first Sunday of the month from 10:30 to 11 AM.

The University Student Task Force hosted a special “VBS” for college students on October 22. They made blankets for a service project.

On Sunday, November 13, our annual student **Thanksgiving dinner** will be held at 6 PM.

Turkey, mashed potatoes and gravy, dressing, and all the fixings will be provided. You can help by providing pies (Check for the sign up sheet in the Narthex.)

Our peer ministers will be finishing their commitment to us this month. They have been leading the Wednesday fellowship time and making visits to students.

Getting Involved



I thank all those who willingly serve as ushers, greeters, counters after the services, and visitor's notes. I also thank those who help with the FISH dinners.

I led people through the time and talent survey on October 23. If you can use any of the information from those surveys, please contact me.

Volunteers are needed for "Project Compassion." This program involves taking a gift, usually made by the confirmation students and a devotion to someone who is homebound. Please let me know if you want to help. We visit people before Thanksgiving and Christmas.

November 13 is the student Thanksgiving Dinner. We ask people to donate pies. November 18 will be our Thanksgiving FISH dinner. We need volunteers to bake pies and help with the meal. I have a list at the back of the church for you to sign.

Advent suppers will be held November 30, December 7, and December 14. Volunteers will be needed to set up, clean up, provide soup or cookies or bars.

Let me know if you want to be a part of our prayer circle. I email requests to those on the list.

Kebede

We support our friend Kebede and his family in Ethiopia. Ethiopia has in recent years become the fastest growing economy in Africa. China has invested heavily in Ethiopia and has helped to build a new railroad from the port of Djibouti to the Ethiopian capital of Addis Ababa. They are building a huge dam on the Blue Nile River. But with all this growth there has been unrest from people who feel the growth has left them behind or is encroaching on their farmlands. The government is run by the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF), the descendent of the communist regime that took over in 1991. The EPRDF is dominated by one tribe, and the other tribes feel left out. This is especially true of the Oromo people in central Ethiopia, the second largest ethnic group. Unrest in Oromia in October has resulted in a government crackdown and many deaths. The roads between the capital and where Kebede lives in Awassa has been closed. Awassa has been calm, but just north on Oromia are many of the missions he works with. The church in Awassa has not been able to contact those missions.

Pastor Mark Gerken, our Iowa District West Mission Executive and his wife Ruth were scheduled to go to Ethiopia this month, but will have to postpone because of the unrest. We pray that a peaceful solution can be found to restore the road between Addis and Awassa, to allow the missions in Oromia to grow, and to allow the Gerkens to travel later.



International Student Ministry

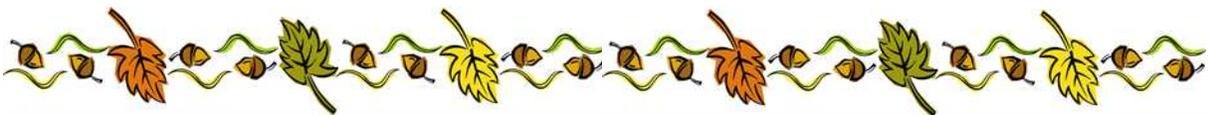
Activities:

Judy and nine internationals went to a Volleyball game at Hilton Coliseum in October. It was a new experience for some of the students.

“F.I.S.H.” (Friday International Student Hospitality) is a meal prepared often by internationals which provides opportunities to meet students from all over the world. Cost for a meal is only \$3, \$7/ family. “FISH” will be held at 6 PM on November 4 (Chinese) and 18 (Thanksgiving Dinner).

October 30 a “Trunk or Treat” was held for international families. The Memorial high school youth, members of the Phi Beta Chi sorority. and Beta Sigma Psi fraternity participated.

October 22-23 Judy Newhouse, our coordinator of international student ministry, traveled with six internationals to St. Paul Lutheran Church in Ida Grove to help the internationals experience life in rural Iowa.



Interview-Mira Jung & Hanjun Kim



Mira Jung came to the United States this past summer with her husband Hanjun Kim and her three-month-old son Juan. Hanjun is a graduate student studying animal diseases at Iowa State University. He received his degree in veterinary medicine from Korea. Mira is enrolled at Hong-Ik University in Korea and studies oriental painting. She takes her classes remotely over the internet. They are both from Seoul, the capital city of Korea.

Hanjun found a pamphlet about our international ministry programs at the Office of International Students and Scholars at Iowa State. Mira came to our Level 3 English class on a Monday. She soon made friends with the other students. She began attending Bible studies here at Memorial and then the mother’s group on Fridays.

Hanjun’s paternal grandmother became a Christian in Korea. Through her influence his mother became a Christian. He and his older sister later became Christian. He prays for his father and other sister that they too may come to faith. Mira became a Christian through the influence of a friend. She is grateful that Christians here help her with English studies and providing care for Juan.

Mira encourages other international wives and mothers to come to our church and get involved with the activities we have. Mira and Hanjun hope to meet other young Christian families to grow together in faith with them.

Membership Updates

Anniversary Wishes



19	Tanner & Allie Winterhof	5 yrs.
24	Tyler & Brittney Rutherford	9 yrs.
27	David & Martha Schoppe	23 yrs.
28	Chris & Renee Novak	35 yrs.

Baptisms:

9/26/2016

Meeks, Christine Nicole

Meeks, Kaitlin Ashlea

Derry, Cameryn Ann

Trotter, Cayden John

Transfer In:

10/20/16

Daniel Voss

From: St. Stephen's Lutheran, Atkins, IA



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

November 1	Joyce Ensley Nyaroma Gatwas	November 19	Dennis Atkinson Aluel Ater
November 4	Kim Greder Wesley Greder Sara Pankonen	November 21	Will Greder Andrea Sharkey
November 8	Garang Kear Kathy Lawrence	November 23	Joline Dye Sheila Atkinson
November 9	Kathy Brown	November 25	Paula Beckman Eden Bruner Tom Gust
November 10	Jaxon Lehman	November 26	Matthew Higgins Scott Neubauer
November 12	Joel Johnson Sophia Wignall	November 27	Andrew Baldrige
November 13	Brad Dye John Huber Lisa Nolting Carolyn Spillers Lois Stoltze	November 28	John Tillo
November 14	Donna Robinson	November 29	Tim Baldrige Diane Bengtson
November 16	Adut Kiir Lojean Petersen		



Financial Report

As of October 23, 2016

	<u>Budgeted Amt.</u>	<u>Received</u>
Expenses	412,520.00	371,337.00
Synod	38,039.00	16,113.00
Missions	4,052.00	3,600.00
Kebede	38,908.00	34,117.00
Totals	\$493,519.00	\$425,167.00

To date, members and friends of Memorial Lutheran have donated their Thrivent for Lutherans "Choice Dollars" in the amount of \$4,157.00.

Thank you for your support.